MONTEREY NEWS

March 2024 Est. 1970
Vol. LIIII · Number 3

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

Zebras? Why not zebras? See the wildlife report, page 24. It's all there in black and white.

Each week, we will work in small groups to look for the exciting, moving, and necessary moments to tell stories.
Theater Workshops page 9

Whether actively caring for someone else's desolation or not, it's time for each of us to insist on personal time and space.
Just My Bag page 21

Gail gives insights into 1940s Paris, Sue Moody's experience being a female journalist in the mid-twentieth century, and how she found refuge in the Berkshires.
Historical Society page 20

Ice photos by Natalie Manzino

Between twenty-five and thirty people were present to discuss the future of the Monterey Meeting House and explore how this landmark building might be preserved for public use.
Future of the Meeting House page 5

I roll my eyes at my younger self complaining "I don't understand why we always have to have this, it's not like we're Irish."
Monday Night Supper Club page 25

Fifteen letters of acceptance went out to individuals and organizations that will receive grants from the Monterey Cultural Council.
Cultural Council Grants page 4

Join us for a screening of a lecture by Doug Tallamy addressing how conservation can and should start in our yards.
Nature's Best Hope page 25

Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"
Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m.

The town always benefits by having a full slate of candidates. A candidate does not need to be registered to a party to seek nomination from either or both parties.
Upcoming Town Elections page 2

On March 4 we will all be looking at Aspen, a new interface and catalog discovery layer.
New Library Search page 8

The 2024 water vessel lottery for spots on the town canoe and kayak racks across from the town beach is now open.
Rack Your Kayak or Canoe page 22

For inside phys-ed she taught us square dancing, calling the dances to the music of her own piano playing.
Helen Shaw page 16

A fairly new feature of our council programming—Wednesday afternoon drop-ins at the Knox Gallery in the library.
Council on aging page 12

The capital plan shall guide the town in its management of the general stabilization fund, loans, and other financing options.
Capital Budget Planning page 3

Why not write your own obit, alone, or with a friend or family member?
A Thought About Obituaries page 13

Due to uneven pavement and mild weather, the rink has been open for weeks instead of months.
Skating in Monterey pages 26-27

Upcoming Town Elections

Below is the list of offices that may be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 7. The number of seats is shown in parentheses, followed by the length of term.

Board of Appeals (1) 5 years
Board of Assessors (1) 3 years
Board of Health (1) 3 years
Bylaw Review Committee (2) 3 years
Cemetery Committee (1) 3 years
Finance Committee (1) 3 years
Finance Committee (1) 1 year
Library Trustees (2) 3 years
Moderator (1) 1 year
Parks Commission (2) 3 years
Planning Board (2) 5 years
Select Board (1) 3 years
Tree Warden (1) 1 year

The town always benefits by having a full slate of candidates so that no office remains unfilled. To get on the ballot for any of these positions, a registered Monterey voter must be nominated by one of the party caucuses or gather at least twenty certifiable voters signatures on a nomination paper filed with the town clerk. A candidate does not need to be registered to a party to seek nomination from either or both parties.

The last day to submit nomination papers to the registrars of voters is Tuesday, March 20, at 5 p.m. The last time to object to or withdraw a nomination is Friday, April 5, at 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote is Saturday, April 13.

The last day permissible for the town to publish the town warrant in advance of town meeting, which will be mailed to all registered town voters, is on Saturday, April 27.

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4. Election of town officers will follow on Tuesday, May 7.

For questions or further information, contact Monterey Town Clerk, by calling (413) 528-1443, ext.113, or by emailing at clerk@montereyma.gov.

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Democratic Town Caucus
Saturday, March 30

On March 5, the presidential primary day, Democrats will have the opportunity to vote for members to sit on the Democratic town committee.

Democrats in Monterey will hold their party caucus on Saturday, March 30, at 2 p.m., in the Monterey Library, for the purpose of nominating a slate of candidates for the May town elections.

The Democratic Party will later meet to reorganize our town committee on either Sunday, April 6 or April 13 (depending on availability), in the Monterey Library, at 2 p.m.

—Barbara Swann

Republican Town Caucus
Saturday, March 23

The Republican caucus to nominate candidates for the upcoming town elections on May 7, will be held on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m., in the Monterey Library. All registered Republicans are invited to attend. Any registered voter interested in any of the seats on the ballot should contact Mark Makuc at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com. Please indicate the seat that you are interested in and include a brief letter of introduction, interest, and any qualifications. The caucus can nominate any voter regardless of party affiliation. There will be a chance for candidates to speak, however only registered Republicans will be able to vote on the nominations.

—Mark Makuc

Getting the Monterey News

Pick up in several locations in town.

Have it mailed free of charge.

Receive it via email.

The *News* has been financed by voluntary contributions for over fifty years without a subscription.

Contact the *News* at MontereyNews9@gmail.com. P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

Candidate Statements

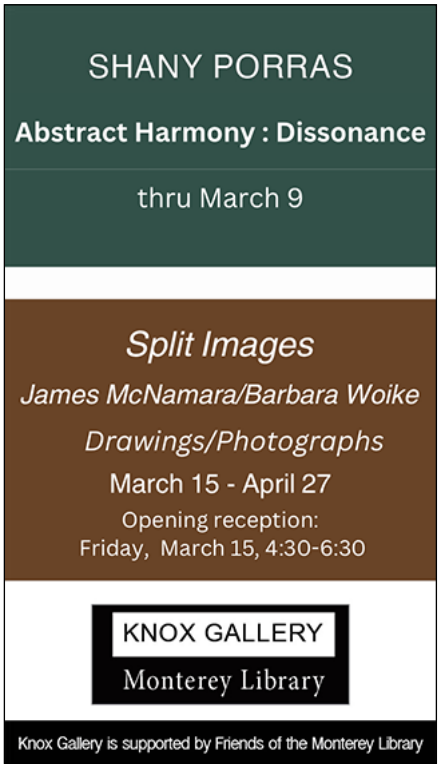
If you have been nominated for an office, or filed independent nomination papers, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the *Monterey News*. The paper will be happy to publish candidate statements in the April issue. It would also be possible to publish statements in the May issue but with elections on Tuesday, May 7, this might be too close to the elections to reach everyone.

Feel free to add a photo to be published along with the statement.

The *News* would also be pleased to publish letters of support for candidates. It would be helpful if you know of others who are intending to write in support of the same candidate to agree on one letter to be published.

Also, please feel free to offer a perspective on any issues to be decided at town meeting by sending a letter to the *News*. Part of the mission of the paper is to encourage community conversations.

The deadline for the *Monterey News* is typically on the 20th of each month. Your letters must be signed, and can be emailed (preferred) to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent first class, to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.



In My View

Our Capital Budget and Expenses

Municipal budgets are composed of two categories of expenses. One is an *operating budget*, which is exactly what it sounds like—it lists expenditures necessary for day-to-day operations. The second is a *capital budget*, which includes financial plans for long-term capital improvements, facilities, and equipment.

Right now, we are in the middle of drafting our fiscal year 2025 budget that commences on July 1, 2024. This will be voted on at our annual town meeting on May 4.

One of the priorities of the select board and the finance committee over the past two years has been the adoption of a "Capital Plan Policy." After several lengthy joint discussions and many drafts, back and forth on 8/22/23 we adopted a new policy. The Town of Monterey's Capital Plan Policy can be viewed at this link on the town website: montereyma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3496/f/pages/capital_planning_policy_8.22.pdf.

Here is an excerpt from the capital plan policy:

"PURPOSE:

"To formalize standards and guidance for the development of the town's Capital Planning and for the equitable formulation of the annual capital budget consistent with the sound practices and legal requirements.

"POLICY:

"The Select Board and Finance Committee, with the help of the Town Administrator, shall keep a Capital Plan which projects significant purchases that the Town expects to make in the next twenty years.

"All capital items shall be included in the Capital Plan. A Capital item is an item which costs $20,000 or more for the single item (or $100,000 for a project with multiple items costing less than $20,000 each), has a useful life of five years or longer, and is expected to be replaced within the next twenty years.

"The Capital Plan shall guide the town in its management of the general stabilization fund, loans, and other financing options. Capital purchases and their related funding sources should be coordinated to fulfill the needs of the Town while mitigating excessive or variable impact on the required tax revenue."

Monterey's Complexities

What plan would exist without complications? Of course, Monterey has further complexities.

The Town of Monterey's budget is considered on a cash basis. This means that only cash to be expended in the current budget year is voted on in the warrant at the town meeting, even if it meets the requirements for a capital expense and we know there will be additional costs in future years (not the current budget year). The other method used for budgeting is an accrual basis which means that income and expenses are accounted for when they're incurred, regardless of whether money has been exchanged yet. Although accrual budgeting has been a common practice in business for over a century, only recently, circa 2000, has it started being used in the public sector and is still not common practice in small municipalities such as the Town of Monterey,

Creation of Our Capital Budget

What to include in the capital budget is a central discussion between the select board and the finance committee during budget preparation. The finance committee (Roger MacDonald, Jeff Zimmerman, and myself) have created a worksheet that we use to take departments through all the pertinent questions about a capital purchase, including increased or decreased operating costs, such as repairs, electricity, and insurance; or whether additional staffing is needed and, of course, overall productivity and replacements for how the work is currently being done. This worksheet is based on the adopted elements considered in the "Capital Plan Policy."

We seek to balance current needs against long-term investments and expenditures and how much debt the town can tolerate. This depends on other needs that year and demands on our budget. Furthermore, we work hard to "stage" these expenses so that the impact on our tax rate remains manageable.

At the end is a listing of target dates for each stage of the budget process.

A Current Example

Here is a current situation we are addressing this budget season.

For many sound reasons, we will need a new fire truck within the next two years. At the cost of $1 million and with the costs rising about 5% per year (supply issues), and since there are only a few vendors of the trucks that build to national fire and safety standards, and we are on a cash basis, we must have the money in the budget in the year we order the truck, although no payment will be made until we receive it, which is likely to be twenty-four to twenty-eight months later.

