MONTEREY NEWS

November 2023 Est. 1970
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Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

Mary Makuc had a departure party on October 8 at the community center. At the same time folks were introduced to RJ Supa, the new director, and his furry driver, French Fry.

The average bathtub rubber ducky measures 4" long by 3" wide, but the littlest ducky in the harbor, Joy, is 25' tall.
Joy Comes in the Morning page 24

Be careful with the words we use—"invasive," "alien." Look in the mirror and then think of the apple tree, the honeybee, the earthworm.
Wingéd Euonymus page 22

Here are some important tips to help you navigate safely.
Driving in Winter page 29

Can we give them a big round of applause? No! All of them—leaders and workers alike—insist on anonymity.
Pantry PickUp page 14

Come celebrate the joy of the holiday season lighting the village.
Page 30

Monterey now has a playground that incorporates present-day play concepts in a safe and inviting manner for all to enjoy.
Greene Park Playground page 6

The idea is to adapt and adjust the practice to your personal level of ability and experience.
Stretch, Strengthen, and Breathe page 10

Welcome—Ambrose Hurst
Welcome—August Valentine Barker
Birth Announcements page 21

So far wood turtles are listed under the "greatest conservation need" in all seventeen New England States.
Wood Turtles page 25

Have you ever heard of a library crawl?
Library Crawl page 8

Standard Time
"Falls Behind"
Sunday, November 5, at 2 a.m.

To me, there needs to be more clarity on how we see the TA position through the job description, employment manual, and organizational chart.
In My View—TA Position page 4

It's November and the Monterey Highway Department is thinking snow.
Winter Roads page 12

"The Last of the Greatest Generation"
"Quiz: What is a Seabee?"
Veterans Day Tributes pages 18–19

An up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan qualifies the town to apply for a wide variety of grants.
In My View-Open Space Plan page 5

Mary Makuc delivered the best line, provoking a round of laughter. "Would you marry someone you don't know?"
Special Town Meeting pags 2-3

Though a lot of poems in *American Eclipse* dwell on personal relationships, they are informed by exterior elements.
Library Poetry Reading page 16

Greenagers created a loop trail of about eight-tenths of a mile around Brewer Pond with views and bridges that make it a pleasure to walk.
Brewer Pond Loop Trail page 7

Special Town Meeting
Monday, October 23

Wendy Germain

Monterey's legislature met in the firehouse for another episode of direct democracy. Set to begin promptly at 6 p.m., moderator Mark Makuc, seeing a long line of folks in the hallway waiting to get checked in so they could get their voting cards, held off banging the meeting to order until everyone was in. The warrant had only four articles, but folks had really turned out for one—the question of a school merger agreement with seven other towns.

But first:

Article 1: To see if the town would agree to establishing two revolving funds. One for the police department's purchasing of 911 signs for identifying house numbers, and a second for the council on aging to handle money for fees and receipts related to the planning of community events.

Revolving funds permit an organization to handle money for a specific purpose without funds having to go into the general fund and then expenses coming out of the town budget. Revolving funds have a voted limit of annual expenditures ($1,500 for the signs, $2,500 for the council on aging). This simplifies what are essentially small cash operations without impacting our budget.

There was no discussion, and the voice vote approved unanimously.

Article 2: This article asked the town for permission granting the select board the power to lease a plot of land (11.42 acres) behind the current transfer station for the purpose of establishing a community shared solar installation. This would permit the town to have financial benefits from the production of solar power. Peter Murkett, chair of the renewable energy working group, explained that this is only a first step with much left to be defined. (A lengthy explanation of this proposal was published in the October issue.)

By voice vote the article passed though a few dissented.

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Article 3: This article was to ask the town to vote a change in our bylaws as they relate to solar installations. However, there had been a flaw in the process concerning a public meeting with the Monterey Planning Board. Makuc called on Tom Sawyer, chair of the planning board, who simply asked that there be no action on this article.

So the article was passed over. This bylaw revision will likely appear in a future town meeting.

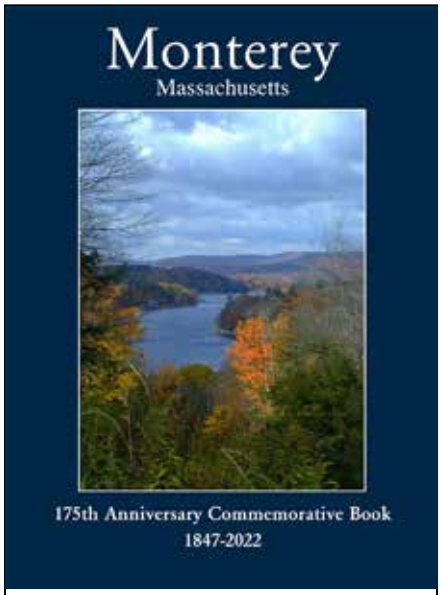
Article 4: To vote on an agreement for the formation and operation of the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District. This agreement would provide for a new regional school district created from two current districts—Southern Berkshire, of which Monterey is one of five members, and Berkshire Hills with three towns to the north.

The moderator began by informing the town that while most articles presented at town meetings can be amended, this agreement could not. Once the article was moved and seconded, folks were recognized and made statements.

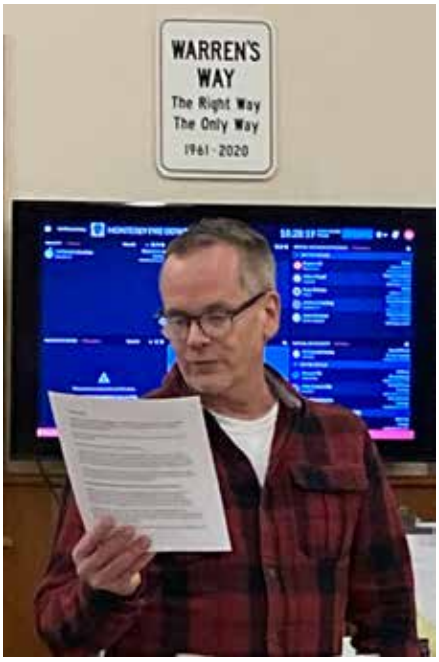
The first statement was presented by Jon Sylbert, a member of the 8-Town (as the merger study group was being called) planning board. Sylbert pointed to the more than three years of work that had gone into studying the situation throughout south county towns with declining school population, some aging school buildings, and developing a way to move forward. He noted that previously there had been two failed proposals in Berkshire Hills towns to construct a new high school at the Monument Mountain campus. He made the argument that in a few decades the Mt. Everett building was going to be fifty years old and the towns might be wishing to join with the Berkshire Hills towns. If a new school was going to be built it won't have capacity to absorb many more students.

Sylbert was followed with a statement by Kevin Fish and Kim Alcantara, both of whom have children in SBRSD. Alcantara is the Monterey school committee member, and thus also a member of the 8-Town planning board. Fish began with a reference to a student petition signed by over one hundred students who oppose the merger. The students referenced the school's culture, the enrichment programs, clubs, and the partnership with Simon's Rock—all of which might be lost with a merger.

Fish had quotations from some of SBRSD's administrators. Elementary principal Charles Miller is worried that the



Available at the Monterey Library for $25 to help cover the printing costs. Great for friends who've moved away but still cherish Monterey.



Janet Jensen

Kevin Fish reads his statement co-written with Kim Alcantara. Notice the memorial to Warren Thomson on the wall.

small schools in the district might "slowly fade away." He is baffled by the projected declining enrollment, citing that, "Over the last six years elementary enrollment has increased, coupled with growth in our early childhood programs across all three buildings." Miller feels our small schools are "beacons, attracting students and families to our charming corner of the world."

Fish quickly touched on an unresolved financial issue around post-employment benefits, an unfunded liability, which, when added to the unknown cost of a new school and the costs of relocating students during any construction activity, that the costs are really adding up. The "safety valve" feature that is meant to spread increased costs from higher taxed towns to towns with a lower tax burden might especially hit Monterey.

He closed with a lengthy statement by Mt. Everett Principal, Jesse Carpenter. Carpenter recalls his life-long experience as a student, a parent, and the leader of the school. "Schools are the lifeblood of small towns, and the loss of Mt. Everett would not only devastate Sheffield, but also have ripple effects in Egremont, New Marlborough, Monterey, and Alford."

After these opening pro and con statements, the floor was opened to more comments. Many of the speakers were emotional, and the acoustics were difficult to hear, but the audience was patient.

Lisa Smyle stood to say that everyone can tell stories of happy children's education. The problem is that there aren't enough kids for all these schools. This merger is an opportunity to get in on the ground floor.

Justin Makuc spoke in favor of rejecting the proposal, not as a select board member, but as a 2016 graduate, and from a family who have been well educated at Mt. Everett.

Michelle Miller questioned the wisdom of putting even more students on Route 7, and by inference, more student drivers and school traffic, at an intersection (by Monument Mountain High School) that is already hazardous, and felt that a new, more centrally located school would better serve such a large geographic area.

Maria Rundle, a former school committee member for Monterey, began with a positive perspective that all the schools provide excellent educational opportunities. She wondered why we don't spend three years studying solutions to affordable housing, and added that perhaps a new school could be built down by the fairgrounds to be more accessible to south county students. But she moved on to quote from *The Wire*, "You want it to be one way, but it's another way." She was pointing to the fact that we can't wish away the declining population, and that she felt we needed to respond to this by voting for the merger.

Mary Makuc delivered the best line, provoking a round of laughter. "Would you marry someone you don't know?" And she then spoke of her reservations with the merger proposal.

A few comments from folks whose names I wasn't able to catch included one gentleman who said that even if this merger fails, it's not the end. New arrangements with other towns might be made, mentioning Sandisfield, Otis, and Lee. In another comment from the middle of the floor, the speaker wanted to remind everyone that we have a responsibility not only to the children, but to the society, to fund and provide good educations. He felt that the declining enrollment would have a negative impact on the students and we should support the merger.

In all, I estimate that there were as many as twenty statements for or against the merger, all with clear reasoning, presented to the gathering. Even though there were real differences about this major issue, the meeting was carried out with great civility. No one tried to talk over or interrupt a speaker, and everyone had all the time they wanted to present their view.

Once voting commenced, with preprinted ballots handed out to registered voters upon which they could circle "Yes" or "No" and proceed to the ballot box, folks resumed friendly conversation both before and after casting their ballots.

The merger proposal failed in Monterey by 87 to 73, which we later learned was the closest voting in any of the eight towns.

That a town (a town being not so much a geographic area, but the people who reside in it) can be called to a meeting, presented with proposals ranging from small "housekeeping" concerns to a decision over the direction of the education of the children in the region for decades to come, be given civil attention to be heard, and then cast votes to decide an outcome, is a true value of small-town life. It is kept alive and vital only by continuing to participate.

— Stephen Moore

For a short analysis of the voting, see page 4.

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Merger Proposal Voting
Voting Across the Eight Towns

The public was initially told that all eight towns had to vote to approve, or the proposal would be dead. After Egremont voted "No" two days earlier, we learned that the 8-Town group still wanted to see if there were other towns in favor, thinking perhaps some renegotiating might still result in a merger of some sort.

Among the three towns of Berkshire Hills—Great Barrington, West Stockbridge, and Stockbridge, with a total population of approximately 10,000, the votes were 83% yes (567), 17% (116) no. The vote total represented approximately 7% of the total population (not just registered voters.) All three towns voted in favor.

Among the five towns of Southern Berkshire—Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield, Egremont, and Alford, with a population of approximately 7,300, the votes were 58% no (803) to 32% yes (590). The vote total represented approximately 18% of the total population. Of the five towns, only Alford voted in favor. Sheffield voted heaviest against the proposal, 503 to 99.

The numbers show that the Southern Berkshire towns were much more motivated to turn out (18%) for the question than the Berkshire Hills towns (7%).

In the conclusion, four towns voted in favor, four towns against. The vote totals across all eight towns were 1,157 "yes," and 919 "no." The following morning in the *Berkshire Eagle*, Lucy Prashkar, chair of the 8-Town planning board, said that the proposal was dead, and there'd be no further consideration of a merger.

—Stephen Moore

In My View
Town Administrator Position

Many people have sent emails to the select board members expressing their opinions about the town administrator's (TA) position. For the most part they've been very civil. The board appreciates the debate as we work towards determining the best solution for the town administrator position.

