MONTEREY NEWS

January 2022
Est. 1970 Vol. LII · Number 1

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

One of Joe Burkhart's Scottish blackface ewes. He pastured sheep and cows along New Marlboro, Wellman, and Corashire roads this year. Christian Stoval also had sheep along the Wellman Road. *—Photo by Anna Poirier*

Judy couldn't imagine why she was asked to be the "who" of "Who's Who" in Monterey. "I don't do anything. I'm not on any committees." But after the couple of hours I spent with her, I felt that the choice was less about doing and more about being.
Who's Who-Judy Hayes page 12

The investigation into complaints regarding employee relations in Monterey is of major concern to the town.
Investigation of Complaints page 9

Out of the mud, sprung a beautiful lotus flower—James created his own, back-friendly practice which he has coined "Super Gentle Yoga."
Super Gentle Yogi page 20

The answer to that question can be complex but is simplified quickly when one of the "few" house fires in Monterey is your own house. Last month we had a fire at our house.
What Cost for Fire Protection? page 4

In short, an epiphany is an *aha!* moment of the first order. So, no matter our religious persuasion, if any, we've all had moments of epiphany.
Here's a Thought... page 16

The meats were surprisingly tasty and sweet, and their relative lack of moisture made it easy to imagine drying and grinding them into a flour.
American Chestnut Program page 11

Despite the lawsuits, boycotts, complaints, and investigations, the actual day-to-day operations of your town continue unimpeded.
In My View page 2

It struck me that members of our town governance and of our community could benefit from participating in a "Dignity" workshop and resetting our priorities.
Dignity page 5

The Bidwell House Museum is thrilled to begin 2022 with the announcement that 180 acres of the museum property have now been preserved.
Bidwell Conservation page 17

In 2021, our second year impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Monterey Community Center was able to host and provide a variety of programs and events.
MCC Year in Review page 6

We believe that we, in both good conscience and in adherence to the advice provided by House and Senate Counsel, can move forward in filing this legislation in the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Recall Election Petition page 2

Creating a master plan is a huge undertaking and will involve professional consultants who will guide our community in the process.
Master Plan Review page 3

We have an old-style wildlife camera that comes and goes, depending upon the weather, and we can only use it in the winter: it is fresh snow.
Brer Polecat page 18

In My View
Getting the People's Work Done

In the past few months many Montereyans have reached out to me with the same basic questions, "Is town government functioning?" and "Is anything getting done?"

The short answer is—yes.

Despite the lawsuits, boycotts, complaints, and investigations, the actual day-to-day operations of your town continue unimpeded. This is due to the dedication of your town administrator, town clerk, tax collector, treasurer, accountant, assessor, building, highway, police, library, and fire departments, and all the town boards and committees.

These individuals come to work when needed, and do their jobs well.

This should be applauded. However, there is certainly a great deal of negative behavior that runs the gambit from serious to silly and childish. The boycott by select board member John Weingold, and the latest one from finance committee member Jon Sylbert ("I will no longer be attending finance committee meetings."-12/21/2021) do not stop things from getting done, they just make it more difficult.

On a bright note, let me applaud new select board member Justin Makuc. He is doing what every select board member should do. He is taking the time to learn about the town and its operations on his own, without relying on the opinions of others. Additionally, he attends all meetings, and is able to disagree without being disagreeable. I am sorry that he has been the subject (along with myself) of spiteful open meeting law complaints from Jon Sylbert and John Weingold, however, he continues to persevere—as do I.

2021 was a difficult year. I personally apologize for any additional stress the current town hall issues may have caused. Please know that I firmly believe that 2022 will bring resolution to many of these issues. Regardless of the challenges ahead, the people's work will continue to get done for you and your wonderful town. That is my pledge.

Wishing you a healthy & happy new year!

—Steven Weisz, Chair
Monterey Select Board

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

Recall Election Petition

The town received the following letter dated December 16 concerning the "Recall Election Home Rule Petition."

Dear Madame Clerk and Mr. Chairman,

We write in follow-up to our previous correspondence, dated December 8, 2021, and in acknowledgment of receiving additional information from Town Administrator Melissa Noe on December 16, 2021, regarding the Town of Monterey's petition for a special act to establish a recall election procedure.

Upon reviewing the information sent to our offices this morning by Ms. Noe via email – specifically the official record of certifiable signatures and the explanation of the procedure expressed by Town Counsel Brian W. Riley, Esq. – we believe that we, in both good conscience and in adherence to the advice provided by House and Senate Counsel, can move forward in filing this legislation in the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

We want to emphasize that at no point should any of what we have said be interpreted as a commentary on any matters occurring within the Town. We are obligated to ensure that, upon introducing special legislation for a particular municipality, there is a valid homerule authorization to support the request. This remains our priority and will be our only involvement in this matter at this time. We also would like to reiterate that after the homerule petition is filed, there is not an explicit timeline for how long it will take for the legislation to be reviewed by Committee, passed by both the House and Senate, and signed into law by the Governor of the Commonwealth. We strive to file homerule petitions in a timely manner and will keep the Town updated as necessary.

As we previously mentioned, with concerns of potential irregularities with the procedure by which this matter was placed on your Town Meeting Warrant, we were advised by House and Senate Counsel to delay in filing this legislation, without taking any stance on this matter or any other matters currently occurring within the Town.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to working with you.