Cont. on page 4 >

Capital Budget, cont. from page 3

Once we buy the truck, we can borrow to finance the truck and that is its own distinct line in our warrant. Since we budget in cash only and will finance the truck, in no one year will we have to expend the entire $1 million. The way we structure the debt for the fire truck depends on several factors. The most critical question is what else needs to be financed in that year. In the upcoming FY 25 budget, we have the remainder of the library loan, a tandem axle dump truck, a new F-550 style plow truck, and a medical SUV, which are estimated to cost between $200,000 and $350,000 for the next year.

The finance committee and select board are working on a plan to figure out how to pay off this list of currently financed capital items so that when we receive the fire truck, the amount for the debt service either decreases or stays constant for the financing of the $1 million truck. Of course, that must be balanced with the town's other longer-term needs that may arise in the next few years.

What to Expect this Year

Join the joint select board and finance committee meetings on the budget process. Check the town calendar for dates and information at montereyma.gov, under the "Calendar" tab.

Be on the lookout for the budget briefing before the town meeting. Per our annual budget process, the finance committee will hold a budget briefing two weeks before the town meeting, and we hope we will see many of you to answer your questions and explain the complexities of putting together our budget and concurrent capital plan.

An explanation of the out-year expenses in our capital plan: Per the adopted policy, we hope to have a new way to show the capital budget expenses in future years as an aid to understanding the impact of a current year's decisions.

Stay in Touch

Email the finance committee at finance@montereyma.gov with questions, or check the town calendar at montereyma.gov/calendar, and join us at our next meeting. We welcome a robust discussion and participation.

—Ilene Marcus, chair
Monterey Finance Committee

Footsteps

I thought the way was straight again—
this could not be.
Nothing is ever straight, it seems
unless we see
The pathway of another,
find the means
To tell of newfound secrets
through the trees.
I thought I'd put you from me—
aeons ago.
today I followed footsteps
throught the snow
And memories came tumbling out
on wintry air
To find each crevice of my hear
quite bare—quite bare.

—Sue Moody

From Monterey News*, February 1992*

Monterey Cultural Council

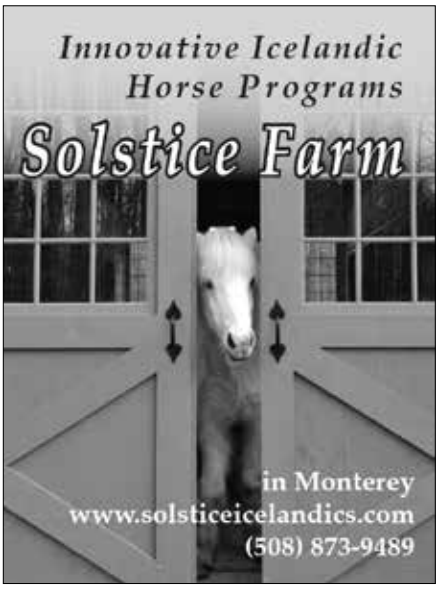
2024 Grants Awarded

In January, fifteen letters of acceptance went out to individuals and organizations that will receive grants from the Monterey Cultural Council. Among the recipients are the Monterey Community Center, which will offer two different concert series; the Bidwell House Museum, which will be displaying its redware collection; the *Monterey News*, which plans to build a website; and the Triplex Cinema, which has already used some of its funding to bring hundreds of teens to view *Till*, the search for justice after Emmett Till's murder, in January.

Watch for news of more cultural events which will be promoted in the *Monterey News* and in several Google groups. Once again, the cultural council will support local speakers: artists' talks at the Knox Gallery; talks presented by the Native Plants Working Group; and, for the first time, an astronomy talk by Rick Costello. The Monterey Cultural Council also continues its support of excellent educational programs by Flying Cloud Institute, Berkshire Pulse, and Greenagers. For the second year, we will join other area towns in supporting Festival Latino at Great Barrington's Saint James Place in the fall.

Funding for these grants comes from the state, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the town of Monterey.

—Maggie Barkin



Future of the Meeting House
Discussion on February 15

Rob Hoogs, president of the Monterey Historical Society, called for a meeting on Thursday evening, February 15 to discuss the future of the meeting house/church.

Between twenty-five and thirty people were present in the library meeting room, and another twelve or so were participating online. To help those assembled to feel what is at stake, Hoogs had a series of images of the meeting house scrolling as we filed in. He had even sent out a proposed agenda ahead of time, but that was set aside almost as soon as the meeting began. Folks mostly just wanted to share ideas and questions.

And what is at stake is this: The "church," the Monterey United Church of Christ, is the congregation. They are not the building per se. And as the congregation has declined in size, and many members do not even reside in Monterey, taking care of the building has become problematic. They simply do not have enough "human capital," as Rob Hoogs described it, to manage. And so they want to sell the building and focus their energies on their congregants.

The property is currently listed through Berkshire Property Agents, although at the time of this writing is not yet online for viewing. BPA did provide a letter outlining the listing price ($295,000), the current annual expenses, including the likely tax burden when there is no longer a tax exclusion, of around $14,000, and a detailed list of both improvements that have been made as well as the fact that the slate roof needs an evaluation. Finally, the building is subject to a preservation restriction in perpetuity. The building contains 4,743 square feet with certain spaces and amenities.

Barbara Swann, chair of the Monterey Historical Commission, was the first to speak with a proposal that the "church" continue to own the building, but that the Town of Monterey provide financial supports as has been historically done. To make this proposal happen the town would appoint a committee to coordinate with the church members over certain uses of the building, possibly renting the lower floor for activities, and supporting the utilities expenses.

There were three members of the congregation in attendance: Wayne Burkhart, Steve Snyder, and Eric Martin. They made it clear that the congregation no longer wants any responsibility for the building and their only intent going forward is to sell the property. However, Burkhart made it clear that the church can refuse any offers (which could buy time for an entity to be created) and that the congregation has a definite interest in continued public use.

What followed was some brainstorming on the kinds of future uses for the building, should an entity be formed to take over the responsibility. There were many suggestions that listed both current uses (PickUp Pantry, supper club, coffee club, church services, concerts, and lectures) as well as possible other uses (cooking classes, meeting space, exhibits, etc.

A recognized issue is the lack of parking, though as Rob Hoogs pointed out, when there have been large events, people have found places to park. Should the store reopen though, this could become more difficult.

Recognizing the parking issue as a limitation, Maggie Barkin suggested that the church sanctuary could become an "incubator for arts." The space could be used as a place for practicing theatre, dance, chorus, and other performances that would then be put on elsewhere in the area.

Cont. on page 6 >

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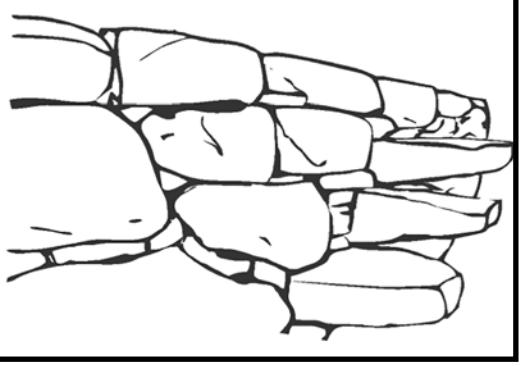

Meeting House Future, cont. from page 5

Next Steps

There were many questions and suggestions about how all of this could be imagined. Clearly there are a lot of details to be worked out. Are there grants available to help with the purchase, or with maintenance? Can loans be arranged, are there tax issues, etcetera? Hoogs pointed out that if there are significant changes or improvements there is the possibility that the entire structure could be required to be brought up to current building codes. Currently, waste water from the building is managed by regular pumping of a "tight tank"—there is no leaching field—and thus the capacity of the building has some limitation, and the pumping is an unavoidable expense. Zoning could also be an issue since the building and lot size are grandfathered, but this would be a matter to be resolved by the townspeople, not subject to state regulations.

Virgil Stucker, a former president of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, rose to address the questions of how to form an entity to move forward. He said that a first step is the relatively simple process of forming a corporation chartered by the state. This would allow the acceptance of donations, and ability to set up accounts, pursue loans, and pay bills. The process of receiving nonprofit 501 (c) (3) status, while not difficult, can take up to a year dealing with the IRS. (See "Getting Organized" at right.)

Suggestions were made to contact other area organizations that have faced this same situation. The gathering was fortunate to have a representative from the Sandisfield Arts Center and another person familiar with the efforts conserving St. Paul's church in Otis.

After this lengthy discussion, Hoogs asked for a sense of the gathering for going forward, and the response was not surprisingly nearly unanimously supportive. The idea of forming an initial steering committee was taken up, with a number of people willing to serve. Wayne Burkhart offered to be the liaison with the church.

The meeting took a little over ninety minutes and a great deal was accomplished, and folks left with a feeling that a way can be found to retain the meeting house as a public asset.

—Stephen Moore

Future of the Monterey Meeting House

Steering Committee Formed

As noted in Stephen Moore's article, the Monterey Historical Society hosted a forum on February 15 to discuss the future of the Monterey Meeting House and explore how this landmark building might be preserved for public use.

The Parish Council of the Monterey Congregational Church announced this January that the congregation voted to sell the historic meeting house building in the village. They expressed the hope that "a person or group of people will come forward to take ownership with the goal of keeping the Meeting House open, both for endeavors that are currently housed in the church (the pick-up pantry, the coffee and the supper clubs) and for all stake-holders in Monterey."

After a lively ninety-minute discussion, the attendees agreed overwhelmingly to continue the effort. Volunteers formed a steering committee comprised of Mort Salomon, Wendy Germain, Shannon Amidon Castille, Maggie Barkin, Rob Hoogs, Linnea Grealish, and Kyle Pierce. Virgil Stucker offered to help with options for forming a new nonprofit. Wayne Burkhart will act as liaison to the congregation. Other attendees offered to work on subcommittees. Among these, a group will visit neighboring town institutions (Sandisfield, New Marlborough, Otis, etc.) to learn from their experiences transforming church buildings into cultural centers. We will announce follow-up public meetings once they are scheduled.