My objective was and is to start the process and not define the outcome ahead of time until we have completed the process. Another objective is to have complete transparency in the process. At the August 15 select board meeting the board voted 3 to 0 to notify the TA we would not be renewing the current contract based on town counsel's advice. To read the August 15 minutes, go to Montereyma.gov, select "Boards," select "Board Minutes.")

I'm speaking for myself now and not the board.

To me, there needs to be more clarity on how we see the TA position through the job description, employment manual, and organizational chart. It is not unusual to pause when an employment contract expires, especially one as important as the TA, and have another one written. My other board members concur. As Justin Makuc said, this is the first time we have had a TA and we should review the job description. Susan Cooper made similar comments.

I'm not interested in digging up the past and I will make every attempt to keep us from going there. I know there have been a lot of reports dating back to 2015 and to be honest I haven't read them, but I can if we need to go there. I can look at the recommendations—but ultimately the goal is not to live in the past but to better prepare the town for the future.

The town administrator position is the most important position for the town. This position is the face of the select board and almost everything goes through the TA. Many towns' TA job descriptions describe the TA as being both the chief operating officer and chief financial officer. So, it's important we get this right.

In a letter, Don Coburn wrote about the department heads' contracts—public works, police, and library. Before speaking about those contracts, I want to acknowledge Jim Hunt (highway), Brian Fahey (police), and Mark (library), as well as Shawn Tryon (fire chief), who all do fantastic jobs. I'm thankful they and those who work for them are part of our town. But comparing the way we do the TA contract to department head contracts is very different because the positions are so different.

Since our notice in August we have worked very diligently on the new TA job description and some changes to the evaluation forms. Once this is finished we will decide the next steps.

In closing I hope everyone looks at this as an opportunity. The good news is that we have several months to figure out the steps in this process to best benefit the town.

—Frank Abbott
Monterey Select Board

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In My View

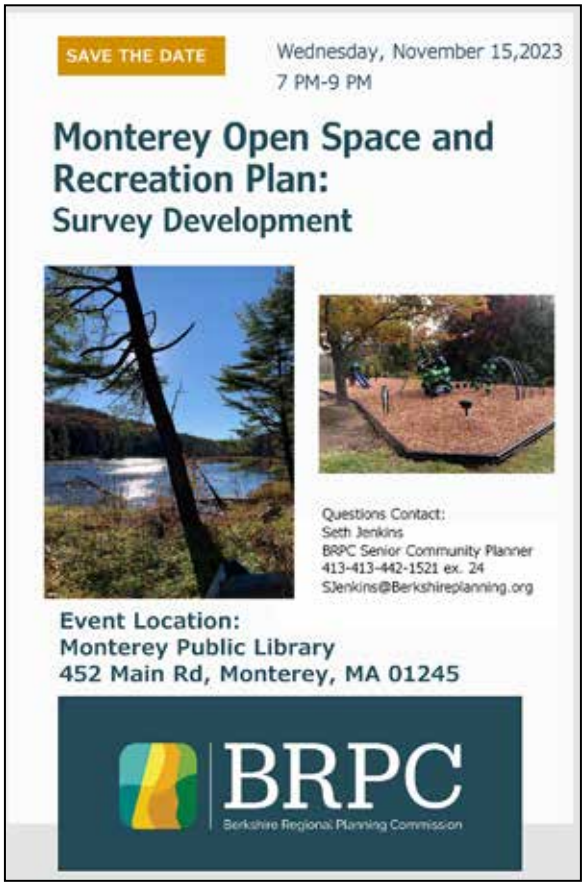
Open Space and Recreation Plan

As a follow-up to the Monterey's master plan, the select board appointed an Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRP) to update and revise Monterey's Open Space and Recreation Plan, last updated in 2003. Fundamentally, the OSRP is about trying to plan how our town will keep, use and value all kinds of open space—something Montereyans seem to truly appreciate. The master plan survey found that more than 75% of respondents want to preserve the town's natural beauty and rural character. The OSRP gives us a chance to dig a bit deeper into how residents would like to achieve those broad goals. Do we want to protect forest and agricultural land? And if so, how? Can we do something to support farms and food production in Monterey? Do we want more opportunities for active recreation? What kind? Do we need to change our zoning to allow for more environmentally conscious housing? What would that look like? Do we want to become a "dark skies" community? Do we want to use our natural resources to become more climate resilient? And what would we each be willing to contribute to any or all of those efforts? Time, labor, money, taxes, personal commitment?

Having an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan qualifies the town to apply for a wide variety of grants from the state, some of which require partners. Those grants include: the Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant, the MassTrails Grant, the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Grant, the Landscape Partnership Grant, and the Mass Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund Grant. The grant money could be used for a wide variety of projects, including a possible bike/walking trail between the town center and Lake Garfield or improvements at Bidwell Park.

The OSRP committee members are: Susan Cooper, representing the select board; Margy Abbott, representing the planning board; Gerry Clarin and Tracey Brennan, representing the parks commission; Dennis Lynch representing the Lake Garfield working group; Jim Hunt, director of operations; and Melissa Noe, town administrator; with Seth Jenkins of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission helping us to craft the OSRP plan. The committee is holding its first public forum on Wednesday, November 15, at the Monterey Public Library, from 7 to 9 p.m. Please join us and help craft a plan that will focus our efforts to keep Monterey wonderful, healthy, and bucolic for generations to come.

— Susan Cooper
Monterey Select Board



Editor's Note: In My View *provides individual board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full board.*

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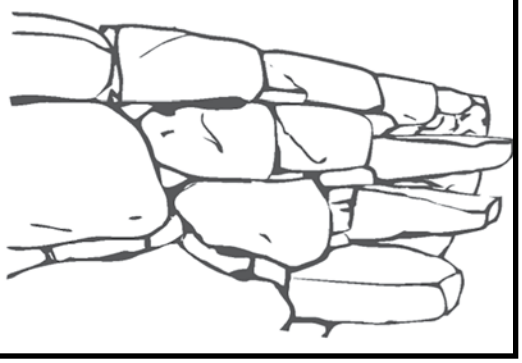

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Cesar Romero

MCC Receives a New Ping Pong Table

Thanks to the advocacy and generosity of Myrna (center) and Hy Rosen, the Monterey Community Center has a new, high quality, Joola, portable table tennis table. The ping-pong group meets year-round on Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:30 for informal singles and doubles games. Ping-pong keeps your brain sharp, improves reflexes, burns calories, and is easy on the joints. All players are welcome.

—Steve Graves

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Susan Cooper

The newly-finished playground at Greene Park. The only equipment missing is the Cyclo Cone Super Spinner, below right.

Greene Park Playground History

The Monterey Parks Commission took on the challenge of replacing the aging playground at Greene Park in March of 2022. It dated back to 2008 and no longer satisfied current safety, space, and material standards. Members of the parks commission conducted a number of site visits to newly designed and installed playgrounds in western Massachusetts. Interviews with representatives from three playground manufacturers were held and an online survey was made available for townspeople to express their opinions concerning the aspects of playground equipment they desired in a new layout. At the same time that this research data was being accumulated, a proposal to receive a grant from the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was filed. The Monterey Select Board ruled favorably on the application and after some negotiating with the playground firm to bring the project within budget, the parks commission felt confident to recommend SiteSpecifics, out of Rochester, MA, as the best choice. To further ensure that the town was supportive of the specific plan (especially the parents of young children in town), a final in-person question/comment event was held at the old playground last spring. The overwhelming positive remarks provided the final impetus to move on with the playground rebuild.

In late August of this year, Monterey's public works department assisted in the dismantling of the old equipment, recycling the components that were salvageable, and prepping the surface according to the specifications required by Sitespecifics. The surface was allowed to settle until Monday, October 16 when the professional playground installation firm from Harwinton, Connecticut took over and completed most of the work by Wednesday afternoon. A rigid, non-corrosive resin border was put to place with thirty-six-inch spikes, and the surface was filled with a wood fiber groundcover. Short of one major piece of equipment, namely the "Cyclo Cone Super Spinner" which is backordered and to be installed at a later date, the new playground is ready for some serious fun.

Monterey now has a playground that incorporates present-day play concepts in a safe and inviting manner for all to enjoy.

—Tom Mensi
Monterey Parks Commission

Gerry Clarin

View from a bridge looking towards Brewer Pond. *Photos by Mark Andrews*

Brewer Pond Loop Trail

It was a beautiful day in early October. That final wave of summer that bathed us all in glorious heat and the feeling of a last chance to spread our wings. People were swimming, kayaking, cycling, and of course hiking. I had passed the group of "Greenagers" parked by the town beach many times over the summer and had talked to them about the project under way. The gang was gone now so it was time to explore.

The team of youth from the Greenagers environmental internship program based in South Egremont created a loop trail of about eight-tenths of a mile around Brewer Pond across from the town beach with views and bridges that make it a pleasure to walk. It begins at the back left corner of the kayak rack area as a wide grassy path that quickly turns into a narrow wooded trail. Blue blazes mark the way through the woods between pathways cut through a few large fallen trees. An old section of split rail fence appears at the beginning of the trail's narrowest stretch which is cut into a slope where good shoes with treads are advised, especially if it's been raining. This section will require some ongoing maintenance to keep it in good shape. The trail then pops out of the woods on Beartown Road at the southeast end of Brewer Pond Park.

Finding your way around the fence and across the dam, a blue blaze marks the way back into the woods near the house at the northwest end. From here the trail winds through the woods with some great views of the pond. There is a plank crossing a small trickle followed further along by the first bridge crossing a fairly dry stream bed which on my most recent circuit was flowing quite steadily. A short walk brings you to a second rustic bridge which, like the first, is built of rough planks and stripped branches providing a sense of being in some remote locale.

One of the bridges constructed by the Greenagers.

From here the path winds and begins to climb a bit on its way back toward Tyringham Road. There is a section of wet ground that is traversed with large stepping stones which again call for appropriate footwear. There was one spot where direction was a little unclear, so I carved an arrow onto the blaze. You pass an old pump house foundation on the left as you make your way up the hill to Tyringham Road not far below the first houses. You then can walk on the grass along the guardrail or hop the guardrail and walk the road back down to the hill.

We should all be thankful to the efforts of the Monterey Conservation Commission for providing the funds, the parks commission, especially Steve Snyder who spearheaded things, and the Greenagers, the youth organization that made things happen. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team. Soon there will be some signage and additional improvements that will further enhance it as a great addition to the many wonderful and little-known trails that already exist in our town.

Next up I really look forward to the historical trail that will soon be coming to Bidwell Park!

—Mark Andrews

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Letters

The *Monterey News* welcomes letters on a wide range of topics. Commentary on events and town affairs, notes of appreciation, or alerts for upcoming activities that might be of interest to Monterey readers.

Submit your letters to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.

Pumpkin Painting

The New Marlborough-Monterey PTA sponsored the second annual pumpkin social for New Marlborough Central students and their families on Friday, October 13, at the school. It was a gorgeous fall day, where kids were invited to paint or decorate pumpkins, make some fun crafts, and enjoy free snacks and pizza, generously donated by the Berkshire Co-Op, Roberto's Pizza, and the PTA.

It was such a joy to see the kids having fun and the parents connecting. NMC school is a gem for Monterey kids and appreciates all the community support.

You can follow the NMM PTA on Instagram @newmarlboroughmontereypta.

Please email us at nmmpta01244@gmail.com if you'd like to learn more about the PTA, get involved, or donate.

—Elizabeth Evans
Photos by Elizabeth Evans

Library Crawl

Have you ever heard of a library crawl? The Western Mass Library Advocates put one together for all of you who love libraries. The crawl runs from now until November 18, so there's still plenty of time to see how many libraries you can visit on the list.

Come to the Monterey Library to pick up a passport and take the ultimate library road trip. You'll get a stamp at each library you visit as well as some sort of swag. All are welcome to participate—of course if you have your CWMARS card you'll be able to take out books from almost all the libraries on the list. As experienced patrons know, you can return them all to the Monterey Library so you won't have to double back and redo your route unless you want to repeat the fun!