—Adam Hinds, state senator
Smitty Pignatelli, state representative

Monterey Planning Board
Revising Monterey's Master Plan

Co-chairs Tom Sawyer and Laura Mensi, and planning board members Chip Allen, Roger Tryon, Lauren Behrman, and Nancy Marcus are thrilled to announce an upcoming, long-overdue project.

We have received a community development grant of $40,000 from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to support us in revising the master plan for the town of Monterey, which has not been updated since 2003. In updating Monterey's master plan, we will be looking at our vision for our community: business and economic development, cultural resources, housing, recreation, historic preservation, community development, resources, open space and forest protection, social services (schools, public health, seniors, veterans), and public buildings.

Creating a master plan is a huge undertaking and will involve professional consultants who will guide our community in the process. We are now creating a request for proposals which will go out to potential consultants in February with a deadline of March 1 for proposals to be received.

We anticipate and hope for widespread community involvement in surveys of citizens and public meetings as we plan for Monterey into the future.

We hope to present information about our accepted proposal at the annual town meeting in May 2022. Stay tuned as we plan to continue to update you at each step of the way.

—Lauren Berhman

Getting the Monterey News

Pick up in several locations in town.

(See the list at the top of page 1.)

Have it mailed free of charge.

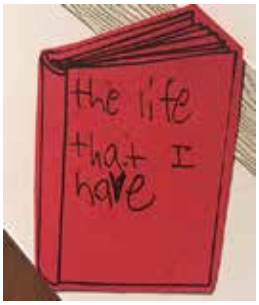
Receive it via email.

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

Contact the *News* at MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

Movie Night

Movie night this month falls on Tuesday, January 11, at 7 p.m., at the Monterey Library. The film is *The Last Word*, a story about a retired, successful (not very nice) businesswoman (Shirley MacLaine). She decides she doesn't want to trust her obituary to chance, and the movie explores how this changes her and others. Masks are required, Covid restrictions maintained. Maybe eventually we can have popcorn!



Council on Aging News

The CoA held its annual meeting and elections on December 13, and the outcome was not predictable! We are very happy to report that Lin Saberski was elected to the clerk/treasurer position and volunteered to be acting chair for two months as we reorganize and hopefully get three new board members. Lin has already started the process of applying for another outreach grant from the Massachusetts Council on Aging, since the last was so successful. We are counting on our new outreach coordinator, Emily Hadsell, to assist.

As everyone is aware, Covid has cut back on many of our usual activities (winter doesn't help, either), so much of our communications will be phone or email. Please consider joining to plan new activities-—Covid's going to be here for awhile!

Parkinson's Group

The next Parkinson's support group meeting will be on Thursday, January 6, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Library. New members are welcome—just show up or call (413) 528-1443, ext. 247 for more information. We plan to have a short discussion all together, then break up into two groups of those with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Those who have been attending have expressed satisfaction with this arrangement, which is based on a program from Tucson, AZ, which several of the participants attended. There will also be guest speakers and other activities in the future.

—Kyle Pierce

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Letters

What Cost for Fire Protection?

Each year when budget season rolls around there is the inevitable question, "Why is the fire department's budget so much when there are few house fires in Monterey?" The answer to that question can be complex but is simplified quickly when one of the "few" house fires in Monterey is your own house. Last month we had a fire at our house.

It was just after noon on a pleasant but cold winter day. Kate thought she smelled smoke and I went to check the wood stove that we use for supplemental heating in the older part of the house. My first thought was the damper had closed. Opening the door to the kitchen I was confronted with a wall of smoke, and in the dining area flames at floor level. I grabbed the fire extinguisher and sprayed the area where the flames were. For a moment I thought I had put it out, but immediately the flames were back. I grabbed the phone and called 911. Everything seemed to slow down. I could barely see with the smoke and our house was burning. I ran to the sink and filled pans with water and started throwing water on the flames.

Then, a voice through the smoke—"Kenn, get out of there, we got this!" Shawn Tryon, our fire chief, was the first to arrive and hope came with him. Soon (less than ten minutes from call to arrival) more voices and fire fighters were everywhere. As I watched it struck me how well they worked together, everyone had a job and seemed to know almost instinctively what to do. An intricate ballet of men and women with chain saws, axes, and hoses. To get to the fire Del cut through the hardwood floor in the dining room. Not a pretty sight but necessary. Next the wallboard was pulled down from the walls, insulation was yanked out, and then water was sprayed. What a mess but our house was saved.

The house was saved but with no electricity or heat. Nick Fredsal, Monterey's electrical inspector, and Don Torrico, Monterey's building inspector, arrived and explained that in order to turn the power back on an electrician had to check it out and make sure it was safe. Without electricity we had no heat, but a call to the best electrician in the Berkshires, Dan Andrus, solved that problem, and he arrived an hour later. Once the damaged circuits were isolated he was able to call the inspector, who then called National Grid. By 5:30 p.m. electricity and heat were restored. Don checked to make sure it was safe for occupancy. From absolute panic at the start to hugs at the end, Kate and I made it through. She especially wanted to thank the firemen and Monterey police officer Nathan Sermini, who kept checking on her as she sat in the fire truck. Nate also went out of his way to make sure our dogs were safe.