In order to succeed, this will need to be a community effort. If you'd like to help—or find out more—please talk with a member of the steering committee or send an email to the historical society: montereyma.historical.society@gmail.com.

Thank you on behalf of the Monterey Meeting House Steering Committee.

—Rob Hoogs

Getting Organized

These are the key structural elements for the meeting house initiative.

1. To start a nonprofit corporation in Massachusetts, begin by filing the nonprofit "articles of organization" with the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth. You can submit your nonprofit's articles of organization online. The articles of organization cost $35 to file (and a mandatory $5 expedite fee if you file online). Once filed with the state, your articles of organization officially create your Massachusetts nonprofit corporation, generally within one day.

2. Filing with the IRS for an EIN number (like a social security number) for the nonprofit which allows you to open a bank account and to file for tax-exempt status (501(c)(3)) with the IRS. This number is generally offered within a day.

3. File Form 1023 with the IRS to receive 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which also allows donors' contributions to be tax-deductible to them. This can take up to a year, but steps 1 and 2 can create a functional organization with many capabilities in the interim.

Based on my communication with Peter Taylor of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and with Liana Toscanini of the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires it appears that each organization could help.

—Virgil Stucker

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Letters
Hiring a Town Administrator

The select board is soon to make a decision for hiring our town administrator. As a six-year select board member, I have some insights to share with the board and the town over the process and what to be looking for.

Monterey faces another critical chapter in its quest to fill the position of town administrator. Although I am disappointed that the process for hiring a town administrator has not included a community participation component, the select board has decided that working with the Collins Center is what works best for them and I can only wish them well. Not having a resume review committee or interview committee for balance, I am using this forum to pass on to the select board and the townspeople qualifications that I hope will be considered.

Experience in Local Government: Prior experience working in local government, preferably in a similar administrative role, provides a solid foundation. Understanding the nuances of small-town dynamics, budgeting processes, and regulatory requirements is invaluable.

Financial Management Skills: Given the financial challenges the town is facing, expertise in budgeting, financial planning, and resource allocation is essential. The administrator should be capable of developing and managing budgets effectively, seeking out grants and other funding opportunities, and making informed financial decisions to address and balance the town's needs.

Leadership Abilities: Strong leadership skills are necessary to guide and motivate town staff during challenging times. The administrator should be able to inspire confidence, foster collaboration, and effectively communicate goals and expectations to employees and community members alike.

Problem-Solving Skills: The ability to identify issues, analyze problems, and develop creative solutions is critical. The town administrator should be adept at addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the town, whether they relate to cost management, labor issues, or service delivery.

Communication Skills: Effective communication is key for a town administrator to convey information clearly to diverse stakeholders, including town officials, employees, residents, and external partners. This includes both verbal and written communication skills, as well as the ability to listen actively and empathetically.

Adaptability and Resilience: In a dynamic environment with evolving challenges, the town administrator must be adaptable and resilient. This includes the ability to quickly adjust strategies in response to changing circumstances and to effectively manage stress and pressure.

Ethical Standards: Upholding high ethical standards and integrity is fundamental for a town administrator. The administrator should be accountable in all aspects of their work and expect the same from all town employees.

Tech-savviness: Proficiency with technology and software relevant to local government operations, such as budgeting software, communication tools, and data management systems, is increasingly important in modern administrative roles.

These qualifications collectively contribute to a town administrator's ability to effectively manage the challenges facing Monterey and lead it towards sustainable growth and development. They also speak to the town administrator's role in dealings with state and other local officials as Monterey explores regional services. These are new times and Monterey needs and deserves strong, effective leadership.

Good Luck!

—Kenn Basler
Select board member 2014-2020

Berkshire Taconic Scholarships
March 15 Deadlines

The scholarship funds for students in Berkshire County managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) are accepting applications by March 15. Some scholarships are specifically available to students in our immediate area.

Of special concern to Monterey students is the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund. Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarship which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion.

The majority of BTCF's scholarships accept one common application with a few exceptions where noted. Applications and guidelines for all scholarships are available online. Go to berkshiretaconic.org/, click on "Receive" to find the scholarship search bar.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships Fund was created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her long-time friend Marjorie McLaughlin. Ms. Wilson, who was a painter, sculptor, and designer, moved to Monterey in 1942. The scholarship was created as a resource for residents of the Town of Monterey to assist in a significant way children who want to pursue a post-secondary education.

Go to BerkshireTaconic.org for other scholarship opportunities.

New CWMARS Search Interface

I've had to learn the difference between an "online public access catalog" and a "discovery layer interface" over the past few months. You don't need to know those terms, but you will see a difference when you next decide to go to CWMARS and order one of the 8.1 million items in the catalog, or check your account. Simply put, the CWMARS catalog was an OPAC, and limited in many ways. You may not know that all of the staff here used to cheat to find certain requests, that we just couldn't simply find in our OPAC, by opening the Amazon bookmark. Maybe you did that too. The OPAC was designed to tell *exactly* what was in the system *exactly* as it was entered, and there was no room for error.

Why was that a problem? Many of us have been known to remember part of a title, or part of an author's name, or even misspell either of the above. Even if we got that right, and managed to go *exactly* where we should have gone, sometimes we found the item checked out by someone else. Wouldn't it be nice for someone to recommend a similar title that will satisfy our need for a mystery that included recipes and would be solved gastronomically? Or what if we couldn't wait for the recommended title to come on delivery next week? With CWMARS, you could always look up the digital catalog with just a few more clicks, and compare the wait lists. Of course we all get used to computers and software and their limitations, as long as we get what we are looking for. CWMARS has always worked to make the library experience easier to navigate, and more clearly understandable, as well as having an acceptable outcome. CWMARS has always been looking to improve the catalog experience.

On March 4 we will all be looking at a new interface from CWMARS. Googling CWMARS will now bring you to a new discovery layer that will change your CWMARS experience. It is designed to be intuitive, not always a priority in OPAC design. Our staff has been training for several months now and will be ready to help you. We think this will make the library content more accessible to everyone.

Aspen is the name of this new catalog discovery layer. It is already in use in thousands of libraries. The first thing you will need to remember is your username and password. You will use your current name and password. For those who use auto sign in, and have not written or stored their password where they can easily access it, this could pose a problem. If you want to check in with us before March 4 or whenever you have the chance, please do. We can give you your username and reset your password.

On March 4, when you click on the catalog on our website, your bookmark, or Google CWMARS catalog(catalog.cwmars.org), you will go directly to Aspen. You will be able to select your home library (presumably most of the readers of

Monterey Native Plants Working Group

A Doug Tallamy Lecture

Nature's Best Hope
Conservation that Starts in Your Yard!

Library, March 16, 11 am

Pollinators01245@gmail.com

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the *Monterey News* will choose Monterey), and then you will sign in. You will notice the difference right away. You should see the Monterey Library logo!

The screen will show items by cover, and there are many lists preloaded for you to explore. Categories like new fiction, new non-fiction, or *NY Times* best sellers. And, if you so choose, you can make your own lists of items you'd like to check out. You'll be able to filter to the types of items you'd like to see. If you would like to read *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, all you'll need to type in is "heaven" and you'll likely see the complete title below on a dropdown. Click on that and you'll see all the various formats available. That means it will list the book, the audio, the e-book, the e-audio, the Kindle version, the large print, and any Playaway device for that book.

How will this help? If you need to get a copy of that for your book club, you'll immediately see the availability of the different media. When that title comes out as a movie, that will be shown as well. If the print editions are not available, you will see if any other editions are. No need to go to Libby to check out or put an e-edition or hold; you'll be able to manage your digital resources as well as your print borrowing on one site. You will still manage your digital content on Libby, but borrowing can be part of Aspen.

If you look above the search bar of the home screen, you will see links to the Monterey Library home page, the events calendar, the Knox Gallery, and the Friends of the Monterey Library web page. All these links are active, as other links will be to other library-related sites. If you click on the hamburger menu in the upper right corner, you will be able to access some of those links and many more as well. You will see your account, including all items you have out, whether they are physical or downloaded, all your holds, and if any of them are ready to pick up or download. You'll be able to access the Commonwealth Catalog.

You will also be able to create your own lists of what you have borrowed, and what you would like to borrow. There will be a button right alongside the *NY Times* best seller list that you will click to access your own lists. If you use advanced search to look for gardening, cooking, or any other items, and then save that search, you will have a list of saved searches that you can check periodically to see if there are any new items that satisfy the filters of your search as the system will continually update your search.

The main advantages of Aspen include searching improvements that are forgiving, e-content (digital educational content) integration, and third-party enrichment integration such as *NoveList*, *NY Times* bestseller lists, cover images, and even Wikipedia author entries. An added bonus is your choice of a dozen languages to read the screen, as well compliance with "web content accessibility guidelines." It is up to you to decide how far you want to dive into the Aspen experience. Many will simply want to search for titles and borrow or put a hold on that item, and that is the basic function.

In order for everyone to feel comfortable with this new system, as well as explore some interesting enhancements, the Monterey Library will be offering special live demonstrations during the week starting March 4. Special hours available will include Tuesday, March 5, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 6, 1:30 to 3 p.m.; Thursday, March 7, 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 4-5:30 p.m.; Friday, March 8, 4 to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 9, 10 to noon. We will be available during all open hours to answer questions—especially user names and passwords—but during those scheduled hours a second staff member will be available to demonstrate Aspen as well as answer questions. We also hope to have a basic brochure available to take home. Stop in and see what I think is the biggest improvement in many years in CWMARS service!

—Mark Makuc
Monterey Library director

Theater Workshops

Members of this course will participate in theater activities. We will begin with stories from Paul Sills' *Story Theater* which ran on Broadway in the early 1970s. My goal is to turn *Deadly Gamble*, Connie Shelton's non-fiction account of a shipwreck and subsequent trial, into a play. Using portions of these books, participants will become adept at creating "tableaux", or frozen pictures. Each week, we will work in small groups to look for the exciting, moving, and necessary moments to tell stories. We will move and emote, learn to use our voices, but never be required to memorize.

We will meet the first three Wednesdays of each month from March through May, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Come help me bring stories to life and collaborate in this lively art form. For more information, email maggierobertsbarkin@gmail.com.