Search: #wmlalibraryroadtrip23

November being the month with Thanksgiving, we would like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers who make this library function as well as it does. On many shifts you will see volunteers of varying ages shelving books and doing other tasks that free up the staff to help circulate all of our items. The volunteers who you don't see, The Friends of the Monterey Library, continue to fund raise an support the holiday decorations, the landscaping, and many of the amenities that make this library warm and welcoming. Please consider joining the Friends as they support us with funds, volunteers, and fresh ideas.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

Council on aging luncheon on October 20 at Baba Louie's in Great Barrington.

Catching up with the Council on Aging

Be sure to join us for two very special events in November, one new, one an annual observance, both at the Monterey Library. On November 8 at 11 a.m. we will be treated to a virtual tour of the highlights of New York City's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), including free lunch, catered by Bizalion.

Monterey's annual Veterans Day Observance will take place on Saturday, November 11, at 11 a.m.

And remember: van transportation in Monterey is now available for everyone, with expanded hours and new towns added (see below). The new phone number to book a ride is (413) 591-3826.

To reach me to reserve for events, with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call (413) 528-1443, extension 112, or email me at coaoutreach@montereyma.gov. Phone messages are picked up once daily Monday through Friday.

—Kathryn Roberts
COA Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

A group of twenty-seven council on aging members attended the October 21 matinee performance of Lunar Eclipse *at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox. We were treated to a tender and moving play touching on themes of aging, marriage, relationships with children, to name just a few. Even more special, the artistic director Allyn Burrows gave a shout out to the Monterey Council on Aging, and co-stars Karen Allen (a fellow Monterey resident) and Reed Birney answered questions from the audience after the play. Karen spent time after that session meeting our members, posed with us for this photo, and was very grateful for our interest and attendance. We look forward to sharing more events like this with the community.*

Coming Events

Monday, November 6: Monthly council on aging board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, November 8: Virtual tour of the Museum of Modern Art highlights, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the library. The video tour will be followed by a delicious free lunch catered by Bizalion! As part of her presentation, MoMA Access Programs Director Francesca Rosenberg will explain how to watch the many online programs at MoMA, and attendees will receive free passes to the museum. Please call or email Kathryn to reserve your spot for the video tour and lunch.

Wednesday, November 8: Movie night at the library at 7 p.m., showing *Mid-August Lunch*. This award-winning 2008 Italian comedy-drama is described by Rotten Tomatoes as "thoughtful, warmhearted, and delightfully free of pretense." The story focuses on Gianni, an affable bachelor who begins taking care of elderly neighbors to make ends meet. The council will serve light refreshments.

Saturday, November 11: Veterans Day Observance at 11 a.m., at the library. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, November 15: Lunch out at The Locker Room in Lee at noon. Please get in touch with Kathryn to reserve your seat at the table.

Wednesday, November 22: Game Time! at the community center from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite games or play one that's new to you. Fun for all ages and a great way to spend an afternoon with friends or make new ones. The council will serve light refreshments.

Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, November 2, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the library. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call Kathryn at the number above if you'd like more information.

Transportation: For trips to Great Barrington, Sheffield, Egremont, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield (Pittsfield is for medical only, Monday & Wednesday). Call (413) 591-3826. Temporarily expanded hours are M-F 7 a.m.- 8 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.to 6:30 p.m. Priority given to seniors and people with disabilities.

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. The council covers $10 of her fee.

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running, or biking are available in town hall.

Mary Makuc

Stretch and Strengthen, Balance and Breathe

As the season changes in a more serious way, our routines and the ways we support ourselves change as well. Our chair yoga group has left the airy summer tent and come inside to the coziness of the community center. Our current focus is to strengthen on every level to prepare for the winter ahead. When we practice strengthening physically, that strength ripples out into the rest of our lives. Pair strength with flexibility, balance, and deep breathing, and the result is that both our bodies *and* our lives have a heightened quality of resilience.

Many of us have been practicing yoga together for years now, and we'd love to have you join us! We meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., in the Monterey Community Center, using chairs as props, sometimes for seated poses, sometimes as a support system for standing poses. Some participants opt for mats on the floor instead of the chairs. The idea is to adapt and adjust the practice to your personal level of ability and experience. As the teacher, I offer many choices and also encourage each person's own unique variations and self-expression.

The class is a rich experience of meditation-in-motion rounded out by the camaraderie of a wonderful group of people. Come and explore for yourself the benefits of chair yoga in Monterey. If you have any questions, give me a call at (413) 528-3798. Chair yoga is supported by the Monterey Community Center.

—Connie Wilson

Wendy Germain

Mary Makuc's departure party at the community center on October 8.

Community Center Director
RJ Supa on Board

When Mary Makuc resigned as the director of the Monterey Community Center, the MCC committee despaired of finding a person who could take her place. Luckily, after interviewing a number of candidates, I am happy to report that RJ Supa has been hired as the new Director. He comes with an abundance of energy and new ideas for this position and the MCC Committee is thrilled to have him on board.

While RJ lives in Middlefield with his dog French Fry, he is familiar with Monterey, having some close friends here, and has attended activities at the MCC such as meditation and the supper club. His other job, because who can live on a ten-hour-a-week gig, is as manager for Half Gallery with sites in New York and Los Angeles. He has experience teaching art to young children in the NYC public schools, has curated many art exhibits, and is currently in the process of writing a book. RJ is also an incredible baker, with aspirations for selling some of his baked goods. Having sampled his rosemary shortbread, I predict this will be a successful venture.

While some of RJ's work can be done from home, he will be popping into many of the groups at the community center to say hi and get to know people. If you have any ideas for new programs you would like to see take place, please let him know. I am happy to welcome RJ to the Monterey Community Center and feel confident that he will continue to make it thrive.

—Laurie Shaw, Chair
MCC Committee

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NOVEMBER 4 *THROUGH* DECEMBER 3

GALLERY EXHIBIT: "CONNECTED"

A curated exhibit showcasing eleven artists with ties to our area. This exhibition asks what connections we can make to foster community in our corner of the world. Included are Peter Biamonte, Jess Cofrin, Susie Crofut, Jacob Fossum, Falcon Liana (2023 Daniel Manacher Prize Winner), Josie Miner, Linda Mironti, Jaye Alison Moscariello, Daisy Noyes, Abbe Stahl, Setsuko Winchester, June Wink.

Opening reception 4-6 pm. **FREE.**

SAT., NOVEMBER 25, 4 PM

SIMON READS

Join us for a reading by **Simon Winchester** and a discussion of his 2023 book **Knowing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge from Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic.**

"A delightful compendium of the kind of facts you immediately want to share with anyone you encounter ... Simon Winchester has firmly earned his place in history ... as a promulgator of knowledge of every variety ..."

— New York Times

This event is FREE to attend.

FOR DETAILS VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Monterey Community Center
November Calendar

Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly activities:

Mondays:

Hablemos! 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Intermedio y Superior* – to practice Spanish and meet new friends.

Simple Meditation, all are welcome, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Monday, November 27: Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com. See page 23.

Tuesdays:

Chair Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

Singing with Vikki True, 11:30-12:45 p.m.

Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

Bridge and Pitch, 1 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, November 22: Council on aging board games, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Board games with coffee, tea and snacks.

Wednesdays: Tai chi with David Crowe, at 10 a.m. $8 per class or $30 for the month.

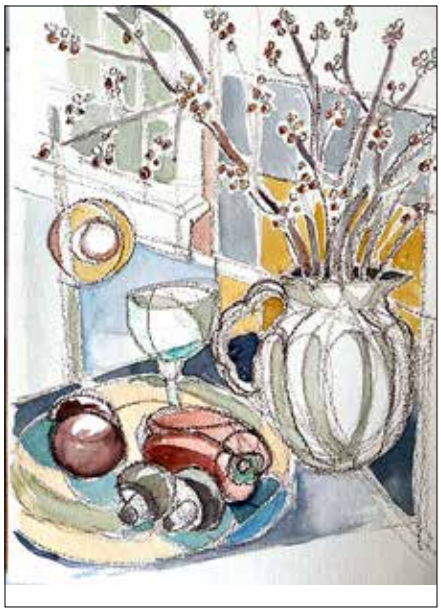
Thursday, November 2:

Darn yarners, at 10 a.m. First Thursday of the month.

Transformational breathwork at 6 p.m.

Thursday: Wellness check cancelled this month.

Thursday, November 2, 16, and 30: Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 p.m.



Drawing and watercolor by Beth Hoffman.

Fridays:

Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. Please register by emailing jamesboneparth76@gmail.com.

Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays:

Coffee Club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m.

Sundays:

AlAnon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

MCC music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. November 5 and 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark Andrews at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

Special Events:

Saturday, November 11: Pie crust workshop with Hanna Jensen (formerly The Sweetish Baker) at 1 p.m., in the church basement. $25. Limited to six people, pre-registration is required. Please email montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com for more details and to sign up.

Thursdays, November 16 and 30: Open studio with Beth Hoffman, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your own art supplies or use those provided by Beth. Group size is limited. Pre-register by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Saturday, November 18: Wreath-making workshop, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. See page 31.

Sunday, November 26: Fourth Annual Chestnut Roasting, Friday, 2 p.m. See page 21.

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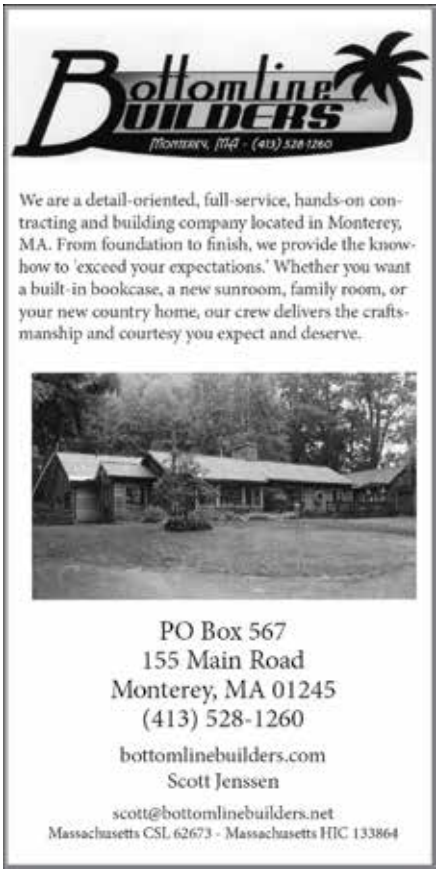
You can find more information on events at our website ccmonterey.org or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—RJ Supa, MCC Director,
and Nancy Kleban



Winter Roads
The Town, and the Drivers

Stephen Moore

Culvert Work, Main and Swann Roads
This area has been a problem area for years with water draining down the road and the raised area behind the new Roadside Store and accumulating at the intersection. The construction of the new Roadside with an enlarged site created the opportunity to cost share with Gould Farm for a fix. Starting the last week in October into November the work will begin, so be aware of possible slowdowns in that area.

Beartown Mountain Road Project
The bids are due back to the town the last week in October. At this point it looks like work will begin in early spring but Jim has heard from one of the bidders that they would be prepared to start immediately. So, with fingers crossed, maybe some of the major issues on Beartown will be worked on before the winter weather closes in. No matter what happens this Fall we'll have a new, improved Beartown Road by next fall.

New at the Firehouse Pavillion
As you drive by the fire station take a look down the road that runs parallel to the fire station (Foxhill Road) towards the pavilion and you'll see an expanse of asphalt. Foxhill Road has been on the list of roads needing to be resurfaced. Earlier in the year residents that live on Foxhill came before the select board to complain about the parking issues on the road. Everytime there is an event at the pavilion or when in use during the winter months their road becomes the defacto overflow parking area. Incidents of folks driving on their lawns to turn around was commonplace as was blocked driveways. The select board suggested new signs which was all well and good but not very effective. Since the road was scheduled for a resurface this year, Jim widened the road in front of the pavilion and we now have fifteen parking spaces. The lining will happen later this fall. Great solution to a vexing problem.

Roads in the Winter
It's November and the Monterey Highway Department is thinking snow. After two months of repairing our roads from this summer's downpours with new culverts, repairs to some of the older ones, crowning our dirt roads with the grader to better shed the water, blowing the leaves off, etc., Jim Hunt and the crew are busy prepping the five trucks that we have available for the coming winter. Installing the tanks and spray equipment that hold the pretreating liquid on one of the trucks, outfitting the plows, side plows and sanding equipment on the other trucks. One of the interesting projects that the highway department has accomplished over the past two years is taking old plow equipment and retrofitting it to, as Jim said, "anything in the highway yard that has wheels" for snow removal. Rather than purchasing specialized equipment that would only be used during the winter months, the town now has a fleet of snow removal equipment that can be used year-round for a variety of purposes. Cost savings for the town and increased ability to tackle our new weather dynamics.