When we first started coming to Monterey everyone on the fire department lived in Monterey and worked within fifteen minutes of town. All were volunteers and, at that time, received no stipends. Led by Ray Tryon, Shawn and Chris's grandfather, the fire department had the reputation of being one of the best in the Berkshires. That beginning of excellence that Ray established has continued today—but it comes at a cost. It's harder and harder to find firefighters willing to commit the time necessary to become proficient. When I said earlier that "they seemed to know what to do instinctively" it was clearly the dedicated hours and hours of training kicking in. There was no hesitancy as the smoke and fire grew, only a will to attack and defeat it. This kind of dedication doesn't just happen. It grows from solid leadership, constant training, proper equipment, and the will to be the best. We are fortunate to have the best in Monterey.

Lately there have been a number of articles in the local press about the problems in Monterey.

After witnessing the fire department in action and their positive interaction with the police and building inspectors it's clear that the dysfunction at the select board level has not affected the professionalism in other departments. It's this volunteerism and professionalism that makes Monterey the community Kate and I want to live in. So, when the budget comes up for discussion this May please keep in mind that the fire department may not fight many house fires, but if that one fire is at your house, what kind of department do you want showing up?

Thank you to Shawn, Chris, Del, Mark, John, Justin, Randon, Nate, and everyone else who showed up and saved our house.

—Kenn and Kate Basler

Lesson: If you have a wood stove, make sure the ashes are put into a proper container and sitting on a non-flammable surface inside or out. Coals can stay live for a long, long time.

Editor's Note: A year ago I published an article on the value of having clearly visible house number signs. Chief Tryon's expression was "Minutes matter, seconds matter." If you haven't taken a close look at your house's number sign with an eye to how visible it would be in the nighttime with a snowstorm raging, take a look soon and make sure time isn't wasted trying to find your house when you need any type of emergency help.

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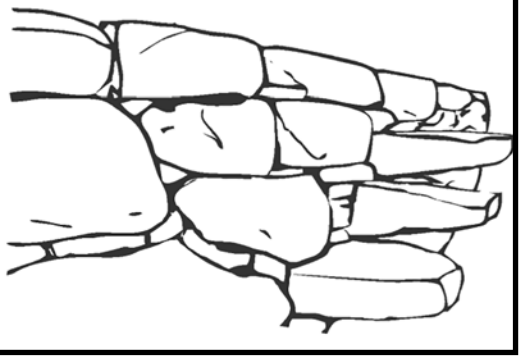


Dignity

Earlier this month, I attended a virtual workshop, "Leading with Dignity," led by Dr. Donna Hicks, as part of my work in the conflict resolution arena. Dr. Hick's dignity model is simple and elegant, and applicable in all areas of our lives. We are all born with dignity; it is our inherent value and worth. We are all born worthy. Dignity is not the same as respect. Respect must be earned or given, while dignity belongs to each of us from cradle to grave.

In the dignity model, Dr. Hicks speaks about the elements of dignity, which include recognition, acknowledgment, inclusion, safety, fairness, independence, understanding, accountability, and benefit of the doubt. As humans, our biology sets us up to violate our own dignity and those of others. Dr. Hick's identifies ten temptations to violate dignity which include taking the bait, saving face, shirking responsibility, depending on false dignity (seeking recognition and praise), maintaining false security (allowing a need for connection to compromise our dignity), avoiding confrontation, assuming innocent victimhood (not looking for one's own contribution to a problem), resisting feedback, blaming and shaming others, gossiping, and promoting false intimacy. We are all guilty of violating our own and other's dignity from time to time.

As I participated in this workshop, my thoughts kept turning to our beloved village of Monterey, and what is happening in our community. Reading pieces in the *Monterey News* and attending select board meetings where dignity violations abound, I see us becoming more and more polarized and losing sight of our own and each other's dignity, and our shared respect for this beautiful town and its history.

The *Berkshire Eagle* is featuring stories about the dysfunction in our community. Lawsuits are being filed. People are publicly shaming each other. Our community is becoming disempowered. All the amazing natural riches and strengths and talents of our community are diminished by what's happening right now in Monterey.

It struck me that members of our town governance and of our community could benefit from participating in a "Dignity" workshop and resetting our priorities. Perhaps we could get Dr. Hicks to deliver a virtual "Dignity" workshop to our community. If that isn't possible, my husband (Jeff Zimmerman) and I would be happy to facilitate a "Dignity" workshop here in Monterey as a gift to our community for beginning the New Year with a reset.

—Lauren Behrman

Carey Vella

The Tree of Gratitude is filling up with leaves, but there's still room.

References:

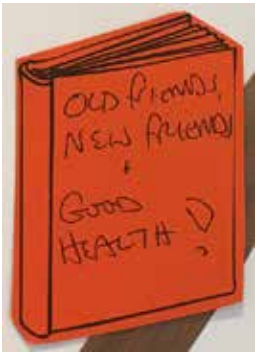
Hicks, D. *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*, Yale University Press, 2011.

Hicks, D. *Leading with Dignity: How to Create a Culture that Brings Out the Best in People*, Yale University Press, 2018.

Monterey Community Center
This Year in Review

In 2021, our second year impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Monterey Community Center was able to host and provide a variety of programs and events. Some were indoors following Covid restrictions and some outdoors under the tent. Some took place on Zoom, or were "hybrid" (a combination of in person at MCC and on the internet through Zoom).