—Maggie Barkin

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Community Center Calendar
March 2024

Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly activities:
Mondays:

Hablemos! 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first three Mondays of the month; 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Monday. *Intermedio y superior*—to practice Spanish and meet new friends.

Simple meditation, all are welcome, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Note the new time—beginning March 11, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

March 25: Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com. See page 22.

Tuesdays;

Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.
Bridge and pitch, 1 to 4 p.m.
Ping-pong, 4 to 6 p.m.
Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesdays:

March 27: Council on aging's "Game Time!" 2 to 4:30 p.m. Board games with coffee, tea, and snacks. Fourth Wednesday of the month.

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

March 6, 13, and 20: Theatre workshop with Maggie Barkin, 3:30 to 5 p.m. For information email maggierobertsbarkin@gmail.com See page 9.

March 20: Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Please send an email if you are interested to Lindarneilson@gmail.com.

March 27: Transformational breathwork, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Suggested fee $30.

Thursdays:

March 7: Darn yarners at 1 p.m. First Thursday of the month.

Thursdays, cont.:

March 21: Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m. Third Thursday of the month. With Tritown Health nurses. Flu vaccines and checkups including blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. No charge for Monterey residents. Please RSVP to Jill at (413) 717-7209. Minimum of five people required.

March 21 and 28: Open studio with Beth Hoffman, 10 a.m. to noon.

March 14 and 28: Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 p.m.

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:

Al Anon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

March 10 and 24: Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews, 6 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments, and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

Friday, March 15: Yoga Nidra with Nancy Monk, 6 to 7 p.m. By donations. Register by emailing nancyamonk@gmail.com.

Special Events

Friday, March 22: "A Tour of Irish Fiddle Music," with Eric Martin, at 7 p.m. Supported by the generosity of the Monterey Cultural Council and the community center. Join us for a wee bit of Irish nibbles and wonderful Irish music. Seating is limited so you MUST register at wendygj@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 28: Grief support, co-sponsored with the council on aging. An open discussion around grief and loss, 2 to 3 p.m.

Coming Up

Moving Life Stories, Berkshire Pulse, in June.

This listing is based on information we had as of February 22. You can find updated information on events on our website, ccmonterey.org, or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com.

—RJ Supa, MCC director,
and Nancy Kleban

Vietnam Veterans Day

Wednesday, March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Please fly your flags.

—Linda Thorpe

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Winterfest 2024

The third annual Monterey Community Center Winterfest took place on a fine, crisp Sunday, February 18. A crowd of about seventy people attended the festivities which included crafts for the kids, corn hole toss, giant bubbles, s'more making, and of course, lots of wonderful food. The only thing missing was snow, which has yet to show up at a Winterfest.

Dennis Lynch and Mike Zerbel manned the grill and turned out enormous amounts of hot dogs. Different kinds of chili were provided by Kyle Pierce, Mark Andrews, and Mary Makuc. Delicious crepes were made by the Hurst family and luscious desserts came from the kitchens of Joann Bell and Kyle Pierce. Wendy Germain doled out the coffee, hot cider, and hot chocolate. No one went hungry at this event!

The bonfire was tended by Justin Makuc and the music was provided by Andrew Shaw (DJ Drew). Catherine Hurst and Cynthia Makuc were in charge of crafts. Children and adults came away with paper lanterns, mandarin orange wreaths, beeswax candles, and homemade cards. It was a lovely day to get out of the house and see so many of our friends and neighbors.

Many thanks to Hume New England for supplying the hot dogs and to the parks commission for sponsoring the music. It really was a community event.

—Laurie Shaw, chair, community center committee

Thanks to Elizabeth Evans and Wendy Germain for the photos.

Catching up with the Council on Aging

First, our apologies for cancelling the Claire Teague lunch in February. The good news is that we will be going this month—on Friday, March 22. As before, we will be treated to a tap dancing performance by members of an ongoing class there, including several Monterey residents. Reservations are required—see below.

We've decided to organize a spring trip to the Rockwell Museum—always a favorite—and have lunch following in Stockbridge. See below for details.

March will also mark the return of our afternoon documentaries—coming back by special request at our January planning meeting. Showings will be in the library.

Finally, I want to highlight a fairly new feature of our council programming—Wednesday afternoon drop-ins at the Knox Gallery in the library. Council board member JoAnn Bell, sometimes accompanied by former council board member Kay Purcell, sets out her council sign and is available to answer your questions about the council, hear your suggestions for the council, or just to visit and enjoy some companionship. Hours are 2 to 4 p.m. most Wednesdays.

And remember: Van transportation in Monterey is now available for everyone, with expanded hours and new towns added. The 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
Council on Again Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Kathryn Roberts

Coming Events

Monday March 11: Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website. All are welcome.

Wednesday March 13: Movie night at the Monterey Library, 7 p.m. Our March movie is *News of the World*, a touching action adventure drama starring Tom Hanks as a former Civil War captain who must escort a ten-year-old girl taken by the Kiowa people across Texas back to her aunt and uncle. Described by critic Linda Marric as "a beautifully crafted, no frills adventure which feels like an homage to Westerns of yore." Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

Wednesday, March 20: Documentary film in the Monterey Library at 2 p.m. Our March documentary is to be decided. Light refreshments will be served.

Friday, March 22: Lunch at the Claire Teague Senior Center at 11:30 a.m., at 917 South Main Street in Great Barrington. Cost is $3.00. Call Kathryn at the number above to reserve your seat at the table, and to enjoy a spirited tap dance performance.

Tuesday, March 26: Join us at the Norman Rockwell Museum at 10:30 a.m., at 9 Glendale Road/Route 183 in Stockbridge. We will have lunch after our museum visit, most likely at the Main Street Cafe in Stockbridge. Please call or email Kathryn (contact info above) to sign up, and for assistance with carpool arrangements if needed.

Wednesday March 27: Game Time! at the community center from 2 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

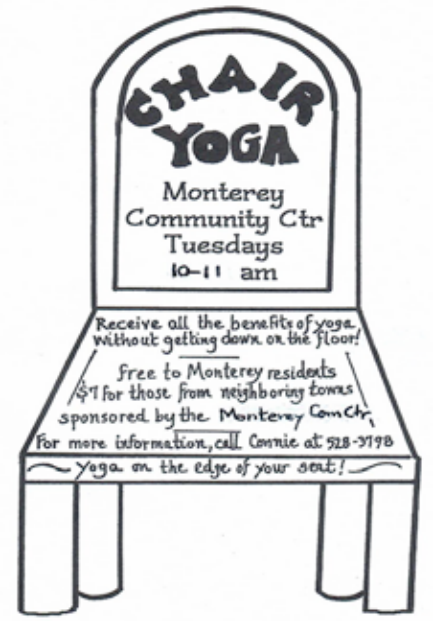
Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, March 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Library. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call Kathryn at the number above if you'd like more information.

Transportation: For trips to Great Barrington, Sheffield, Egremont, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield (Pittsfield is for medical only, Monday and Wednesday). Call (413) 591-3826. Hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 a.m.to 7:30 p.m. Priority is 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.

—Lin Saberski, chair
Monterey Council on Aging



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Special Town Meeting
March 2

The "Town," which is the people of the town, and on this day, specifically the voters at the town meeting who show up, held a meeting on Saturday afternoon, March 2. About forty people took the time to come and address seven articles. One wag commented on the size of the gathering, "It's small, but select." The first six articles were financial matters—some involving bills from the previous fiscal year, and some involving overruns that needed cash. The meeting could not have gotten through those six any faster. All passed with no discussion and unanimous votes. (Go to montereyma.gov/ about to read the warrant—scroll down the left sidebar for "Town Meeting Warrants.")

The seventh article involved a good discussion for the town to have. This article was an amendment to the current bylaw for "Municipal Parcel Solar Overlay Districts." This overlay district was put in place a few years ago to help the town qualify as a "Green Community," and stipulated a town-owned parcel along Fox Hill Road as within the solar overlay district.

The current amendment was to add a town-owned parcel to the overlay district that includes the old landfill up behind the town garage as well as a portion of Gould Farm property where the gravel pit is located and which is contiguous with the town property. It sought to add these parcels to the MPSOD. It also allows the board of appeals to reduced or eliminate setback requirements between the two parcels. This would allow a future solar project to be built continuously across the boundary between these two properties.

What followed was a discussion initiated by Steve Pullen, who lives at the corner of Fox Hill Road and Main Road. Pullen pointed out that the Fox Hill Road property, site of the old golf course, was not only within his view, but is visible throughout the village. It would be a very unsightly feature in our town. Scott Amstead spoke up as an abutter to the property with concern about his property values should the site be cleared and a large solar installation put in place. He questioned "Who would want to live next to one of these?"

The gathering responded by showing an understanding for both of their concerns. What followed was a series of clarifications of the purpose of the amendment, and that the renewable energy working group does not envision the Fox Hill Road property as a useful site for a large solar installation. Upon consultation with town counsel during the meeting it was made clear that the amendment could not be altered to remove that property from the overlay district during this meeting as the attorney general's office would likely turn down the bylaw.

A non-binding motion was adopted to help address their concerns: "This town meeting intends for the renewable energy working group and the planning board to explore removing the Fox Hill Road property from the overlay district for future solar development." Tom Sawyer, chair of the planning board, offered to do his best to have a bylaw prepared in time for the annual town meeting that would codify the removal of the Fox Hill Road parcel.

Also mentioned during the discussion was that there would be many more steps required before any large solar installation could be built, and that the town would have opportunities to vote during the process. There is no immediate project in mind.

Both this motion and the amendment passed.

As a comment, I can't help but point out the value of our small-town democracy. The "town" gathered to consider an important issue. And while only a few people spoke up with concerns, the gathered folks embraced their concerns and sought a path forward that would hopefully address their legitimate interests. Were we to have our town warrant simply voted on, yea or nay, without discussion, those concerned members of our community would not be heard.

—Stephen Moore

Letters of Appreciation
Transfer Station Kindness

I would like to thank the citizens of Monterey for their kindness and generosity during the past year, and at Christmas time. I enjoy working with you, joking with you, and having some great conversations.