The questions have come up again about what is this pretreating all about. Why do we have a truck out hours before a storm spraying a liquid on the asphalt roads. Given the interest, here's the low-down updated from last year's report for this year.

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Marilyn Orner
Seenic
October 27 - December 2
Artist Talk: Fri., Oct. 27, 5:30pm, Reception: 6-7:30pm

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library
Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
Artist Talks sponsored by MA & Monterey Cultural Councils

If you drive by the highway department you may notice the five-hundred-gallon vertical tanks. These are used to create a salt brine used, with Magic Minus, to pre-treat the roads. Okay, what is Magic Minus? It is a molasses-based catalyst that is mixed with salt brine in the tanks. 30% Magic Minus to 70% salt brine, which is then sprayed on the pavement making the salt adhere to road surfaces longer, eliminating the need for reapplications. This application keeps snow and ice from bonding with the surface. Recent research in Wisconsin compared brine-cleared routes to those nearby cleared with a traditional granular rock-salt method. The data showed that brine-treated roads were clear (bare/wet condition) more than two hours faster on average, with a higher friction rating and a reduction in salt use of 25%. Over the past six to seven years, with the increased use of liquid pre-treating Monterey has gone from sixteen hundred tons of salt a year to under seven hundred tons per year.

This reduction in salt usage also showcases Jim's weather forecasting skills. He gathers all the weather information and determine the proper mixes that will be used to treat our roads. A few years ago the town, using grant money, installed three clusters of road sensors along Main Road from Chestnut Hill, across from the firehouse, and by Pixley Road (Route 57). Temperature plays a critical part as different materials work best at certain temperature ranges. Salting is cost effective down to a pavement temperature of only about 15° to 20°. It takes about thirteen times more salt to melt ice when the pavement temperature is 0°F than when it is 30°f. Brine to the rescue. Sand is sometimes used to improve traction on ice. However, it only takes about thirty vehicles to blow the sand off the roadway. Without the brine applications we would still be using twice as much salt. As Jim said "The key is to be smarter about this and use less by better management."

So….enough of the technical and now for a little practical and common sense.

1. Pre-treatment starts twelve to twenty-four-hours prior to a storm.

2. When the snow starts flying the goal is to have the trucks plowing when an inch of snow is on the roads. The early emphasis is on the paved roads, especially those that are used by the school buses.

3. The gravel roads are attacked by the time snow reaches a depth of 3".

4. *If there is no emergency, please stay off the roads during a storm.*Let our snow plows do their work. Plowing during a storm is dangerous work and made more so when having to deal with cars or other trucks.

5. There is no parking on town roads from November through April. If parking in a driveway, make sure the car is pulled far enough in to not interfere with road plowing.

6. If you are clearing your own driveway do not plow or shovel snow onto or across the road.

Mailboxes installed within the town right-of-way is done so at the owner's risk. If you have a question about the location of your mailbox please call Jim Hunt at (413) 528-1734.

Winter sand is available for sidewalks, for residents, at the transfer station when open. Bring a container, shovels are available to use.

Reduce your speed and drive cautiously. Four-wheel-drive in your vehicle will help going forward but is no help in stopping. Snow tires should be considered a winter necessity.

That's what the town does. But our drivers' caution is very important as well.

—Kenn Basler

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Monterey's Pantry PickUp
Third Anniversary

Last month marked the third anniversary of the founding of Monterey's own free food bank, the Pantry PickUp. The brain child of seven Montereyans—all of whom were (and are) quite busy with unrelated family, business, and philanthropic endeavors—the Pantry PickUp began by coincidence at almost the start of the Covid pandemic in order to meet the varied needs of local residents who for the moment find themselves food insecure.

Starting from literally nothing, the founders located a home in the basement of the United Church of Christ in the center of Monterey, thanks to Pastor Liz Goodman and her congregants, and slowly gathered together a group of volunteer workers who today number close to forty—unpaid volunteers who each week gather together donations of foodstuffs from local residential donors and farmers, businesses, and a central Berkshire County food bank called Berkshire Bounty. All donations are private; no governmental organizations are involved. The volunteer workers for each week create boxes of food for each family or individual client of the Pantry, and the boxes are either picked up by the clients at the Church or are delivered to their homes. Some of the boxes are individualized to match individual clients' special needs (food allergies, etc.)

Client identities are, of course, kept 100% confidential.

The work is varied and never ending—as is the need.

What has been most heartening to both the founders and the volunteers is the response of Monterey's residents throughout the past three years—in a word: generous. Weekly blog posts of the specific food needs of the Pantry for the coming week are invariably met with generous donations of both food and money.

Behind the scenes, the founders—now the Pantry's team leaders—spend hours scheduling the volunteer workers, arranging substitutions as needed, checking food supplies, purchasing special foods, following up to ensure all deliveries are made accurately and on time, handling new requests for assistance and new offers of help.

All of these folks are your friends and neighbors; and, in a typical anniversary celebration, we'd ask them to stand up and take a bow for a good job, well done. Can we give them a big round of applause? No! All of them—leaders and workers alike—insist on anonymity. "The work is its own reward," they say.

If you want to join the team and share in the good vibes and high-spirited camaraderie of the volunteers, call (413) 429-4254 and leave a voice mail with your name, number, and best times to reach you. Blog posts with the Pantry's weekly needs are found on the Monterey Community Google group and Golden Rule group. Food donations in their original sealed packaging (and within their "best by" dates) can be left on the table just inside the basement door of the Monterey Church.

Financial contributions are always welcome either via the website of the Monterey United Church of Christ (write Pantry PickUp in the Notes) or by check payable and mailed to the Church, P.O. Box 182, Monterey 01245 (write Pantry PickUp on the check memo line). Thanks to the church, every dollar of your gift goes directly to the Pantry.

—S.L. Wallach

The Curtis Foundation
A Sense of Place

Among the many house foundations in our region are some that, of themselves, move us to contemplate previous generations who have lived here in the hilltowns. For me, it was the Curtis foundation, now on a Housatonic Heritage Walk, that inspired that contemplation. The first time I saw this foundation, the sun of late afternoon lit the foundation stones and exposed the date a very large house was built above it—1801.

That home is long gone, only the foundation remains, with an ash tree now growing from its interior in what may have once been the living room.

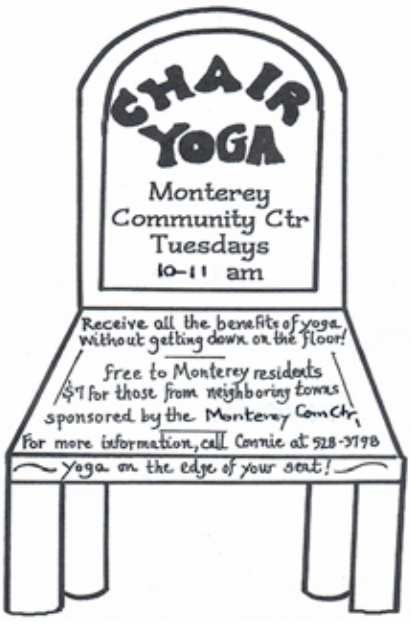
Around the foundation we once dug and found two old coins, some pieces of charcoal, shards of crocks or pots, nails, and more.

Yet, it is the thought of all the people—adults, children, and the elderly, who lived, worked, played, and died there and are now all gone—that brings out reverie and reflection on the place they belonged to.

Did they plant those old sugar maples nearby? Did they plow the adjacent fields, now grown to forest?

Did they keep diaries and reflect on their predecessors as well?

—Bob Rausch



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Boyhood Thanksgiving

With an hour before dinner to kill
I sat on the back steps and thought
that it could snow—the air was chill
with a wintry scent—and my heart
caught

at the thought of a sudden shower of
snow
and how the green tousled yard
thinking there still was time to grow
would take being buried hard.

Although I liked the way snow
lay along the black boughs
and made cars go slow
down narrow canyons carved by
ploughs.

A few flakes wandered down
while we ate, and that was all—
dusk, and then the sun went down
on the last afternoon of fall.

—Don Barkin

A Rainy Fall Day

Though leaves around me fell,
none of them assumed
that it was bound for Hell
or otherwise was doomed.

Uplifted by a breeze
one made a pirouette
as if to show the ease
of life without regret.

It landed on a rock
and was plastered by the rain.
Still it did not take stock,
or press Heaven to explain.

While I went wisely on
as I knew I must
until all hope was gone
of a saving gust.

—Don Barkin

A Late Raking

It's sad to see an old man rake,
sad that he should care
about the difference it would make
to leave a few leaves there.

He won't recall that distant fall
when playing in the park
he thought he heard his mother call
through the dropping dark,

and peddled home pumping hard
until the plunging hill
which would bring him to his yard
where he took a spill

and tumbling landed in
the road and scared a car.
When steep November days begin,
winter isn't far.

—Don Barkin

Correction

In the October issue, on page 26, in "Gould Farm and the Development of a Dream" Part II, there was mention of the two-story log house in the Maple Woods across Rawson Brook at Gould Farm.

This building was torn down in the 1970s. Through the work of Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester, also in the 1970s, a small picnic cabin at a nearby location was remodeled into the sauna, which remains to this day.

Sincerely,

—Bob Rausch

Correction

On the front page of the October issue is a photo of two grasshoppers taken by Marc Holzer. In the caption I harkened back to the green heron on the front page of the August issue, saying that Marc had taken that photo as well. But no… it was David Abromowitz who captured that elusive heron.

—Stephen Moore

Veterans Day

Veterans Day observance is on Saturday, November 11, at the Monterey Library, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Coffee and pastries will be provided by the council on aging. We re working getting a bagpiper. We will provide updates as needed.

Thank you.

—Julio Rodriquez

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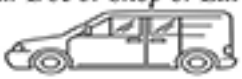

7 am - 8 pm Mon-Fri

8:30 am - 7:30 pm Sat

8:30 am - 6:30 pm Sun

The van is now available to everyone in Monterey, with seniors and people with disabilities given priority.

Call (413) 591-3826

24 hours notice requested

$8 Round Trip to Great Barrington, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, Sheffield and Egremont

($15 Round Trip to Pittsfield for medical only Mon & Wed)

Monterey Council on Aging

Library Poetry Reading
American Eclipse

Thursday, November 16, 5 p.m., Monterey Library.

Poet's comments on the themes:

Though a lot of poems in *American Eclipse* dwell on personal relationships, they are informed by exterior elements—birds and landscapes, various effects of climate change. It begins with variations on the idea of an eclipse, weaving depictions of different astronomical eclipses with more metaphorical notions of darkening and obscuring, including comments on the current sociopolitical landscape. The following section, "Warming," explores the disrupted climate through an intensely personal lens—relationships, a longing for snow in the winter. The third section, "Emergence," strikes out on a more positive note, as things are revealed, uncovered and discovered, and the final section, "Dispersal," stretches out a bit further, with poems that travel and sometimes disorient; poems that explore movement, departures, risk; settling, or not.

Kateri Kosek grew up in the Hudson Valley but has lived in or near the Berkshires for over a decade. A poet and essayist whose writing explores the intersection of the personal with place, landscape, and the natural world, she is the author of *American Eclipse*, winner of the 2022 Three Mile Harbor Press Poetry Book Award, as well as a chapbook, *Vernal*

(Split Rock Press). Her writing has appeared in such places as *Orion*, *Terrain*, *Catamaran*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Briar Cliff Review*, and *Northern Woodlands Magazine*. She has been a resident at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, and the Tallgrass Artist Residency in Kansas. Kateri teaches English and writing at Northwestern Connecticut Community College and Western CT State University, where she received an MFA. Locally, she freelances for *Berkshire Magazine* and *The Berkshire Edge*, and has occasionally worked surveying bird populations in the Taconic Mountains for Green Berkshires, and in Aton Forest in northwest Connecticut. She also serves on the board of the Center for Northern Woodlands Education. Read more at katerikosek.com.