Our weekly ongoing classes and meetings included chair yoga with Connie Wilson, the "Matter of Balance" review class, tai chi led by David Crowe, ping-pong, cards (bridge and pitch), and mahjong. We added a monthly games night hosted by Aldeth Lewin featuring her large collection of games, and a monthly wellness clinic with the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association, checking blood pressure and providing answers to health questions.



Vicki MacDonald taught "All Occasion Card Making" under the tent, Jill Esterson MSPT presented "Length and Strength," demonstrating postural exercises and explaining why certain movements stimulate bone health more than others. The film *Mercury Rising*, documenting John Glenn and the beginnings of the international space race in 1962, was streamed at the community center. Nancy Kleban taught lessons on Zoom for beginners, and Marya Makuc taught the intermediates. Karen Shreefter brought beauty into our lives with her Zoom talk and slideshow on "Flower Garden Design." In March we shared *Rare Bach from the Mahaiwe*, courtesy of the Aston Magna Festival. A lively discussion followed with musicians and music aficionados.

Gardeners young and old prepared, planted, and tended their plots in the community garden. The new biodiversity planning group met in mid-April. It was followed up with a Zoom program featuring Bridghe McCracken, a local expert gardener specializing in native plants.

In the warmer months, Maggie Barkin from the Monterey Cultural Council graciously hosted people every Monday afternoon under the tent to discuss "What's Happening" in and around Monterey. There was a variety of guest speakers and topics: theatre, equity and inclusion, poetry, indigenous people, native plants, updates on Gould Farm, the Monterey General Store, the Bidwell House Museum, and more.

Community center volunteers, council on aging volunteers, and others spent many hours helping with the vaccination effort between February and June. We hosted the Community Health Program's mobile van for vaccinations at the MCC in May and June.

Our annual *pro bono* "Elder Law and Estate Planning" talk was held with attorney James Loughman, coordinated by Kyle Pierce. People who couldn't use Zoom at home were invited to attend at the MCC using our large-screen television.

We presented Elizabeth Maschmeyer teaching about food preservation, and nationally known artist Pops Peterson's multimedia presentation "The Making of a Protest Artist," with the help of the library, Joe Baker, and Wendy Germain. We also had a three-session series on genealogy with Bryna O'Sullivan, Dr. Barry Rose providing information and answering questions on medical care, a mushroom walk, the music of Tim Van Egmond, "Mindfulness Meditation for Turbulent Times"—a three-session series with Sandrine Harris, furniture restoration featuring Frank Macgruer, Stephanie Sloane's poem/play "Perfect Storm" performed live, and wreath-making taught by Cathérine Hurst.

The day after Thanksgiving we hosted another American chestnut talk and tasting roasted chestnuts from trees planted long ago along Eaton Road. (See page 11.)

Dennis and Elaine Lynch returned to organize the Monterey Lights the Holidays program, making sure that houses in the village are lit up during the darkest time of the year. The kick-off, two days after Thanksgiving, featured music provided by Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester.

Throughout the year we hosted meetings of the *Monterey News* board, Lake Buel Association Board, the cultural council, the council on aging, and AlAnon.

In 2021 the Monterey Community Center town committee consisted of Laurie Shaw-chairperson, JoAnn Bell, Wendy Germain, Wendy Jensen, Roz Halberstadter, Elaine Lynch, Dennis Lynch, and Kyle Pierce.

Coming up in 2022 we are offering, in addition to our ongoing weekly events, "Very Gentle Yoga" on Fridays at 9 in January with James Boneparth (See page 20), and as of this writing there are two spots left in the weekly adult beginners painting class (please call 528-3600 or email calendar@ccmonterey.org to register). Games with Aldeth will be on the second Sunday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m.

—Mary Makuc and Nancy Kleban

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January at the Knox Gallery

Our traditional community group exhibit, *Tracks & Trails*, opened on December 10 to usher in the holiday season. We hope that our loyal supporters and new attendees will enjoy seeing the work of our many talented, dedicated, and generous local artists and friends.

The exhibiting artists contributed a diverse range of two- and three-dimensional works that represent both literal and metaphorical tracks and trails. Tracks, or trails, are shown abstractly as marks on a surface in pieces by Midori Curtis and Julie Shapiro, and as representations of Berkshire scenery in numerous paintings. Pam Johnson renders, in fabric, the tracks of a seagull. Samuel Hurst created an unusual, small mixed-medium sculpture that simulates a miniature snowy landscape, nestled in a found piece of wood. Bonner McAllester's "A Winter Story" is the story of a story of a story: she tracked a "mystery animal" through the woods, illustrated the trail, wrote about it, and now retells the entire saga.

Tracks & Trails will run through January 22, 2022. Please visit the library to see these, and many other interesting and provocative pieces by Michele Arnot, Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Christine Christinat, Dave Coon, Midori Curtis, Ruth Fingerman, Patricia Hogan, Franny Huberman, Samuel Hurst, Nancy Johnson, Pam Johnson, Bonner McAllester, Michèle Miller, Sue Muskat, Ellen Murtagh, Pauline Nault, Marilyn Orner, Kit Patten, and Julie Shapiro.