May this continue in the new year.

Sincerely,

—Bill Klahn
Transfer station attendant

A Thought about Obituaries
Write Your Own!

Most obituaries are written after someone has died. Written by family and loved ones who are emotionally impacted and under a deadline.

But who knows the person best? The one who just died!

What about writing something yourself, before you die?

I did that back in the 90s. Wrote my own obituary for a class on death and dying. It was hard to write, because I was trying to figure out what I wanted people to know about me, and what I thought was important in my life. Of course—I've updated it since then.

I've only read one obituary that left an impression on me. I learned more things about him after his death than I knew about him while he was alive. That saddened me.

Why not write your own obit, alone, or with a friend or family member? Leave it with your will and other important papers.

It is a nice way to have an ending to your life.

That's something to think about.

—Bonsai Cox

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Knox Gallery
March 2024

Shany Porras: Abstract Harmony: Dissonance opened on February 2 and has been a big hit. Visitors to the Knox Gallery seem to be intrigued by Porras' translations from music into abstract painting. The artist emphasizes that she "dives into the music mindfully" by isolating key phrases, runs, and themes as she studies scores. Many of her paintings are on display until March 9, 2023. Please take a look.

James McNamara/Barbara Woike: Split Images, Drawings/Photographs opens March 15. The artists will hold an opening reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Before settling in Stockbridge in 2019, Woike was a news photo editor for the Associated Press, and McNamara (her husband) was a digital media executive and educator. It seems that with retirement both have experienced renewed creative energy! We are so fortunate to have this artistic wealth in our area. Without our artists, what would we do at Knox Gallery?

Most of Woike's exhibited photos were shot from 1975-1979, primarily in Italy, where she has spent much time: in Pietrasanta, the historically significant Tuscan town of marble and art; in Rome where she lived for a college semester; and in Sicily where her maternal grandparents were born. The remainder were shot in and around her hometown of Middletown, CT.

After being exhibited briefly, most of these photos have spent decades in storage. So, Woike reports that "I'm happy for the opportunity to liberate these portraits from their boxes for public viewing once more."

McNamara creates art using "Loose Realism," a painting genre that, as described by the artist, "suggests a freedom of line or brushwork made purposely visible to the viewer's eye." He continues—"Loose Realism encourages the observer to find interest or meaning in the details."

Portraits, landscapes, and laborers at work are his preferred subjects, and all are created using vintage or personal photographs.

The artist works in a variety of mediums. He draws mainly in graphite and charcoal but also uses oils, acrylics, and watercolors "to round out certain works." In addition to his two-dimensional work, McNamara creates sculptures from found objects, such as scrap metal and wood. You can see more of his work at jamesmcnamara.art.

Julie Shapiro

Art appreciator, Jen Brown, at Shany Porras's opening.

Please join us for the opening reception on March 15, or view the show during library hours anytime through April 27, 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

Above: *Steelworker, NYC 1933,* Jim McNamara
Left: *Katherine Wells, 1978,* Barbara Woike

All photos by Barbara Woike

James McNamara and Barbara Woike

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Young Creators Images Writing School News

To contribute work by children, contact Elizabeth Evans at evans.elizabethv@gmail.com.

Dog House
Gwendolyn E., age 5, NMC school.

Evie P., age 5, BCD school.

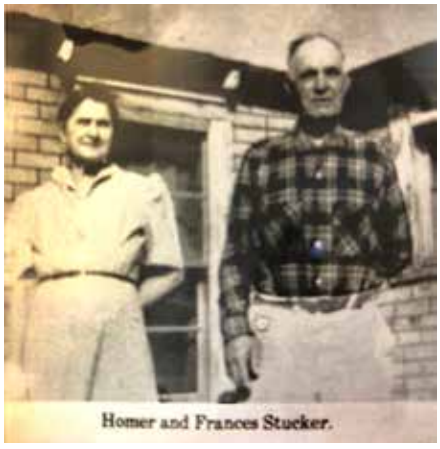
Bison, Rachel Jo Arnow

A Century of Quilts

The second meeting of the Monterey Quilters met on February 21. We were so happy to welcome Virgil and Lis Stucker who presented a program on quilts that were made by Virgil's mother and grandmother and one by Lis. Virgil's grandmother Frances lived on the Oklahoma panhandle, near the Texas border, in a home that they built on their farm. They were far away from everything so Frances made quilts to keep her family warm. Some were made from feed sacks which were quite pretty. Many of the quilts were made from small pieces of fabric which most likely came from old clothes and were as much as 110 years old. Several of them were pieced and quilted by hand with impossibly tiny stitches. All the quilts were beautiful and so interesting. Virgil and Lis are now keepers of these precious quilts.

The Monterey Quilters is a new group that just started in January. The plan is for it to be an informal group where we have a show and share of our quilts, discuss different techniques and maybe teach each other new skills. Even if you are not currently quilting or if you just love quilts, you are welcome to join. We will be meeting on third Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. Please come and bring a friend. Contact me at lindarneilson@gmail.com for questions or more information.

The next meeting is March 20. —Linda Neilson



Above left: Lis and Virgil Stucker helping connect the audience to the quilts made by Virgil's grandmother a hundred years ago. Above right: Homer and Frances Stucker

Helen Shaw Got Me to Love Dancing

I've spent my life passing that along to others.

Helen Shaw's square dance teaching at Monterey Center School in the 1950s inspired my career as a nationally recognized traditional dance educator.

In 1953 my parents Dean and Fran Amidon moved our family from Great Barrington to a house on Sandisfield Road with me and my brothers Skippy and Phillip. Brother Jay came along in 1955. (Skippy's oldest daughter Shannon Lee Amidon Castille now lives in our Sandisfield Road house with her husband Phil and two sons.)

Kindergarten

Mike Mielke (Sr.) and I rode to kindergarten with our teacher, Helen Shaw. Class was held in the Episcopal Church in Great Barrington. I believe Helen grew up in Monterey with her sister Margaret White, who was our nursery school teacher in the basement of the Monterey Library where I remember her teaching us traditional sing-

The Monterey School

ing games. Margaret White also babysat for my brothers and me, giving us, with great excitement, snacks of yogurt and kelp.

But back to Helen Shaw. Mrs. Shaw turned the entire kindergarten into an orchestra with rhythm instruments, which she conducted as though she were Erich Leinsdorf. She also directed the kindergarten in ballet/operas: I remember "Sleeping Beauty," to the music of Tchaikovsky; and "Hansel and Gretel," to the music of the nineteenth-century German composer Engleburt Humperdinck. For that production my Mom (Fran Amidon) made me a pretty elaborate costume so I could be one of the several cookies.

A Few Years Later

Beginning in 1957 I went to Center School on Main Road in Monterey center that was a one-room schoolhouse for several grades. By that time, Mrs. Shaw had become a physical education teacher, and she visited our little schoolhouse once a week.

Of course we had phys-ed outside when we could, playing games like baseball and capture the flag. But whenever it was raining, and for most of the winter, we had phys-ed inside. For inside phys-ed we always did the same thing—we pushed our desks to the walls, choose partners, make square sets, and Mrs. Shaw taught us square dancing, calling the dances to the music of her own piano playing. Second grade, third grade, fourth grade; halfway through fourth grade we were moved to New Marlborough Elementary School, but still with Mrs. Shaw; fifth and sixth grades. Everyone in my class became great dancers; we all loved to dance.

There were also community dances called by, for example, "Wild" Bill Hall (who lived on a farm on Beartown Road) at the Monterey Firemen's Picnic at Greene Park, and after community Christmas caroling (another story) in the Main House of Gould Farm, with a man who called the squares to his own accordion playing. So Mrs. Shaw's square dance teaching was not happening in a vacuum. But most of the dancing we did was in elementary school, and we loved it.

Traditional Dance Educators

My wife Mary Alice and I, along with our colleagues Andy Davis and Mary Cay Brass of New England Dancing Masters, are publishers of books, CDs, and digital downloads of traditional American and English dances and singing games for children. Elementary school music teachers across the United States use our materials as a foundation for their dance programs with their students.

Mary Alice and I started out as elementary school music teachers, then presenters of traditional dance/singing/storytelling residencies in elementary schools, leading eventually to our presenting workshops on traditional dance, storytelling, and singing to music teachers in almost every state in the United States.

Last year we, along with our New England Dancing Masters colleagues, were the recipients of the Lifetime Contribution Award from the Country Dance & Song Society of America for our work spreading traditional dance throughout elementary schools in the United States. At the award ceremony I spoke about much of what I've written here: how Mrs. Shaw taught dancing in such a way that, "There was no issue of whether you liked to dance in our class; that would be like asking, do you like to eat? To talk? Dancing was something we all loved to do and did well."

Mrs. Shaw's dance teaching was the foundation of my becoming a life-long dancer, and of my career as a dance educator. My most fundamental lesson to the music teachers we have taught was, "Mrs. Shaw taught us to love to dance; my main job, when working with children is to model that love of dancing and to leave the children wanting more."

—Peter Amidon

Editor's Note: On a personal note, I've been a contra dancer for over thirty years, and have long known Peter and Mary Alice…she even did a week-long residency in the small elementary school where I taught in Vermont. I can attest that the Amidon family, including their children, have been central to the New England traditional dance community the whole time.

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Remembering My Sister
Leslie Ward Paine

Leslie was born on August 16, 1938 and passed away January 25, 2024. She was the eldest daughter of Rev. Raymond Ward and Mary Black Ward.

Leslie arrived in Monterey at the age of four when our father took the job of farm manager at Gould Farm. My younger sister, Louise, and I were born soon after. We remained in Monterey for the next fourteen years. After five years at Gould Farm, my father became the pastor of the Monterey Congregational Church (now UCC.)

Leslie attended Monterey's one-room schools, both Corashire and Center School through eighth grade and then went to Searles High School in Great Barrington. The seniors that year were given a choice between remaining and graduating from Searles or going to the brand-new Mt. Everett school and graduating there. So she became a member of the first graduating class of Mt. Everett High School in 1956. Leslie continued her education at UMass Amherst earning a degree in elementary education. She taught kindergarten and later first and second grade in the Grafton, MA public school system for over thirty years.