Editor's Note: Kateri's name might be familiar to readers of the back page of the Monterey News. *She has worked as the copy editor since the winter of 2016, and has contributed many poems over the years.*

Review of *American Eclipse*, by Kateri Kosek

Kateri Kosek's poems are infused with the elements and creatures of the natural world, from the unseasonable weather that envelops everything in uncertainty to the birdsong that nearly always permeates the air; from the unexpected moose or bear to the cold shock of a river swim in fall.

The speaker of these poems never extracts herself from nature, her inner world constantly informed and touched by these outer rhythms. Even the political environment melds with the natural environment: "The night before the capitol is stormed…a black bear finds my bird feeder," one poem begins. It ends chillingly, "…I remember how it glared at me, / how we both felt my power / slip away like a joke."

Kosek is clearly uneasy with humans' place in nature, the effects of industrialization, chemicals, light pollution. She grieves the "great silent migration of trees." So much is in upheaval, and each "eclipse" poem seems to herald or anticipate more change, or be disappointed by its lack. Even so, she is grounded by the changing seasons and the ever-revolving celestial bodies—what constancies she can find as the climate shifts, her own relationships shift, and the ground wobbles beneath her feet.

This is a book about love and searching—love for the human and love for the great earth all around us. If you know Kateri, you know that birds are a big part of that love. So don't believe her when she tells you "there are no birds in this poem." I am happy to say: there will be birds.

Come hear Kateri read from *American Eclipse* at the Monterey Library on Thursday, November 16, at 5 p.m.

—Hannah Fries

Editor's Note: American Eclipse *will be available for sale at the reading ($16). A copy is available for review in the library, and for circulation from the library after the reading.*

there are no birds in this poem

I swear none alighting in the ghost of a sycamore in winter or gorging on succulent budworms none banging up against your windows or spinning nests in the crevices of your garden there will be no flitting humming preening perching skimming soaring or otherwise causing trouble no leaves trembling under the weight of warbler or thrush we're on our own now no birds are being used to represent distress passion recovery the exquisite pleasure of being missed etc. if you must make a story here think of species loss sea levels rachel carson of that dream you had where your father died inexplicably what if we still don't know what's good for us what we can do without I pull up to a stoplight and there tumbling from the sky is a raven careening toward another one but no matter and now along the river amid ice floes and a huddle of geese are the white bright specks of mergansers and did you ever wonder has anyone died this way trying to identify a bird while driving neck craning to follow the swoop of hawk or flash of water bird into pale grasses I have you'd never even know it that sort of thing doesn't turn up in the accident reports I'm telling you no birds turn the music up louder open the windows or close them pay attention don't let pretty things wing their way in and set you all aflutter take control take heart it's getting colder out quiet starting to feel more like winter

—Kateri Kosek

Cornfields in Winter

Some would see it as an absence,
the clean white planes
the sun has burned down
around the stubble,
fast and bright
under skis.

At first I can still
see the house,
then slip
through a line of trees
to a field I can't see
from the first,

field upon field
I can't find the end of
like those rooms in a dream
you never knew
were there but keep
letting you in.

—Kateri Kosek

Riding on His 80th

Richard Pargament held his own impromptu celebration of his 80th birthday by pedaling up to the top of Mt. Greylock. He said he planned to ride up, knowing there would be other cyclists up there who would ask him his age, he'd tell them, and they'd all wish him a happy birthday! Afterwards he wrote, "my ride stats—speed and power—were better than ever." He's thinking that next year he might try the same ride, only add a descent down the north side towards North Adams, and then back up again, which is described as "the most difficult climb in Massachusetts." Is eighty the new forty perhaps?

—Stephen Moore

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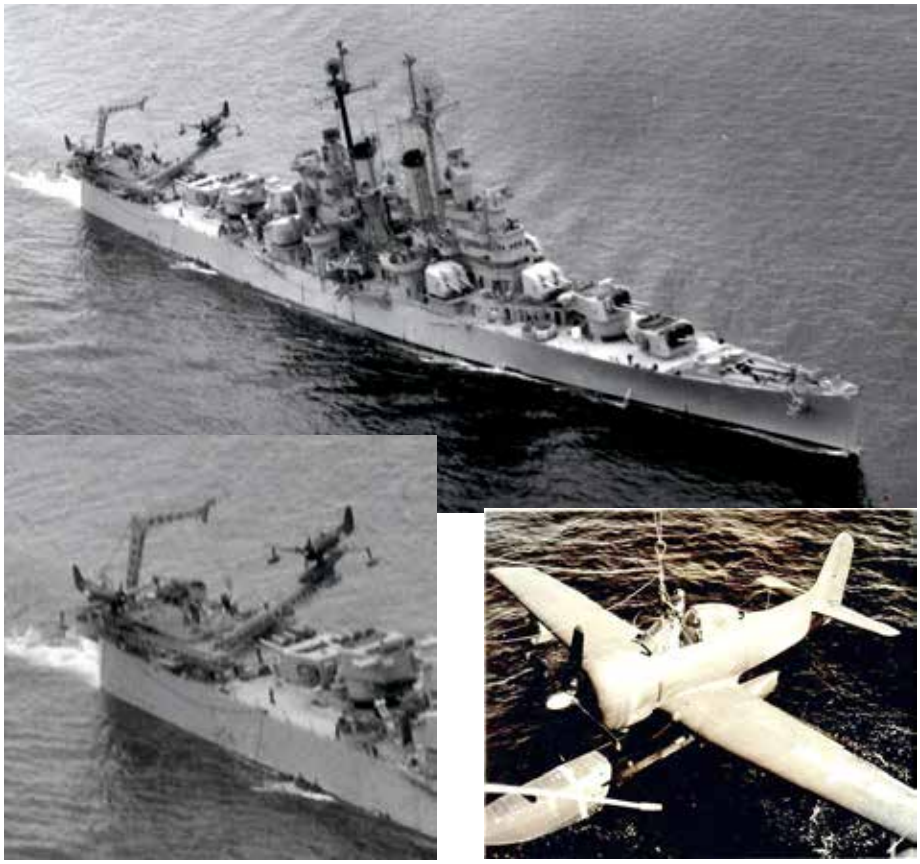
Veterans Day Tribute
Eugene Bounous

The Last of the Greatest Generation

Eugene Bounous is the oldest resident of Monterey and has the Boston Post Cane to prove it! He is also our last surviving World War II veteran. I met Gene not long after we moved here in 2000. I met him at Memorial Day activities with other veterans. We both had Kubota tractors and shared that interest as well. One day I saw him at the grocery wearing a jacket from the USS St. Paul. I told him that my dad was a plank owner (original crew.) "So was I," he declared. This meant they went through the remaining war years as ship mates; seeing the surrender of Japan and going ashore, going up the Yangtze River to Shanghai during the Chinese civil war, and returning to San Francisco to muster out. I shed a tear knowing how much my dad, who passed away in 1992, would have loved meeting Gene. The ship was a heavy cruiser, 674 feet in length, and a crew of 2,000. So, on a big ship they never knew each other personally.

It is ironic that Gene was under age (sixteen) and still got into the Navy. My Dad was twenty-six, had a family, was a skilled tool and die maker for an Army munitions plant in Watervliet NY, but he still managed to also enlist. They both could have sat out the war but wouldn't have it, like so many of that generation. After boot training, they were ordered to report to the Boston Navy yard where the St. Paul was nearing completion. They were sent back out to training in their specialties. Dad became a refrigeration mate after going to the York Company factory. He ended up spending his working life in that business for the York company. Gene was sent to flight school to learn to fly one of the four observation sea planes on the ship. Gene was also the ship's photographer.

Gene is a quiet man who dislikes talking about himself although he will always talk about his ship. He says he was never in heavy combat like other veterans. However, I am sure he had one of the more dangerous jobs on the ship. He flew a single seat sea plane that was launched by catapult over the side of the ship—no flight deck! His mission was to direct the gunfire from the huge guns that had a range of many miles. He would tell the ship how to adjust the guns in order to hit the target.



At top: An aerial photo taken by Eugene of the USS St. Paul which both Eugene and Steve Pullen's father served on at the same time, though they never met. Lower left: A detail showing two more planes loaded on catapaults. The ship carried four observer planes. Bottom right: A photo of Eugene hooking his plane onto a hoist to be pulled back topside.

Getting the plane back aboard the ship for Gene was another challenge. The small plane could easily capsize in the swells of the Pacific Ocean. To protect him, the ship turned abreast of the wind creating a calm space in the sea. The ship was practically dead in the water at this time with no ability to maneuver so the captain was screaming to hurry up! The pilot stood up to attach a crane hook to the plane and be pulled up onto the ship. See the photo.

After leaving active duty in 1947, Gene joined the Naval Reserves and spent ten years flying at least monthly. He also completed a degree in electrical engineering. He spent forty years designing and installing electrical transformers for the New York Central railroad (now called Metro North.) While "working on the railroad," as the old song goes, he started installing electricity in new homes as a side gig. Then he started building whole houses. Finally, he starting building a home on a hillside in Monterey where he and his wife retired.

—Steve Pullen

Editor's note: Gene was awarded the Boston Post Cane as the oldest Monterey citizen in November of 2020, when he was 92. He had also just finished building his own private six-hole golf course with the fairways running up and down the slope from Route 23 up to his house—with plenty of trees to make it interesting. (Reported in the December 2020 issue.)

Pumpkin photos by Elizabeth Evans

Veterans Day Tribute
Jim Dutcher

Quiz: What is a Seabee?

Jim Dutcher was invited to visit Monterey by a family member in 1964. He liked it and stayed. He lived in several places including the Brook Bend Inn. They left in 1974 but returned a few years back, purchasing a home in Monterey.

His father and brother-in-law were masons and he ended up working in construction as well. His brother-in-law was a Navy Seabee and he tried to enlist but there weren't any openings at first. However, as the Vietnam war expanded so did the need for Seabees—so it was "Ship Ahoy!" He was sent to Navy construction school and was rated as a builder.

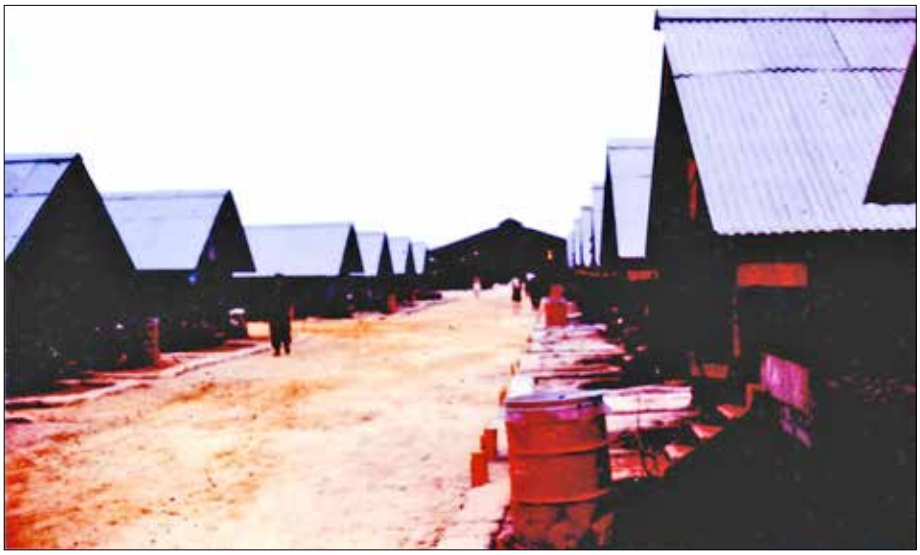
Seabees build mess halls, runways, bridges, shelters, and just about anything needed to assist logistical needs of the Marines and other services. They were also combat trained. Jim went to advanced Marine Corps infantry training before each deployment. It is little noticed but 85 Seabees were killed in action during the Vietnam war. When a warship is threatened, all sailors must report to their battle station. As a sailor on the ground Jim's "battle station" when under enemy attack was to carry a machine gun, radio, and ammo to the perimeter defense. He served two nine-month tours in Vietnam from 1965 to 1967.

After completion of his four-year enlistment, he agreed to join the reserves. Shortly afterward, he was activated and served another year. He and his brother-in-law walked into the Monterey store where the owner said he heard they were activated. They were astounded since they had only just been told. "It was in the *Eagle*" the owner said.