Expressions of Recovery: Work presented by members of the Gould Farm Community will open on January 28. Gould Farm is a therapeutic community based in Monterey, MA.

Gould Farm "guests" are offered diverse opportunities to aid their recovery and advance their goals. Visiting artists and volunteers inspire guests with painting sessions, pottery instruction, and writing. Some guests pursue creative work independently. This exhibit presents artistic expression created as part of the recovery process by guests, staff, and volunteers.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

Top left: Tracks of my Tears, Kit Patten
Lower left: My Window, Midori Curtis
Top right: Into the Fog, Marilyn Orner
Lower right: Pigeon Offering, Franny Huberman

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Maureen Banner

Laurie Shaw welome the community on behalf of the community center.

Monterey Lights the Holidays

Dennis and Elaine Lynch again organized a lovely community moment, Saturday after Thanksgiving. They'd secured an additional grant from the cultural council to purchase more lighting supplies to add to last year's purchases. Perhaps seventy-five people showed up at the front of the library. Battery operated candles were passed out to hold up as Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker provided some music and sing-along, and Don Barkin read May Sarton's poem "Christmas Lights."

Last year's gathering had folks masked and really keeping their distance. We all had reason to be a more than a little anxious. This year, with vaccinations in our arms, and reported Covid cases down, folks were still careful but there were more clumps of folks having conversations, perhaps some of the first all year. Cider and Donuts from Taft Farms were being eaten as people communed.

Thanks again to Dennis and Elaine for the idea, and the perseverance.

—Stephen Moore

Christmas Lights

When everyone had gone
I sat in the library
With the small silent tree,
She and I alone.
How softly she shone!

And for the first time then
For the first time this year,
I felt reborn again,
I knew love's presence near.

Love distant, love detached
And strangely without weight,
Was with me in the night
When everyone had gone
And the garland of pure light
Stayed on, stayed on.

—May Sarton

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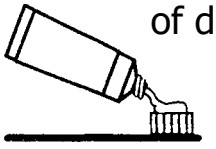

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

The Monterey ice skating rink, located in the pavilion behind the Monterey fire station has been assembled thanks to volunteers led by foreman Peter Poirier. Water will be added once temperatures stay below freezing all day for at least a week, usually around the end of December. The rink is free to use with loaner skates on site.
Front row: Steve Snyder, Tom Mensi, and John Prusinski.
Back row: Justin Makuc, Tom Sawyer, Bob Cutick, Robert Wolkon, Peter Poirier, Jonathan James, and Dennis Lynch. Photo—Steve Graves

Making Our Town Pollinator-Friendly

A discussion, "Making Monterey a more pollinator-friendly community" is planned for Sunday, February 6, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. It will be an opportunity to learn more about the power of native plants and what we can do right in our own backyards to build more sustainable landscapes. The talk is free, but because attendance is limited to twenty people (masked and with proof of vaccination), we are asking people to pre-register by emailing janetjensen@verizon.net. We will observe Covid protocols, and if necessary will offer the discussion online.

—Janet Jensen

Notice of Passing
David Feinberg

David was a long-time resident of Hupi Road. During the morning of December 26 he passed away peacefully, after a long illness.

Letters
Investigation of Complaints

The investigation into complaints regarding employee relations in Monterey is of major concern to the town. Some people may wonder why the select board asked the special town meeting for permission and $10,000 to hire an independent investigator. That issue was not really explored at the special town meeting. Of course, as chief executive, the select board is empowered to investigate such matters itself. So why hire an outside investigator? The reason private companies and governmental entities hire such investigators is to provide insulation from a lawsuit alleging discrimination under federal or state law and further, alleging a failure of the company or governmental agency to objectively determine the facts and select appropriate remedial action.

Since none of the pending complaints allege discrimination, it appears that the select board acted out of an excess of caution in hiring the investigator.

What can we expect when the investigation is done? That is difficult to predict as the matter has been so politicized. But a few points are worth considering. Two employees have filed cross-complaints. One employee has also filed complaints against three residents. One select board member has filed two complaints against one of the town employees. And all three select board members have been charged with wrongdoing in one or more of the filed complaints.

There's ancient and still well-accepted proposition that no person should be a judge in their own case (*Contra nemo iudex in sua causa*). Given the circumstances just described, any attempt by the select board to make decisions about the pending appeals would violate that principle. Consequently, it is difficult to imagine that disciplinary decisions would be respected by the people of Monterey.

There is a sensible alternative. The select board needs to give all parties, including themselves, an opportunity to speak at an executive session to air their grievances. Then the decision should be to engage in mediation, perhaps using the services of Virgil Stucker, who has previously indicated a willingness to bring his expertise to bear at no charge to the town. If he is unavailable, then a mediator could be employed.

—Don Coburn
Former Chair, Monterey Select Board

South Berkshire Kids Playgroup
Monterey Library

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
January 6, 13, 20, & 27

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.

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Letters
Walker's History of Complaints

Recent *Berkshire Eagle* articles about Monterey have repeatedly reported on complaints made by Terry Walker, town clerk, against fellow employees, past and present select board members, and private citizens. In considering these complaints, readers should know:

1) Public records of Ms. Walker's past employment history reveal a pattern of charges remarkably similar to those she has made in Monterey. These records include articles from the *Berkshire Record* and *Berkshire Eagle* from 2001 and 2006, a lawsuit Ms. Walker filed against the Town of Chester in 2009, and her own letters of resignation from Tolland in 2000 and Middlefield in 2011.