Leslie's years growing up in Monterey were filled with square dances at the Grange Hall, hikes with the church youth group on Monument Mountain, skating parties on Lake Garfield, cheering the high school basketball teams, swimming in Lake Garfield, and an untold number of shenanigans with her friends. Many a summer evening would find her and her friends "hanging out" in the village at the Tryon's Tea Room, the General Store, or just sitting on the church steps. She learned to play the B-flat tenor saxophone and participated in talent shows here in town. She was good enough to audition and qualify for the All-State band, which was a big deal and a great adventure.

Life was not all play and no work for a teenager in Monterey in the 1950s, however. Leslie's first job was waiting tables and washing dishes at Sun Inside, the French restaurant and inn here in Monterey. When she was a little older, she

worked doing the same at Brookbend Inn in the village. Of course, babysitting was part of the mix, and some summers were spent as a "mother's helper" for families here for the summer in their cottages on Lake Garfield and Lake Buel.

Leslie met her future husband, Curtis Paine, while she was studying at UMass. They were married for sixty-two years. They were both preparing for teaching careers, which they pursued in Grafton until they retired. They were active in the Congregational Church in Grafton, singing in the choir, and participating in every aspect of church life, including committees, working on the annual bazaar, etc. After retiring from teaching, Leslie enjoyed cooking (she didn't have time while teaching!), sewing, and making beautiful quilts. She loved her cats.

Leslie and Curt had two children, Cindy and Brian. Cindy now lives in Utah and has a grown son, Troy. Brian and his dearest girlfriend, Nicka, live in Hudson, MA.

Leslie's roots in Monterey provided the foundation for a wonderful life, and she treasured the memories of her childhood. She stayed in contact with her high school friends her whole life. She had a warm and affectionate nature, and a fun-loving spirit. She was my big sister, my confidant and my dear friend. I will miss her.

— Sally Ward Pullen

Remembrance
Robert Lazzarini

Robert A. Lazzarini, 92, of Farmington, CT, previously of Monterey, MA and Potomac, MD, passed away peacefully on the evening of February 2, 2024. Bob, or "Sonny" as he was affectionately known by family, was born on October 14, 1931, in Flushing, NY.

Bob attended UCLA, earning a Ph.D in biochemistry. He married Muriel Vaughan on January 11, 1958. They settled and raised their three children outside of Washington, DC. Bob had a very distinguished career at both the NIH as well as Mount Sinai School of Medicine. A man of science and reason, he loved nothing more than spending time with his beloved family.

Pre-deceased by his daughter Alison and his wife Muriel, Bob is survived by his son Jonathan Lazzarini (of Whitestown, IN); daughter and son-in-law Diana and Shaun Mackin (of Canton, CT); and his four grandchildren Michael Lazzarini, Donovan Mackin, Colin Mackin, and Erin Mackin.

Family and friends will gather in remembrance at Darnestown Presbyterian Church in Darnestown, Maryland on Saturday, March 9, at 3 p.m.

"Turtle dove done drooped his wings. . ."

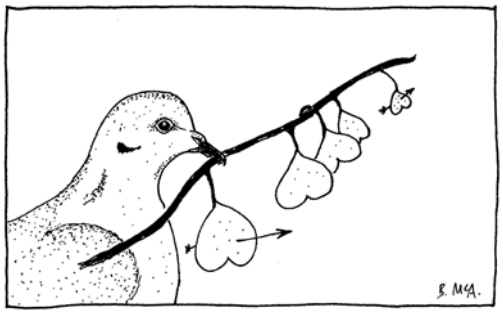
That line is from an old song from the Georgia Sea Islands. The verses never made much sense to me when I heard them on our Burl Ives record, though the drooping wings felt melancholy. This song was the first I heard with a turtle dove in it, and it has stayed with me since childhood. Songs I have learned since then just about always make use of a line rhyming "dove" and "love," so we file away a subconscious association of doves and romance. Then it is a short step to doves-and-peace, as in bearing an olive branch.

The turtle doves in this neighborhood are called mourning doves, though I am not sure why. My guess is we humans tend to anthropomorphize the behavior and utterances of our fellow creatures. We look for ways to identify with them, to feel what they are feeling or to think they are feeling what we feel. Here is another song:

You hear that lonesome turtle dove,
That flies from pine to pine.
He's mourning for his own true love,
As I will mourn for mine.
Storms are o'er the ocean, love,
The heavens may cease to be,
The earth may stop its motion, love,
If I ever prove false to thee.

There is lots going on here in someone's poetic imagination, and it does turn out that when the turtle dove droops his wings, he is courting. He sometimes strikes his feet hard on a perch, one foot after the other, ruffles up the feathers of his neck and rump, spreads his tail and droops his wings, according to Edward Howe Forbush writing in 1926.

As for his cooing, this heralds the coming of spring described in the "Song of Solomon" in the *Bible* (2:11-12), when "the voice of the turtle is heard in the land." Our doves engage in both billing and cooing when feeling amorous. Males give the long-coo when wanting to attract females. "Whoo-hoo-hoo. . . oo-oo-oo." They also put on an aerial display, clapping their wings together for a quick flight upward to about a hundred feet, then spiraling down with wings held low.



There is also a short-coo, "Whoo-hoo-hoo," and sometimes doves make a whistling sound. Folks thought this was done somehow by the wings while in flight, but then Forbush heard the whistling from a bird that was perched and still.

"Billing" is also part of courtship. The female puts her bill inside that of the male. Then they bob up and down several times, holding on by their bills. They do this just before mating.

When building a nest, the male brings twigs one at a time and presents them to the female. He may even stand on her back and pass them to her over her shoulder. They work together to make the nest and then take turns incubating their eggs. In one case, the male stayed on the nest from morning to evening, and the female from evening to morning. There was a shift change sometime between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., and then another one in the afternoon between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. There are typically one to three eggs, which hatch after two weeks, and a pair of doves will raise two broods in a summer.

Once the chicks hatch, the parents feed them on "pigeon milk," which is a thick liquid containing sloughed-off cells from the lining of the adult's crop. This milk is a rich and cheesy curd, 35% fat. Cow's milk is 5% fat, at most. Young pigeons are ready to leave the nest when they are twelve to thirteen days old.

Mourning doves are big birds, nearly two feet long with a wingspan of about eighteen inches. They have long pointed tails, "lake red" legs and feet, and claws which the old books describe as being "horn blue." They only weigh three ounces.

Our string band used to play for many outdoor weddings. I remember one sort of new-age hearts and flowers flavored one in which a bridesmaid released balloons over a field and made a short speech about these balloons symbolizing "peace and love and truth and dove." We have enjoyed quoting this ever since. My favorite story, though, is of a young man who made his first trip out west one summer during his college years. A professor hired him and other students to work on an archaeological dig in Colorado. His first night there he slept out under the stars, full of the romance of the west. Ever after he would tell how excited he was to wake to the sound of coyotes howling. He'd never heard this back home in Boston, so it was a great thrill.

Dad would finish his story with a laugh, saying he soon learned that what he'd heard that time was a mourning dove.

—Bonner McAllester

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Roads and Bridges

What a winter. So little snow and the freeze/thaw cycles that cause so much damage to our gravel roads became a constant. In the past we were concerned about there being three or four freeze/thaw cycles during the winter months but this winter gave us an even more destructive pattern. Freeze for a week to ten days and then thaw for the same amount of time. If this is the future our highway department will have its hands full.

As we approach spring and above freezing temperatures, Jim Hunt, our director of operations, is asking residents to avoid driving as much as possible, on the problem gravel roads—Fairview, Griswold, Hupi—until they dry out. Some of these roads are convenient short cuts, but for the next couple of weeks take the long way around and let our gravel roads recover from this past winter.

Beartown Mountain Road

Work has started on reconstructing Beartown Mountain Road and the process and materials being used will set a new example for gravel road construction in Monterey. Four years ago the highway department experimented with a new solution that had promise to correct the impact of the spring thaw on our gravel roads. Eaton Road was chosen because, for a short section, it was an example of the deep mud conditions found on many of our gravel roads during the spring thaw. Eaton Road, like many of our roads in town, was created in the 1800s with no thought to the impact of the wetlands the road was built through, or the future problems with the road that building through the wetlands would create. Truck load after truck load of gravel was used in the past to stabilize the road each spring. The same process used on all our gravel roads in the past. On Eaton Road the highway department installed new catch basins and culverts that would improve the drainage, and new layers of gravel with geotextile fabric installed between. This manmade product stabilizes the road allowing proper drainage of water through the subsurface gravel bed without rising to the upper surface, and an end to mud season. It has performed beyond expectations for the past three mud seasons and is similar to the work to be performed on Beartown Mountain Road.

The state awarded Monterey a million dollars for the project last year which, at the time, included the full 2.6 miles from the end of the blacktop section to the state forest gate. Now, as with all large-scale projects, the cost has escalated but the original money granted to Monterey has stayed the same. To keep within the original budget the work had to be scaled back and will now include 1.3 miles of roadway from the end of the blacktop to just beyond Royal Hemlock Road. It is projected to take four to six weeks and will include new gravel, catch basins, culverts, and edge-to-edge geotextile that will stabilize the road surface especially during mud season. Residents have been asked to limit their travel during the workday.

Upcoming Projects This Summer

The town will be installing eight new catch basins on Hupi Road this summer in the continuing effort to reduce the flow of phosphates out of Lake Garfield. (Note: See at the bottom details of this work. This project has been written about for a few years and is finally coming to fruition.)

The work will be done between Elephant Rock Road and Hupi Circle.

Art School Road is scheduled for a full reclamation of the paved part along with new catch basins and work on the existing culverts.

A number of residents have commented on the cracking visible on Route 23 and wondered if there are plans to correct this issue. Jim has already contracted with a company that will begin crack filling and sealing in April from the Otis town line to the Great Barrington town line.