Jim was assigned to a few interesting posts during his enlistment. He was sent to Antarctica one summer to build a building for freezer storage. It could get warm there, he said. "It got to 35 degrees!" He was also sent to Greece to build a large radio transmitter to communicate with submarines. Apparently, the system could send massive vibrations into the ground using extremely high voltage that could be picked up many miles at sea.

So now you know what a Seabee is! I was a Marine and we appreciated their work very much. They built "hooches" for us which had a plywood floor, open screened walls, and a tin roof. They were so much better than the squad tents with shrapnel holes, mud floors, and mosquitos. Jim said they could build six a day. One day a marine came over and asked if he could "borrow some electricity." They agreed and the marine used communication wire normally used for field telephones. They ran it out a few hundred feet so they could play music and have lights. They were good till they got caught.

Above: Jim's Seabee unit in Vietname. Jim is at the top left.
Below: This is the base camp for the Marines built by Seabees in Phu Bai Vietnam in early 1967. Jim remembered pouring the concrete for the mess hall in the center of the photo—which was taken by Steve Pullen when he was stationed there.



After leaving the service Jim worked as a mason and other jobs but he always had an interest in rocks. So, in middle age he earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in geology. He taught geology at the Holyoke Community College.

Thank you for sharing your story with us, Jim.

—Steve Pullen

Knox Gallery in November

Marilyn Orner's *Seenic*—as in "seen" and "scenic"—opened on October 27. The local landscape is Orner's favorite subject matter, which she likes to show in its most colorful and expressive beauty. She primarily works in oil "searching the landscape that surrounds her for moments that stand out, that surprise, or that are imbued with the play of light and reflections, which become her subject."

Orner graduated with a BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts), and an M.Ed. from Lesley University. She has taught art for much of her career, and she currently teaches painting at Berkshire Art Center in Lenox. Her work has been exhibited in New York and the Berkshires, and is in many private collections.

The artist recognizes that painting is a solitary endeavor. She feels that the work comes alive when it is "seen and heard and felt." We hope you will see and enjoy Orner's work, on view until December 2, 2023.

Our winter community exhibit, *Glow*, opens on December 8, with a reception on Saturday, December 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dictionary definitions of "glow" seem to relate to the beginning of winter! For example, "To shine with a low light and heat." "To have a warm, reddish color from exercise or emotion." "Physical warmth or heat." Or, "a pleasant feeling." We hope the topic will inspire local artists to consider this topic as inspiration and be ready to submit a piece of two- or three-dimensional work, which should be not more than 24"x18" or 430 square including frame. We cannot accept larger pieces.

Applications will be due November 20 (see the link on the Monterey Library/Knox Gallery "about" page). Work will need to be dropped off to the gallery either Monday, December 4, between 7 and 9 p.m.; or Tuesday, December 5, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. We are having the gallery painted after the close of this show, so once the painting dates are settled we will stipulate pick-up dates. Obviously, it will be right after the closing date of January 20, 2024.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). We encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

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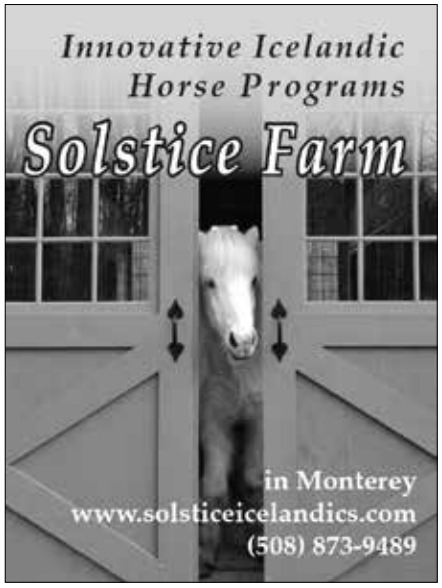

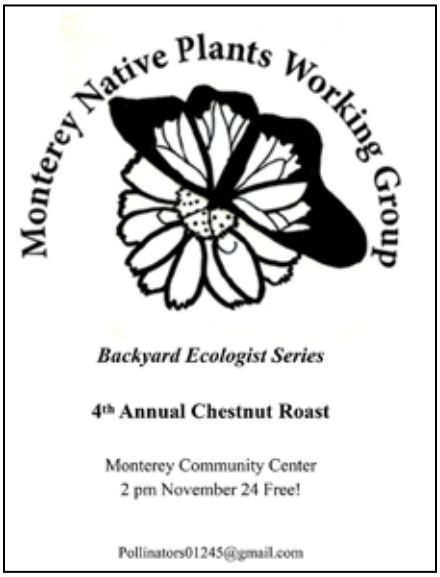

Fourth Annual Chestnut Roast
Friday, November 24

It's become something of a Monterey tradition to celebrate Native American Heritage Day, the day after Thanksgiving, contemplating the demise and possible return of the legendary American Chestnut (rather than running over to the mall for bargains).

We are fortunate to have two lovely specimens of the tree in town, thanks to the fact that Mark Makuc planted them decades ago. They are still doing well, although bearing scars of the fungal blight that wiped out some four billion American Chestnuts in the early part of the twentieth century.

You are invited to join us in learning about the efforts to restore the species, including through research orchards in Granville, in a talk by board members of The American Chestnut Foundation. For forty years, the organization has been working to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut tree via scientific research and breeding, and to restore the tree to its native range along the eastern United States.

The foundation was founded in 1983 by a group of prominent plant scientists and lay persons who saw how damaging the loss of the American chestnut tree was to the ecology of forests and the economy of humans. It has made significant progress, as John Meiklejohn of Granville will explain. He is a volunteer orchard manager at one of the thirty-seven research orchards established by the Massachusetts-Rhode Island Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

PatArnow

Meiklejohn offered to bring some of the fruits of this research, and tips on how to plant them, with the aim of introducing more hybrid chestnut seedlings to Monterey.

After the talk, you are invited to cross Main Road to Eaton Road where Kevin West will be roasting and serving up some of the local chestnuts (and possibly some of their commercially grown relatives). Since June, West, a champion of trees, has served as the town tree warden. He has also installed a number of native trees and shrubs that produce nuts or fruit, including black walnut, paw paw, elderberry, and American persimmons. Weather permitting, he will show visitors his plantings and talk a little about his sustainable edible landscape.

This year's chestnut roast is part of the Backyard Ecologists series, sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group. If you plan to come, kindly email Pollinators01245@gmail.com to register. Or just show up. The talk starts at 2 p.m. at the community center and around 3:00 we will cross the road to sample Kevin's wares.

— Janet Jensen

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Birth Announcement
Ambrose Hurst

Darius and Carla Hurst welcome their first baby, Ambrose Ellis Arthur, on the first of September 2023, at 7:51 p.m., in Monterey. A wonderful home birth on Fairview Road. All our Fairview neighbors are very happy about the new addition to Fairview Road! Ambrose is blessed with two aunts and four uncles.

— Catherine Hurst

Birth Announcement
August Valentine Barker

Emily Valentine Sottile, Val Costa's daughter, sent in a birth announcement for her son, August, born August 18, in a home birth in Marblehead, MA. She sent in much more though, a moving story of her connection to Monterey through her life and her mother's, leading to how she met her husband. She wrote that, "As soon as we could, we brought August home to Monterey to get to know the forest and the wonderful community."

Be patient and their full story will be in the December issue.

Wingéd Euonymus

This is the name of a plant! In my childhood, "wingéd" made me think of angels, probably archaic angels in an old songbook, illustrating a classic carol. Then one day down in the woods near our wigwam, Dad pointed to a bush and said, "There's the wingéd euonymus!" This meant we were on the shortcut trail, soon to take us by "the museum." These landmarks are in that woodsy place still. Dad has been gone some many years, but stopping by these artifacts takes me right back to the days I could not have spelled "museum," let alone "euonymus."

The museum was an ancient cast-iron woodstove, or parts of it. Dad said there had been a logging camp in this place before our time. There must have been a cookshack right here. The top, some stove lids, and a fancy oven door remained, collapsed upon each other. Also, the short, curved legs of that "Royal" cookstove. Decades later the wood cookstove in my life is a venerable Glenwood in our kitchen. It stands protected now, but one day it may pile down on the ground, when the wood of our house has turned to loam, and we have too.

As for the wingéd euonymus, that same bush is in the woods still, not really any bigger than when I was a child in my single digits. The wings, Dad explained, were the four long ridges on the woody stems, slim ridges sticking out like parallel wings all up the slim stem. Back then and still there is not any plant I have seen like this. It is rare, so special. I still have to focus carefully to spell its name, and it is worth doing because I can turn to the books and learn a few things.

Winged Euonymus

The shrub has other names: burning bush, wingéd spindle tree. It is native to central and northern China, also Japan and Korea. I don't know its name in the language of these places, whether it speaks of angels there. In fact, nowadays suddenly this angel is visible as can be. It is red in the fall, first pinkish, then more red. The seeds are inside a red "aril," a colorful capsule containing the fruit and seeds. Though all parts of the plant are said to be toxic to folks, birds will eat these berries and fly off carrying the angel far and wide. There are so many of these bushes now, from avian distribution or from landscaping projects, that the numbers have tipped, and the bush has as new label: invasive.

In my old-school plant books, those species not native to these parts but occurring spontaneously and in the wild, are marked with an asterisk. They are "introduced."

Many of us are introduced, individuals as well as species. But be careful the words we use, the emotions and reactions flamed by "invasive," "alien." Look in the mirror and then think of the apple tree, the honeybee, the earthworm.

The wingéd euonymus was introduced in the United States in the 1860s. Now, since 2009, it is banned in Massachusetts. Though landscapers in the 1990s wrote, "It is still one of the finest landscape plants for American gardeners," more latterly "the importation, distribution, trade, and sale are banned," here and in New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. Get away, burning bush! You are not native.

Now the writers still give advice for planting and encouraging the bush, but out the other side of their mouths, they tell us how to kill it! Back in the day the national sales of burning bush topped tens of millions of dollars a year. We want to turn our backs on this!?

No. All we need to do is make a few genetic modifications, and so we have done. Scientists at University of Connecticut's Transgenic Plant Facility have concocted a sterile variety of the angel. To be sterile is to be noninvasive. And of course, the bush looks just as wonderful as its earlier seed-bearing ancestor did and does.

If I go to the plant store and see a burning bush for sale, it could be a trap! A stake-out, to see who will adopt this alien, invasive, also illegal plant. Or maybe it is a guaranteed infertile angel. How's a body to tell the difference? Might have to wait until next spring and put an alarm on the buds. If a blossom pops out, we are invaded, liable, headed for the hoosegow.

There is something about the color red. We want it in our gardens, our clothing, jewelry, glasses frames. Scarves. What is it? Thoreau had a theory I have only heard from him, which is that we are drawn to red because it is the color of our blood. Maybe so. I left my old red sweater in Arizona by mistake and someday I'll get back there and hope to find it. Meanwhile, I am loving the wingéd euonymus along Route 23 between here and Monterey Center, also that solo bush down in the woods by the collapsed cast-iron woodstove. Though these angels are on the unwelcome list for some folks, I have my reasons.

—Bonner McAllester

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Bidwell House Museum
November 2023

The Bidwell House at twilight can be a magical place, the rooms lit in flickering candlelight allow you to imagine life on an early fall evening for Adonijah Bidwell and his family. This fall we are excited to once again offer a series of special candlelight tours of the museum on November 2, 16, and 30. Led by local antiques experts, Charlie Flint, Sam Herrup, and Lorraine German, these tours will take a fresh look at the furniture, decorative arts, and textiles in the museum collection and introduce you to the house in a whole new way. At the end of these unique tours, there will be wine and cheese and time to ask questions of your guide. These candlelight experiences are part of our fall fundraising activities and those interested in attending can sign up on the events page of the museum website, bidwellhousemuseum.org. These tours were so much fun in 2022, so don't miss your chance to see the Bidwell House Museum in a whole new light!

Though the house may be closing up for the season, as you all know, the grounds and gardens are open year-round for your enjoyment. As the days get shorter and colder, spending some time outside each day is incredibly important for your physical and mental health! The museum has six miles of trails on 194 acres that are open every day, free of charge, from dawn until dusk. You can walk from one end of the property to the other for an exhilarating multi-hour hike or simply stop by for a quick stroll with your dog. When the snow arrives (and the Farmer's Almanac says we could get a lot this year!) visitors can still enjoy the trails on snow -shoes and cross-country skis. You can also walk the Native American Interpretive Trail or take the Outside the House tour to learn more about Mohican history and Bidwell Family history. Maps for all of the museum's trails can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded on the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/the-museum/guided-tours/.