2) The language Ms. Walker used in her Monterey complaints closely parallels her attacks in four other towns against colleagues, selectmen and townspeople there. In New Marlborough, Tolland, Middlefield, and Chester, her charges include harassing, intimidating, bullying, demeaning, threatening, yelling, lying, fear of physical assault and more. Among Ms Walker's charges in Monterey are harassment, intimidation, bullying, berating, pressure, screaming, lying, fear of physical assault, and more. The similarity is striking.

3) When Ms. Walker applied to become town clerk in Monterey, she omitted her employment in two towns, one of which was Chester.

All complaints filed with the select board should always, of course, be investigated carefully. In Terry Walker's case, these public records revelations should be included in evaluating the validity of her charges.

Finally, it should be noted that it was my wish that the investigator receive and review the above information, rather than sending it to this or any other paper. Only when the investigator did not acknowledge receipt of the materials, as requested, was it sent to the *Monterey News*.

Note: Newspaper articles available on microfilm and online. Chester lawsuit and letters of resignation from Tolland and Middlefield obtained from public records requests. Copies were sent to the editor with this letter for verification only.

—Ellen Coburn

Letters
Terry Walker in Her Own Words

Terry Walker is the town clerk in the Town of Monterey. A public document request for her application to Monterey shows that the resumé she submitted to the select board lists four previous appointments in the towns of Blandford, Middlefield, New Marlborough, and Tolland.

I would imagine that Terry's reporting about the four towns was relevant and compelling information in considering hiring her in Monterey. What Terry failed to report in her resumé was that she also worked for the Town of Hinsdale, resigning in less than two months; and for the Town of Chester, where she was fired. Why did she omit this information from her resumé? Would knowing that she worked in Hinsdale and Chester, and the reasons she parted ways from those two towns, also have been relevant and compelling information in considering hiring her in Monterey? I would say, absolutely. I would hope that the select board would agree—and act accordingly.

—Hillel M Maximon

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Letters
Terry Walker's Reply

1. I can say with merit I am not going to engage in Ellen Coburn or Hillel Maximon's allegations.

2. You can plainly see that this is retaliation by Ellen Coburn and Hillel Maximon while an active investigation is going on in Monterey.

3. Ellen Coburn and Hillel Maximon are referring to allegations back fifteen to forty years ago.

4. Ellen and Hillel's motives are suspect to say the least.

—Terry Walker
Monterey Town Clerk

ॐ

Editor's Note: This note is to provide context for the letters on this page. Ms. Walker had two weeks to provide her response.

Ms. Walker began her employment in Monterey in 2016 as a consultant grant writer. In August of that year she was appointed temporary town clerk to fill a term left vacant by a resignation. She was appointed town clerk in June 2017 after the town voted to make the town clerk position appointed versus elected.

In 2021, from late July through late October, Ms. Walker filed nine complaints with the select board against town employees and others. These include one against Hillel Maximon stemming from a conversation in town hall, and one against Ellen Coburn stemming from a phone call inquiring about procedural information for a citizens petition. Coburn and Maximon are not town employees.

Only complaints against town employees are within the scope of the current investigation. There are about ten additional complaints by others under investigation.

Letters

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

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

American Chestnut Program

Stephen Moore

Kevin West (standing behind the grill) served up the roasted nuts, a tasty and tangible reminder of the legendary species.
Left to right: Justin Makuc, Steven Giles, Judy Gadbois, Rob Hoogs, Wendy Jensen, Pat Arnow, Susan Clapp, Dennis Lynch, Kevin West, Bonner McAllester, and Peter Murkett.

On Friday after Thanksgiving, a group of twenty or so folks gathered at the Monterey Community Center to hear a presentation by Janet Jensen and Rob Hoogs on American chestnut trees. Janet had published a very informative article on the subject in the November issue of the *Monterey News*, but she had much more to share. She talked about the recent history of the chestnut blight, which resulted in the loss of billions of American chestnut trees, across mostly the eastern part of North America. This had substantial impacts on communities, their local economies, and the environments and habitats.

But given that the day was also Native American Heritage Day, an underlying theme was the reliance of the original settlers of this area on chestnuts for all kinds of uses, from large bark peelings to cover living spaces to grinding the chestnut meat into a kind of flour that kept well and was ideal as a traveling food. They also used multiple parts of the tree for a veritable pharmacopeia.

We were lucky to have Douglas and Josie Miner tap in via Zoom to tell us about their project to help bring back the American chestnut through intensive breeding and hybridization. They had contacted Janet after having read her article in the November issue, and they were eager to share news of their project, which is part of a larger effort to continue developing blight resistant trees, with as much as 95% of the genetic material of the original American chestnuts. Their property, which spans the borders of Sandisfield and Monterey, is covered with wood chips in preparation for a spring planting of five hundred seeds. The Miners, who are employing chickens and other regenerative forest practices, view the enterprise as a kind of a science experiment—one that will last at least forty years and propogate some three thousand trees, which grow an estimated foot a year. (Stay tuned, at some point volunteers may be called on to help with the project.)