The town recently received a grant to replace the large culvert on Sandisfield Road. This is located about 1/2 mile from the Route 23 intersection at the sharp curve in the road. Jim Hunt is currently working with an engineer and is hoping he will be able to put this project out for bid soon and have work completed late summer to early fall.

The other large project that is slowly winding through the state process for funding is the Curtis Road Bridge. This project has been moved further out with an estimated build in 2025-2026. The last conversation with the state brought the interesting information that the state is

Roads and Bridges, cont. page 20 >

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Roads and Bridges, from page 20
now projecting the cost of replacing this bridge at over $3 million. The original starting estimate four years ago was just over $1 million, which we found shocking at the time. All costs for this project will be covered by the state.

Budget season is upon us and next month we will look at the budget that keeps Monterey's roads and facilities functioning. We are fortunate to have the quality of staff and leadership that keeps us ahead of the game but rising costs should give all of us pause as to what the future will bring. Monterey is in the enviable position of having a well-run town, a low tax rate, and a supportive resident body. A better understanding of how our tax dollars are spent will better prepare all of us for what is coming down the pike.

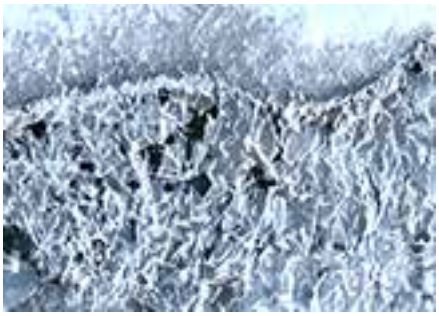
Be safe and try to avoid our dirt roads during mud season!

—Kenn Basler

Hupi Road Drainage Project

(from *Monterey News*, September 2023)
The plans outline the installation of a catch basin drainage system that will capture much of the dirt road runoff and surrounding pollutants. The underground stormwater piping outlets into a pre-treatment sediment forebay just downhill of the driveway for 146 Hupi Road. Pretreatment will collect and concentrate much of the sediment and therefore nutrient pollutants. Just past the pre-treatment "sediment forebay" there is a planned fifteen-foot-long vegetated swale with stone check dams to slow down and infiltrate the remaining stormwater piped through the drainage system. Across the road a proposed baffle tank is designed to capture water and separate solids from water from the southern side of the road.

—Courtney Morehouse
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission


Natalie Manzino

Historical Society News

The third Thursday talk, on March 21, is entitled "Slaying the Dragons: The Liberation of Sue Moody." Author Gail Gelbard of Otis will give a talk about her upcoming book that tells the fascinating story of Sue Moody, a journalist and poet who lived in West Otis and Monterey in the latter half of the twentieth century. (See "Footsteps," page 4.)

During the 1930s and 40s, Sue Moody was a food editor for major media outlets in the US and the *International Herald* in Paris. While there, she huddled with her young child as Hitler's army marched down the boulevard beneath her window. Moody wrote about starvation, survival, and escaping German occupation.

The ephemera that she left behind reveal her personal and professional struggles. During the course of her career, she met Margaret Brown, known as the "Unsinkable Molly Brown" (a survivor of the Titanic, and later an advocate for many causes) and many writers. She describes these people and places in surrealist fantasy, historic fiction, and memoir. Moody wrote about foods and their origin as well as writing poetry for the *Monterey News*.

Gail Gelburd is an author, curator, artist, and the co-chair of the Otis Historical Commission. She rescued Sue Moody's papers from an abandoned house on the border of Monterey and Otis. Primarily using Moody's own words, Gail gives insights into 1940s Paris, Moody's experience being a female journalist in the mid-twentieth century, and how she ultimately found refuge in the Berkshires.

This history talk is co-hosted by the

Monterey Historical Society and the Otis Preservation Trust. The talk will be held at the Monterey Library multipurpose room starting at 7 p.m. A Q&A session will follow Gail Gelburd's talk. Admission is free but pre-registration is required. Seating is limited to sixty attendees in person. It will also be available for viewing on Zoom.

You can register for in-person seating or Zoom by emailing otispreservationtrust.com.

We welcome everyone to participate in our programs. Our monthly talks and events are usually free, although we hope you will become a member to support the historical society. It's easy—membership forms are available at the historical display in the Monterey Library.

Thank you for your interest in Monterey's history.

—Rob Hoogs, President
montereyma.historical.society@gmail.com

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Here's a Thought
Just My Bag

"The light has gone out of my life."

Those aren't my words. Teddy Roosevelt wrote them in his diary under a large black X on the day in 1884 when both his wife and mother died. He went west to the Dakotas soon after and bought an operating ranch where he rebuilt himself as a western rancher, a cowboy.

Though that freewheeling image later helped his political career, let's not step over the catalyst that drove him to that ranch in the first place: devastation. Let's not overlook, either, the phrase "bought an operating ranch." Both items deserve to be mentioned together. Devastation is a pretty common breakfast food in many parts of our world just now. And the financial ability to buy one's way out of it is, globally, even more rare than the need is commonplace.

Except for those of us navigating personal devastation, as Roosevelt did, what does any of this have to with your life or mine? We're living in a time when global events are as near as the closest electronic button. Roosevelt's burden of grief was a private one, lived in a self-enclosed culture but we live in a time when Aleksei Navalny's death feels like the loss of a friend. A time when one flavor of havoc or another is always available and passion is easily inflamed. A time when self-care is no longer a luxury. It's paramount.

Whether actively caring for someone else's desolation or not, it's time for each of us to insist on personal time and space. None of us has to buy ourselves a working ranch. Just do what Tally models above, claim a private domain. Listen to music that makes us smile or cry. Read

Once Tally finds a place to play, take a nap, or just hide out for a while, she claims it. Maybe we have a few things to learn from her.

that book. Take a walk. Get involved at the community center. Meditate. Return to that once-beloved hobby. Hum, sing, get up and dance. Write a limerick. In the middle of a busy day, sit at a window, watch the sky and just breathe. We need to refresh ourselves, find our bag, claim it, whatever it takes. Doing that isn't easy. It's work. We need to do it anyway.

Once refreshed, yes, let's drop off a pound of coffee and a can of tuna at the PickUp Pantry, or write that donation check. Pray for others, for ourselves, for the Earth and the world. Send a card to a friend, the snail-mail kind with a stamp and a signature in longhand. Light one candle. Make that phone call. Send that email. The world needs us. Strengthened with self-compassion, we're better able to respond.

—Mary Kate Jordan

February Contributions

We received contributions from the following appreciative readers:

Glenn M. Heller
Bill Michaud
Susan and Kenneth Lukas
Susan Popper and Rocky Greenberg
Myrna Raldolph
John and Constance Garber
Paula Moats McNay

Thank you for supporting the *Monterey News*.

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Spring at the Bidwell House Museum

Art School Road is frozen as I pen this article in February, but mud season will soon be upon us, something I like to remind readers each March. We are happy to welcome visitors to the museum grounds year-round, but if you spend any time in Monterey in the spring, you know that the conditions can also be treacherous on the unpaved roads! The best way to check on road conditions before venturing to the museum is to look at our Facebook page or on the museum website, bidwellhousemuseum.org. If the road is particularly bad, or has been closed by the town, we will let you know there. You can also call the museum at (413) 528-6888 to see if it is safe to drive up.

Looking beyond mud season, the Bidwell staff and board are having a lot of fun planning for a great 2024 season, where we will focus on showcasing our outstanding redware collection. We have history talks, a redware making demonstration, a redware collection tour, forest walks, and herb garden programs planned, along with the return of the Bidwell Country Fair on June 22. We are planning a Zoom program in April about how to get into the hobby of early American reenacting. In May there will be a special members week of house tours before we officially open back up on Memorial Day. We will share more on all of our upcoming programs in the April issue.

As we continue to plan for the summer, the Bidwell House is also excited, once again, to offer internships this summer for local high school and college students. If you have a child, or grandchild, who loves history or the outdoors and is looking for a unique summer experience, check out the museum's internship page for more information and to download an application: bidwellhousemuseum.org/internships/.

Finally, road conditions permitting, the Bidwell grounds and trails are open daily, free of charge, so get out of the house and get some fresh Monterey air with a walk in the woods. As always, trail maps can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the trails page at our website.

Happy Spring everyone!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

Daytime Book Group

The daytime book group meets at the Monterey Library the second Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. New members are always welcome!

On March 13 we will be discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass,* by Robin Kimmerer.

On April 10 we will be discussing *Neither Wolf nor Dog*, by Kent Nerburn

Looking forward to seeing you there.

—Beth Hoffman

Monterey Cookbook Club

Let's have lunch at the community center! Next cookbook club will meet on Monday, March 25 at 11:45 a.m.. We will draw recipes from Ima Garten's *Go-To Dinners*. Everyone is welcome. The Go-To Dinners is available at the library for you to peruse and choose a recipe you'd like to make for our lunch. Please mark the book in the library so we know what you are making.

Let me know if you'll be joining us this month so we have enough tables and chairs set up, wendygj@gmail.com.

And don't forget your place settings!

Hope to see you there.

—Wendy Jensen & Susan Johnson

Natalie Manzino

Rack Your Kayak or Canoe

The 2024 water vessel lottery for spots on the town canoe and kayak racks across from the town beach is now open. Please go to the Monterey Parks Commission page of the town website to find the application and instructions. The deadline for applications is April 15.

—Tracey Brennan
Monterey Parks Commission

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The Marsupial Opossum

The opossum is the only marsupial species on the North American continent. The young are born prematurely and allowed to mature in their mother's pouch. They are extremely small and blind when born and must crawl their way up to a teat on the mother's abdomen and latch on. The mother is actually able to pump milk into them as the newborns lack the ability to suckle. She nurses them until they are old enough to be on their own. The possum is also the only mammal with a prehensile tail that can be used for grasping things like a branch, or a human hand. Young opossums sometimes hang by their tails but when they are grown up they are too heavy for hanging.

The possum is the only mammal that has four opposable fingers on each of their hind feet, which work like a thumb making it possible to pick things up better than most other animals. A possum can grow up to be as big as a full-grown cat, and resembles a silver -olored rat with its naked ears and silver fur coat. Their face is almost pure white with four whiskers and a pink nose. The eyes look like two black shoe buttons.