Enjoy the trails and happy fall from the Bidwell House Museum.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

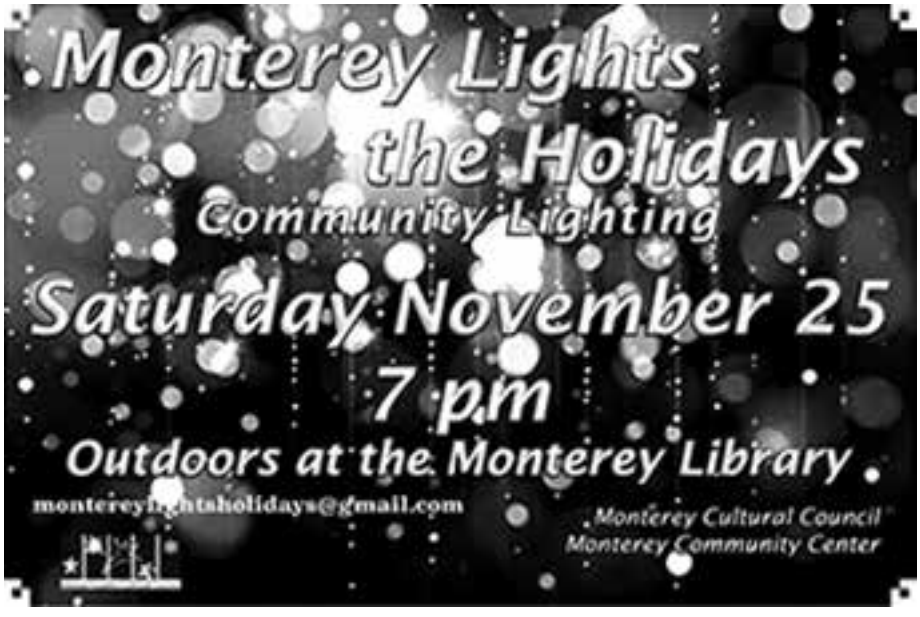
Bidwell House Museum at dusk. *—Photo by Rob Hoogs*

Monterey Cook Book Club
November 27

The monthly Monterey Cook Book Club met on Monday, October 23 (4th Monday), at the Community Center. Ten of us met for lunch with our chosen recipes from Melissa Clark's cookbook, *Dinner in One, Exceptional and Easy One Pan Meals*. We had a delicious lunch which included a carrot/cauliflower and shrimp soup, baked feta with tomatoes, onions and herbs, a sinful tartiflette, roasted carrots with olives, roasted mushrooms with crispy polenta and finished with one chocolate fudge cake and two different pound cakes. The conversation was lively and informative and the meal was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 27, at 11:45 a.m., in the community center. The featured cookbook will be *The Mediterranean Dish,* by Suzy Karadsheh. Copies will be available at the library. Please mark the recipe you have chosen with your name on a post-it, available at the library desk. Please email wendygj@gmail.com to let us know so we can set a place at the table for you.

—Wendy Jensen



Here's a Thought

Joy Comes in the Morning...

For a couple of weeks last September a mysterious family of rubber ducks scored free lodging in the Belfast, Maine, harbor. They sailed in under cover of darkness, one, then two, and this year three all arrived overnight to greet the citizens of Belfast together.

Those first two visits were spaced about a year apart. Though well documented and enthusiastically welcomed, no one knew when, or whether, to expect a surprise visit again this year. After all, how could anyone not actively involved in creating the mysterious delight possibly predict whether they'd anchor in town for a third time? And no one, absolutely no one, was telling but hope ran high in local hearts. More folks than most kept an eye on the harbor as they drove about their daily busy-ness on the highway bridge far above the Passagassawakeag River. And their anticipation was rewarded.

We'd been planning our trip to Belfast for months, but only heard about the treat in the harbor a day or two before we left for Maine. Would the ducks still be there when we arrived? No guarantees were forthcoming. Much to our delight, I spotted them from the passenger/navigator seat of the car as we crossed the harbor bridge. They were easy enough to see. The average bathtub rubber ducky measures 4" long by 3" wide, but the littlest ducky in the harbor, Joy, is 25' tall.

We found a parking spot near the pedestrian bridge down close to the water and soon were taking our own photos of the trio anchored in the harbor. They just floated

…rubber duckies, I'm awfully fond of you!

there, come sunshine, come rain, bringing, yes, joy, to an ever-increasing fan club.

Joy's next-larger companion looked like she might be Joy's mother. Her name? Greater Joy. 2023's new family member—Daddy Ducky?—sported the name Greatest Joy. And Greatest Joy's exactly what the trio spread, not only around town, but in the news clips and media photos that made the rounds from local print to CNN. And, as before, no one confessed to knowing anything about their arrival, their immigration status, or their ability to make their way in the world.

Happily, the family of rubber duckies disappeared from the harbor in time to escape any tail feather damage from Hurricane Lee. Bonsai and I were especially glad to hear that, since we're now bona fide members of their fan club.

Although Belfast has the Rubber Ducky Joy Escapades, south Berkshire County has the periodic arrivals of Bonsai's "Love - Peace - Gratitude" billboard in GB. You may already know to look for it as you come south on Route 7 from, say, Stockbridge or Price Chopper, on your right just before you ease into the curve near the stoplight where you'll turn left onto Route 23 to come back home. And here's a tip: it's scheduled to return early in December!

As someone who also enjoys gifts and surprises—don't you?—I'm grateful that you and I can also find our own ways to change the world. We'll definitely find our way if we're willing to start small. You know, 3" by 4", like a bathtub-size rubber duckie.

So let's get with it. Share a smile. Hold a door open. Let a car in from a side street onto Main Street GB traffic during a weekend.

We might enjoy the giving so much we might even let planned and spontaneous gifting become a habit. Like Belfast's so-far-annual harbor ducks. Like Bonsai's billboard. Like your very own smile. Especially in difficult times like these, let's be thankful, too, for our ability to pass simple joys along. It's what all of us hope for, after all. It's what we're thankful for, too, and not just around the table at the end of November.

— Mary Kate Jordan

Final 2023 STEAM workshop

Sparks at Flying Cloud Farm will hold the final 2023 STEAM workshop for children ages seven to eleven on Saturday, November 18, from 9:30 to noon. Ceramicist and science educator Jane Burke will lead activities that connect science, engineering, art, and math in her studios at the farm in New Marlborough. The workshop will be free thanks to the generous support of the Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sandisfield Cultural Councils. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jane at janesburke@gmail.com or text (413) 429-6103 for details.

Contributions for October

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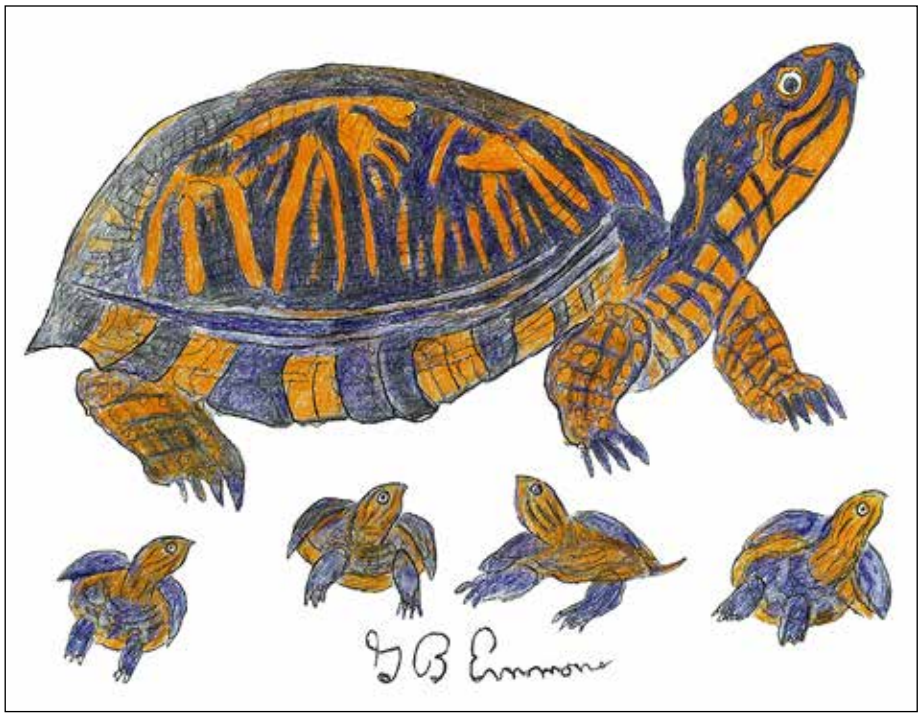
The Endangered Wood Turtle



The wood turtle is a very low-profile creature that spends most of its time near the waters of local rivers and streams. It also travels through forests and across grasslands but rarely winds up more than several hundred meters from flowing water. It prefers to use a shallow sandy bottom to move from one pool to another.

The wood turtle itself is an omnivorous feeder eating a range of animals and plant matter both in water and on land. It is attracted to a wide selection of insects, berries, beetles, millipedes, slugs, fungi, mosses, grasses, and even carrion on occasion. It can be seen stomping the ground with alternating hits from both the left and right feet to cause moles and earthworms to rise to the surface to become easy prey. Scientists have deduced that the stomping mimics the percussive sounds of falling rain. They can also be observed walking along the bottom of streams to feed on crayfish and other prey. The wood turtle does pose a threat to its own survival as a species by destroying turtle nests and eating baby turtles which adds greatly to the endangerment of the entire population.

Many different predators threaten its wellbeing, including snapping turtles, raccoons, otters, foxes, cats, ravens, and coyotes, each of which gobbles up a nutritious meal when they can. The wood turtle is also exposed to many municipal dangers such as being run over by speeding cars while crossing a country road or being hit by agricultural machinery. They are more often subject to illegal poaching—to add a pet turtle to a nature collection for a young member of a local country family. To combat so many threats Smithsonian Scientists have been closely monitoring their movements since 2016 by attaching tracking devices that weigh less than half an ounce. In the past year no less than thirty-eight turtles have been tracked this way.

Wood turtles have subsequently been petitioned for inclusion under the Endangered Species Act, which will be reviewed by the end of this year to make a final determination. So far the species is listed under the "greatest conservation need" in all seventeen New England States. Some are even being "headstarted," helped by raising young hatchlings away from the dangerous wild world with all the threats in the hopes that when they're released at a more mature phase their chances of survival will be greatly improved.

The most complete success of headstarting was in the past century when the American bison was virtually brought back from extinction by headstarting young calves before release back into the wild. Let's hope that the wood turtle is not getting nearly that far gone so that it might not need extreme measures to help it survive in its natural habitats.

—George B. Emmons

Monterey Mills

September 20, on a drizzly Saturday afternoon, I led about twenty-five intrepid Montereyans on a walk along both side of the Konkapot River behind the Monterey Library to explore the "foundations (literally) of Monterey." These are the visible remains of the many mills that were built, harnessing the river's water power. The industries housed in these mills created the village we now know as Monterey. Between 1740 and 1900, this area had saw mills, shingle mills, paper mills, a planing mill, grist mill, woolen mill, carding mill, distillery, workshops, mill workers' housing, and more. In the village were blacksmith and other shops, several stores, the church (third meeting house), the first library building, and many of the houses that today form the core of the village.

Exploring the mill foundations.

During our walk, we looked at the remains of many of the mill structures including stone foundations, retaining walls, cellar depressions, raceways, waterwheel pits, three dams, two bridges, and roadways. All were visible but hidden among the trees and shrubs that have regrown since the mills closed and the buildings disappeared.

The Monterey Historical Society is working with the library trustees and the Monterey Parks Commission to create a "Monterey Mills History Walk" with paths and interpretive signs to point out these fascinating features from our past. We hope to have the walk and signs ready in 2024. We'll let you know as this moves ahead.

Bidwell Park

While we're on the subject of walks, many townspeople don't know about Bidwell Park. This hidden gem of a town park is

View of the foundation of old Fulling Mill looking towards mill dam and present library.