After the presentation, the group flowed over to the side of Eaton Road where Kevin West, who owns the old Brewer Tavern (the large historic yellow block house opposite Sandisfield Road), roasted chestnuts for folks to sample the taste. The two remaining chestnut trees that Mark Makuc planted thirty-plus years ago have been producing five to seven pounds of nuts each year. Kevin roasted them using a közmatik—pronounced like "kurz-ma-tick"—which is a traditional vegetable roasting pan from Turkey. It has a pattern of fine slits all around it like a colander that permits the heat to enter all the way around. The meats were surprisingly tasty and sweet, and their relative lack of moisture made it easy to imagine drying and grinding them into a flour.

Janet Jensen

—Stephen Moore and Janet Jensen

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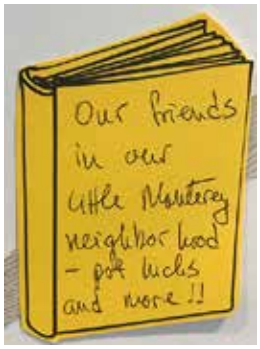
Who's Who
Judy Hayes

BobCutick

Arriving at her Tyringham Road home on a chilly November afternoon, I was greeted warmly by Judy Hayes, and suspiciously by her white Chihuahua, Buddy, yapping a blue streak. "Don't worry. His bark is bigger than his bite," she assured me. And right she was. Buddy quickly settled down in a chair next to Judy, his fifteen-year companion and cook. Lacking teeth, Buddy is treated to home cooked meals; not a chore but a labor of love for Judy, for whom cooking in the comfort of her single-level home is one of her pleasures.

Judith Bidwell Shaw Hayes couldn't imagine why she was asked to be the "who" of "Who's Who" in Monterey. "I don't do anything. I'm not on any committees." But after the couple of hours I spent with her, I felt that the choice was less about doing and more about being. There are many ways to contribute to the well-being of a community. Judy has a warmth and openness that I suspect has long been appreciated by her fellow townspeople—a social asset every community needs, especially during times of contention and divisiveness.

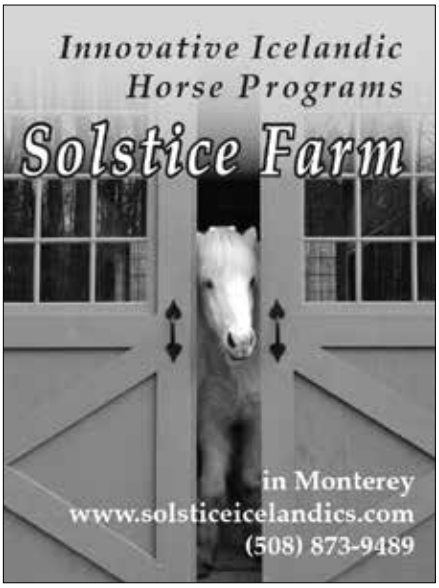
Judy's earliest memories of Monterey were the summers spent in a small cottage on Lake Garfield, near where the town beach now is. At the time, there was no town beach, but her family cottage had their own. Three-year-old Judy would splash in knee-deep water, with her mother nearby teaching other kids to swim. Washing dishes required pumping water from the lake, and drinking water had to be carried from the spring adjacent to what would later be the Amidon cottage. The Shaw's cottage had a screen porch where they ate and slept all summer long. Judy recalls that when she was living on Route 23, she had a long walk to the village to catch the school bus. No door-to-door service then. Mother Helen Bidwell Shaw's rule was—33°-plus, you walk to the schoolhouse; freezing or below got you a lift. The bus then brought kids to the Searles School in Great Barrington.



Being part of the Bidwell clan in Monterey is, of course, something special. Surprisingly, Judy's connection to it came not from her mother but from her aunt, Margaret Bidwell White. She was the one fascinated with the family's history. In later years, Judy and her husband joined the National Bidwell Family Organization which gathered each year in a different state for a reunion and to conduct business. In 1987, the reunion took place in England, members visiting each area where Bidwells had lived. Judy fondly recalls how much she and Arnie enjoyed that adventure.

Initially a psychology major, Judy transferred to Westfield State Teachers College, launching what was to be a gratifying career in primary school education. Judy moved to New Jersey and taught fourth and fifth grade in a public school. At that time she was dating a guy who was the bartender in a little dive called The Quay. On occasion, she would spend a Saturday evening there. One night, a trio from the 79th Army Band stationed at Fort Monmouth played a gig at The Quay. The bass player, Arnie Hayes, caught her eye, and obviously she caught his. Goodbye bartender, hello Mr. Bassman. Judy and Arnie were married in 1965. Thus began a fifty-six-year love affair, ended only upon Arnie's passing in March 2020.

From Fort Monmouth they moved to Edgewood Arsenal, MD, and then to Panama. That base served as a jumping-off point that took the US Army Band all through South America. Judy taught grade school both at the base and in nearby schools.



Arnie and Judy having a picnic in 1964 near where the town beach is today.

The girls were always delighted when their dad returned, bringing gifts for them from "down country" as they referred to the countries of South America. While the band was away, the NCO Wives Club got together to socialize and keep each other company. Judy mentioned in passing that they elected her president, as if her friends' esteem for her was a surprise. After the brief time I spent with her, it doesn't surprise me. The time the family spent in Panama was precious. Living within a stone's throw of the Caribbean entrance to the canal was beautiful and fascinating, letting them watch huge vessels pass within view of their home.