The average adult grows to be about twenty-four to twenty-six inches long including the tail and usually weighs six to twelve pounds. It is usually a passive animal but can look ferocious when it displays all fifty teeth (the most for any land mammal) while drooling and hissing at any person near it. They are also normally nocturnal but can be comfortable in daylight when searching for food. Their ideal habitat is either woodland or farmland or even suburban neighborhoods with water nearby. Possums are omnivorous, eating whatever they can catch including small mammals like rats, mice, moles, insects and grubs, or toads and frogs. They'll also frequent garbage, fruit, corn, berries, and even road-killed carcasses.

Their own deaths on our roads during the darkness adds up to thousands of casualties per year. Any possum tends to freeze in the nighttime headlights of an automobile.

Perhaps their most intriguing strategy is the sudden ability to play dead when they feel they are in danger. They quickly sink to the ground while their eyes gloss over, baring their teeth and lolling their tongue out of their mouth to one side. They often frighten almost anyone by appearing suddenly dead, "playing possum," however, they rarely cause problems. They are more beneficial as scavengers than harmful for any damage they might possibly do. A neighborhood with opossums tends to be more peaceful and safer than one without them.

—George B. Emmons

Bonsai Cox provided a timely reminder that the recent weather is NOT springtime. The insects already know this.

Monterey girls Evie, Gwendolyn, and Hannah having fun on the new playground.
—Photo by Mia Plehn

Wildlife in February

This is March and spring is upon us. Back in February we got a little snow and were treated to the "snow album" with the tracks of some of our more shy visitors. Here in east Monterey, these were deer, coyotes, foxes, a mink, and a fisher. Over on New Marlborough Road, early in the month, Steve Moore found the clear, sharp tracks of several turkeys right outside his shop.

Roberta Weiss sent in a very exciting video of a bald eagle feasting on a road-killed deer by the side of the road. See the photo (right, above). This was over the line in Craryville, New York on County Route 11. Bonsai Cox, our faithful Stevens Pond photographer and wildlife reporter, saw several dark ducks on the water at a time when there was also still plenty of ice, and sent in a photo (below).

Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road watched a pair of bluebirds, probably both females. Ed also took a great photograph (bottom right) of a male cardinal perched in snowy branches.

Peter Schulze sent in a clear close-up photo (right, above) of an "Awesome Possum." You can see a few of its excellent teeth, and if you look closely at a front paw remember that possums have opposable thumbs. The possum is a rare marsupial mammal with seventeen *mammae* in her pouch. She also has more teeth in one mouth than any other land mammal: fifty. Yes, possums are awesome.

Hanna Jensen watched as a bobcat crossed the road and walked to within twenty feet of where she stood outside her place. The cat walked on, leaving perfect tracks for Hanna to photograph (right).

And we have an exotic photograph just in from Lin Saberski.

Thanks, everyone, for your enthusiasm and your observations.

— Bonner McAllester
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Lin Saberski

Riddle me this:
Q. What's black and white on the outside and full of lush green grass on the inside?
A. Fat zebras in Tanzania

Monday Night Supper Club
Serving up the South

The pork shoulder I slow-cooked for "Serving Up the South," last month took its own sweet time, I thought the cows would come home before I turned off the oven just before 3 a.m. The southern collard greens took a hot minute too, but nowhere near as long as the hefty sixteen-pound pig leg (leg? arm? If pigs have four legs, how do they have shoulders...I've never heard of pig arms before).

In addition to the BBQ pork-and-greens, we had some fabulous chicken gumbo (Lauren Behrman gets two thumbs up!), southern-style meatloaf, mac n' cheese, deviled eggs, and a simple salad with so much bacon I thought I'd gone to heaven...but despite the debatably stable table that I had used to set up our buffet line, it was our dessert carts that sagged: apparently February is a bake-happy month. Pecan pie, chocolate chess pie, fresh orange cake, banana pudding... Roberta Weiss went all out with her beignets (which is deep fried pâte à choux, the pastry used to make cream puffs), bringing a warmer to keep them at their peaked glory.

It was lovely to have several first-timers in addition to our regular attendees, and for the first time, at the suggestion of the beignet queen, we went around and did intros—which turned into an intriguing dive into tidbits of personal histories as well as folk's present-day community involvement and advocacy.

As we march into this March, the bearer of the first day of spring, we approach St. Patrick's Day. I always dreaded the night of the seventeenth, hoping I wouldn't have to eat corned beef and cabbage again that year—although I was

The calm before the crowd. Come join the community! —Photo by Hanna Jensen

exempt for the few years because I didn't eat meat. I'm not sure what it was I didn't like about the so-called "traditional" Irish dish, because I sure do like it now. I roll my eyes at my younger self complaining, "I don't understand why we always have to have this, it's not like we're Irish." I would have quickly shut my trap had I gotten the response, "It doesn't seem you need to be Chinese to happily get chicken lo mein."

In addition to my approval of corned beef, green is by far my favorite color. I don't even have to wear it to get lucky—stores everywhere have smatterings of shamrocks, leprechauns, and reminders of the Irish landscape; almost everywhere I go brings me joy. Not everyone can be so lucky though, so here's the chance: our theme for Supper Club this month is "Wear Green, Get Lucky." Show up at the church basement on Monday, March 11, at 6 p.m., donning your emerald-sequined blazers (I know you all have them) and drop the traditional Irish dish you've prepared at the buffet for all to enjoy. Please RSVP to supperclubmonterey@gmail.com by Sunday, March 10. To the luck of the Irish!

—Hanna Jensen

Nature's Best Hope:
Conservation Starts In Your Yard

Join us for a screening of a lecture by Doug Tallamy addressing how conservation can and should start in our yards. The lecture will be viewed on Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m., in the library.

Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. As such, he describes, names and counts insects and their place in healthy ecosystems.

Loosely speaking, we the general public are none too happy about insects, especially those of us who enjoy being outdoors in our gardens. Butterflies are certainly beautiful, but caterpillars, bees, flies, wasps, ants, ticks, and spiders etc., well—not so much. In point of fact, insects are generally seen as a problem to be eradicated—with insecticides.

The basic typical garden or landscaping today is an expanse of lawn or turf grass grown on as much of our property as possible, bordered by plants from other places. Weeds, or plants that we have not planted, are looked upon with a certain disdain in the least.

Tallamy has documented the amount of land given to this type of outdoor space and the effect that this type of garden has had in reducing native plants, insect populations, and the subsequent effect on food webs throughout the ecosystems in which we live.

In his book *Nature's Best Hope*, and in this lecture he describes how we can create gardens that can enhance local ecosystems rather than disrupting them, by creating environments with native plants supporting wildlife throughout the food chain.

Tallamy presents an abundance of information on specific plants and the pollinators who have co-evolved with them over thousands of years. While evolutionary changes have always been taking place, this has happened extremely gradually. With rapid climate change, use of insecticides, and the introduction of invasive species, the ecosystems are breaking down rapidly.

We hope you will join us to learn how our yards, our gardens can successfully offset this process.

—Elizabeth (Libby) Wolf
Monterey Native Plants Working Group

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

Michael Germain

Sunday, February 25, on Lake Garfield. It was one of these wonderful winter days in Monterey. The ice was finally thick enough for ice skating and many Montereyans enjoyed ice skating on the lake. Some even brought music, others ventured out for a walk with their dogs. Everybody chatted with each other and took in the sunny day. —Catherine Hurst

Tom Mensi

Marc Wrezesinski, *Berkshire Eagle*

At left: Roberto's Pizza of Sheffield showed up to provide hot pizza for the players and fans.

The Monterey indoor ice skating rink, located in the pavilion behind the Monterey Fire Company, was open for a little over a week during the season's only cold spell in late January. Due to uneven pavement and mild weather, the rink has been open for weeks instead of months the last five years. —Steve Graves, smooth ice photo; Elizabeth Evans, photo of the girls playing puddle hockey.

Marc Wrzesinski/*Berkshire Eagle*

Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic

The second annual Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic took place on Saturday, February 17, on Benedict Pond at Beartown State Park. It was a fantastic setting and perfect winter-weather day for the event to take place. This brought ice hockey back to its true beginnings, on a frozen pond surrounded by rolling hills with players enthusiastically participating with good sportsmanship being the primary objective.

The Monterey Parks Commission, fire company, police department, and highway department, along with many other local business sponsors and a large group of spectators, made for a successful and safe community event. Alex Regen, Jim Thomas, and Tom Mensi were the individuals who devoted their energies to organizing and seeing that the tournament took place. Twelve teams competed throughout the day that led to the finals and presentation of championship trophies to the winners. The sentiment of all the players and spectators was that everyone present at Benedict Pond that Saturday went home feeling like a winner! —Tom Mensi, Monterey Parks Commission

Natalie Manzino

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

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528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
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
Post Office: 528-4670
SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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.

Calendar

Community center calendar on page 10.
Council on aging calendar on page 12.

Monday, March 11: Monday night supper club, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 25.

Wednesday, March 13: Daytime book group, 1:30 p.m., library. See page 22.

Friday, March 15:

Deadline for Berkshire Taconic scholarships, including McLaughlin-Wilson fund. See page 7.

Knox Gallery opening, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., for *James McNamara/Barbara Woike: Split Images, Drawings/Photographs*. See page 14.

Saturday, March 16: "Nature's Best Hope," Monterey Native Plants Working Group program, 11 a.m., library. See page 25.

Wednesday, March 20: Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 15.

Thursday, March 21: Historical society meeting, 7 p.m., library. Program is "Slaying the Dragons: The Liberation of Sue Moody." See page 20.

Friday, March 22: Eric Martin in concert, "A Tour of Irish Fiddle Music," 7 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Saturday, March 23: Republican town caucus, 1:30 p.m., library. See page 2.

Monday, March 25: Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m. See page 22.

Saturday, March 30: Democratic town caucus, 2 p.m., library. See page 2.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 23; Natalie Manzino (ice photos) pgs. 1, 20, 22, 27; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.