Konkapot River cascade in Bidwell Park.

along the bank of the Konkapot River opposite the library. There are picnic tables, and beautiful cascades and waterfalls, in addition to the historic mill foundations.

Bidwell Park was donated to the inhabitants of Monterey in 1921 by the heirs of Marshall Spring Bidwell, who bought the mill property from the Langdons (who bought it from the Brewers). The park is maintained by the parks commission and the town's public works department. It's a great place to visit! (Park at town hall, then walk across Main Road and along the driveway, bearing down to your left. No cars permitted.)

Housatonic Heritage Hikes & More

The Monterey Mills walk was jointly sponsored by the Historical Society and Bidwell House Museum, and was one of over eighty Housatonic Heritage hikes throughout the region during September, including three in Monterey. I hope you took advantage of these annual expeditions led by local experts.

But, did you know that Housatonic Heritage does a lot more than just sponsoring hikes? The full name of the organization is the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (a mouthful). And it covers from Kent, CT north to Pittsfield.

Among its many projects, it sponsors the Clinton Church Restoration in Great Barrington, which will become the W.E.B. DuBois Freedom Center; Iron Heritage Trail; Housatonic Paper Trail; Operation Pollination; Western New England Greenway (a bike path from Long Island Sound to Canada); Oral History Project; and many other programs. It also offers matching grants for many local cultural organizations to enable their programming and projects. For example, Bidwell House Museum has received grants for the Greenagers to construct, improve, and maintain the six miles of trails on its property. Housatonic Heritage is a wonderful organization. Check it out online: housatonicheritage.org.

Mohican History

October included Indigenous Peoples' Day. One of Housatonic Heritage's programs is the Native American Heritage Trail. With their help and in collaboration with the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Tribe, Bidwell House Museum has developed a Native American Interpretive Trail. This self-guided trail has signs and exhibits focusing on the Mohican's long history and culture in these, their ancestral homelands.

On October19, I gave an illustrated talk about the Mohicans entitled, "We Are Still Here—Stockbridge-Munsee History, Culture and Enduring Presence." Michael

Monday Supper Club
Giving Thanks

October supper club was a celebration in deeds of respecting our roots, and the three sisters were abundantly present—but without pointy shoes, swishing skirts, and Bette Middler (if you aren't familiar with *Hocus Pocus*, check out "The Sanderson Sisters" on YouTube). Dishes piled with roasted squash, potato, fennel and onion gratin, carrot casserole, cornbread, chili (both vegetarian and meat—thanks Jan Feinman!), corn pudding, mashed potatoes, carrot & mushroom casserole, something with gruyere—I can't remember what it was, the cheese must have clogged my synapses. Here I am at 8:20 a.m. getting hungry thinking back to how good my plate of food was.

It was our first supper in the church basement, and all went famously. Community shout-outs: much gratitude to Margy Abbott for her assistance and direction with the logistics of the room and coordinating with the food pantry, and a special thanks to Virgil Stucker for gracing us with indigenous flute music to bless our meal. Finally, a standing ovation to all attendees for providing an amazing dinner, excellent company, and a shared goodness to life.

Speaking of goodness in life, Halloween officially marked the kickoff of "make a new nosh in your belt" season—time for the holiday eating. Acknowledging that many will be having a Thanksgiving meal shortly after our November supper club, which will be at the church on Monday, November 13, at 6 p.m., let's give it the ole switcharoo: the theme for November will be "giving thanks." Having foods in our lives that mean something to us is a blessing, honor that blessing by sharing it with others. Bring a dish that's a recipe you are thankful for, one that fills you with gratitude. It could be something your grandmother made that makes your heart (and stomach) smile; a birthday bake that lets you have your cake and eat it too; or a recipe that is eggcellent because it's made with eggs from right outside your back door. Get bready, this is going to be a good one!

Please RSVP to supperclubmonterey@gmail.com if you will be attending by Sunday, November 12.

—Hanna Jensen

Tree Cutting Along Tyringham Road

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Section 3 & 4 (Public Shade Trees), the Town of Monterey Tree Warden will hold a public hearing in Monterey Community Center, at 7 p.m., on November 9, 2023 during the planning board's meeting to consider the removal of multiple public shade trees (mostly ash) that are dead, dying, or leaning on Tyringham Road. Trees for removal are marked in yellow or orange paint. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated in the agenda for the planning board found at montereyma.gov/planning-board.

—Kevin West
Monterey Tree Warden

Johnson also presented a short film he made, "The Return of the Mohicans—Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors." Michael filmed an interview with Shawn Stevens, a tribal member from Wisconsin who shared his appreciation for returning to their ancestral homeland. More about this topic next month.

Thanks for your interest in the Monterey Historical Society.

—Rob Hoogs

Daytime Book Group

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, at 1:30 p.m., in the Monterey Library.

We will be reading *Perestroika in Paris*, by Jane Smiley.

New members are welcome. Happy reading!

—Beth Hoffman

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October 2023 Wildlife Report

October brought accounts of all sorts of wildlife, fine photographs, and one mysterious sound recording. This came in from Justin Makuc, who heard it in the middle of the month in the middle of the night. It is a repeated call which sounds bird-like as it burbles a bit, but then resolves in a "yip." The best guess so far is that this was a grey fox, or maybe two of them.

Colta Ives sent a photograph (above) of a white-jawed jumping spider which she says is "reported to have very good eyesight and yes, it followed me with its eyes." Carol Edelman saw a bumblebee about to land on a morning glory, also a remarkably complex mushroom near the compost pile. She sent a photograph (below).

In the amphibian department, Judy Kamenstein took a photograph of a large pickerel frog on a stone walkway(above). The markings make some people think of a kind of fish called a chain pickerel. The other amphibian comes this month from Pat Nourse and looks like a pale example of an American toad, with wonderful decorations. She sent a photograph (below).

Marc Holzer sent photographs of two very different snakes, both familiar neighbors in these parts: a garter snake and a northern water snake (top right.)

Large birds were seen by some of us in the last month. I was lucky to find an unlucky young turkey, recently hit by a car. This one had last been feasting on red barberries, and one small nut, unidentified as yet, also uncracked open though it had made it to the gizzard and been polished by the grit and pebbles in that grinding muscle which takes the place of chewing teeth in some birds.

Holzer's garter snake above, northern water snake below.

On Lake Buel Liza Catino saw a great blue heron, "a regular visitor to our lily pads," and so did Ronnie Wolf. This one was "taking flight on Lake Buel," and made a great photograph (top left, next page). Janet Jensen saw a great blue heron, too, "flapping up the Konkapot." Cincy and Rob Hoogs report many smaller birds near their place: bluebirds, and a flock of yellow warblers.

Among the mammals lately, we had a porcupine in our summer kitchen, snacking on apples we'd brought in from the orchard and put in buckets on a table. We rescued them and brought them into the house. The porcupine stayed right where it sat for many hours, tucked up with its head to the wall, finally departed in the quiet of the night.

We also saw a bear in the woods across the road, as had some neighbors lately. Our dog Rocky sent this bear up a tree. David Abromowitz and Joan Ruttenberg watched a young bear up on its hind legs "inspecting our berry tree" (a mountain ash, David says) and Joan took some video sequences. They sent a still from one of these (below).

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Clementine pumpkins by Mary Kate Jordan. —Photo by Bonsai Cox.

Julie Johnston saw an unusual white-tailed deer, with wide white eye-rings, also a broad white band around its nose. She sent some photographs, and this deer had dark black on the backs and front edges of its ears, which were otherwise completely lined with plenty of white fluffy hair: a striking look (above right).

I learned that Bradley Tryon has had his third mountain lion sighting. Most of us never ever see even one! This lion was crossing Monument Mountain Road. Some months ago, Bradley saw a lion crossing Tyringham Road, near the beach area and Beartown Mountain Road. Then another time in the same area he saw a lion crossing in the other direction.

Thank you for sending me your discoveries, your enthusiasm for wildlife.

—Bonner McAllester,
(413) 528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com

Summer into fall —Lin Saberski

Town Seal by Edith Wilson

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit articles to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone informed about town news and projects.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Frank Abbott
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(frank@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us."

For all meetings of town public bodies, go to the calendar on the home page. For agendas (with meeting location) and minutes, go to the individual board or commission tab.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

  dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.

- Police dispatch service number:

  (413) 236-0925.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

  528-3211

It's Time to Celebrate the Holidays Again

The holidays are coming, and so is a special evening right here in town: Monterey Lights The Holidays. On Saturday, November 25, following Thanksgiving, everyone is welcome to gather outside the library to welcome the holiday season with soft white lights, music, singing, tree lighting, and warm feelings all around. Mark your calendar now for this lovely event.

Here's a bit of history. Monterey Lights the Holidays (MLTH) began in 2020 in the depths of the pandemic. Because many were feeling isolated and depressed as the holidays approached, members of the Monterey Community Center committee brainstormed about ways to bring the townspeople together while still staying safe. Inspired by a similar initiative in Salisbury, CT, members of the MCC committee made phone calls to people living close to Monterey's town center along Tyringham and Route 23, Main Road. They asked if property owners were willing to take part in a new project and string lights near the road to brighten the town for the holidays. Happily, cooperation was high, and MLTH, a program of the Monterey Community Center, was on its way.

Then came a big boost. The MCC committee received a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, which made possible the purchase of soft white, mini-LED string lights and extension cords to distribute to participating property owners. (These particular lights are "kind" to the dark night skies, allaying concerns about excessive brightness). From the firehouse, all along Main Street, up to the intersection of Main and Sandisfield Road, people strung lights on fences, bushes, and around their front doors. The Monterey General Store, library, church, town hall, and several local businesses also participated. And so, in November of 2020, folks gathered outdoors at the library for the first time to light Monterey for the holidays.

Fast forward to November 25, 2023 and the fourth annual celebration of Monterey Lights the Holidays. The event is only about thirty minutes long, but in that time those who gather at the library will be treated to Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester's music making, Don Barkin's poetry reading, battery-operated candles (a gift to the children), a sing-along, the countdown to Mark Makuc's lighting of the library trees, and of course, the lighting of the town center at dusk. Maggie Barkin, chair of the cultural council, will share a few thoughts and act as emcee, and, on behalf of the Monterey Community Center, Laurie Shaw will wish all a safe and happy holiday. Everyone is invited to take part in this wonderful evening once again this year. Refreshments will be served so you can chat with neighbors new and old.

Come with your family, neighbors, and friends to celebrate the joy of the holiday season at 7 p.m., Saturday, November 25, at the Monterey Library.

— Dennis Lynch

Calendar

Council on aging events on page 9.
MCC events on page 11.

Thursday, November 9: Tree cutting hearing, town hall, 7 p.m. See page 27.
Saturday, November 11: Veterans Day ceremony, 10 to 11:15 a.m., library. See page 15.
Monday, November 13: Monday supper club, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 27.
Wednesday, November 15:
Daytime Book Group, 1:30 p.m. See page 27.
Monterey Open Space and Recreation Plan survey development, 7 to 9 p.m., library. See page 5.
Thursday, November 16: Poetry reading by Kateri Kosek, 5 p.m., library. See page 16.
Saturday, November 18: Final STEAM workshop, 9:30 to noon. See page 24.
Friday, November 24: 4th annual chestnut talk and roast. MCC at 2 p.m., corner of Eaton and Main Roads, 3 p.m. See page 21.
Saturday, November 25: 4th annual Monterey Lights the Holidays, 7 p.m., library lawn. See page 30.
Monday, November 27: Cookbook Club, 11:45 a.m., MCC. See page 23.

Lunar Eclipse Discussion
Thursday, November 3

Join in a rousing discussion of *Lunar Eclipse*, a play performed at Shakespeare & Co., with Karen Allen. At the MCC, from 3 to 5 p.m. Email RJ, MCC director, to bring an appetizer, at MontereyCommunityCenter@gmail.com.

—Mary Makuc

Wreathmaking Workshop
Saturday, November 18

Join us in the community center from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. and create wreaths. Please bring your own supplies, if you like, including greens, metal wire, clippers, wire cutters, and your own decorating ideas. A sliding scale of $10 to $15 applies if people use my supplies.

—Catherine Hurst

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413) 329-7912 or email.

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assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136, chief@montereyma.gov
Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
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SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
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Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 25; Bonner McAllester, p. 22.