From Panama they moved to Fort Devens, MA, where Arnie hoped to retire. It wasn't meant to be. He was called back to Fort Meade, MD by the commanding officer under whom he served in Panama to join what became the Bicentennial Band, formed to celebrate the forty-eight contiguous states for our bicentennial celebration in 1975. When that was disbanded, Arnie retired in 1977. The family then moved permanently to Monterey.

Arnie was an accomplished musician. Playing many instruments during his thirty-year Army career, and earning the rank of Command Sergeant Major, Arnie remained devoted to the Army and his comrades. After retiring from active duty, Arnie worked as a veterans agent in local Berkshire towns. In collaboration with Dean Amidon and others, they were the driving force that resulted in the beautiful Veterans Memorial at the corner of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road. For as long as he was able, Arnie played taps at the services on Memorial Day. He continued to compose and perform in a number of Berkshire venues, often with an ensemble of his own, The Lazy River Jazz Band.

Music has always been a part of Judy's life, as well. She sang in church choirs and with a barbershop group, The Cobblestones, later known as The Hill and Dale Singers. Judy's commitment to educating children didn't end with her classroom teaching. Back in Massachusetts, she worked at the Mason Public Library in Great Barrington as the children's librarian in the Children's Library. She loved this work, which ended only after suffering serious ankle injuries from a fall.

Judy and Arnie had two daughters. Karen Traynor and husband Chris live in Halifax, MA. Karen is a school social worker and Chris teaches special needs children. Linda Lentz, a home health aide, and her partner John, live in New Jersey. There are also five grandchildren on the family tree.

Recovering from hip replacement surgery in September, Judy can't wait to get back to gardening and growing her own vegetables. Cooking has long been one of her favorite activities. Because of Covid and her recent surgery, Judy has been reliant on food deliveries from Instacart and the Monterey Pantry PickUp for fresh produce. Lucky Buddy! Once she's able to garden again, Judy will be less reliant on outside sources for fresh vegetables. For now, she is so grateful for the help she gets from everyone with the Pantry PickUp.

Another Covid casualty—the cookbook club. Judy has missed the good cheer and good food this group has provided. As many as fifteen people (usually fourteen of them women) would choose a recipe from one of the Monterey Library's cookbooks, prepare the dish, and bring it to the monthly gathering at the community center. Each dish would be passed around with everyone sampling. *Amuse-bouche* to the fifteenth power! When this club reconvenes, they may get a second man.

A woman of protean talents, Judy also paints and writes poetry, some of which has been published in the *Monterey News*. Two beautiful watercolors grace Judy's living room. Were our paper published in color, you'd see these lovely pastoral scenes rendered by a lovely, charming Monterey original, Judy Bidwell Shaw Hayes.

—Bob Cutick

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Solstice Shadows

Thanks to the folks who contributed these images of the long shadows cast around solstice time. The photographers include Lin Saberski, Wendy Jensen, Bonsai Cox, Pat Arnow, and Stephen Moore.

Age 4 at the Frozen Pond

In my mind's eye: Dad
Smiled, tightened my skates so taut,
I felt what love was.

—Zelda

Cora's Snowball

For Christmas tree cutting we three did go
In just a few inches of soft wet snow
And while two of us cut and began to haul
Cora was rolling a big snowball.

The more she rolled the bigger it grew
Till rolling required not one but two,
And each new layer was stuck with leaves
As we pushed and pugged with hearty heaves.

Finally three of us couldn't move
That mass no matter how we strove
And there it rested right in the path,
Halfway back to our Christmas hearth.

For three long months that's where it sat;
(The snows that followed made it a hat.)
The ones after that left only a lump,
Then this winter's egregious fall
Buried the snowball, hump and all.

At last in April it appeared again
In the snow meltdown: Cora's morain.
Now all the remnant one perceives
Is a small and nondescript pile of leaves.

—David P. McAllester
May 1994

Are the stars not enough?
Scattered
Across the deep blue night.
Look up.

—Michele Miller

A Holiday Note

It's not wrong to keep a time of year
for sending notes to those whom we hold dear,

not just from habit but because we've found
each counter-note will have a certain sound.

Not like the echo of a village bell
from every farm affirming, "All is well!"—

but sobbing geese whose going pricks the ear
to think of things we haven't thought all year.

—Don Barkin

Bison bull by Rachel Jo Arnow

Sunrise, Stevens Lake, January 2013. *Photo—Mary Kate Jordan*

Here's a Thought...

First Thursday, 2022

The first Thursday of this month, January 6, has been an anniversary for hundreds of years in many varieties of the Christian tradition. In western Europe and the Americas, it's often called "Epiphany."

Merriam-Webster defines the secular meaning of the word epiphany, in part, this way: 3a(1): a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something. (2): an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking. (3): an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. In short, an epiphany is an *aha*! moment of the first order. So, no matter our religious persuasion, if any, we've all had moments of epiphany.

Here in the US, this January 6 is also going to be the first anniversary of last year's events at the Capitol Building in Washington. I took the photo above long before it occurred to me that the sun would ever actually rise on a day like that. I wasn't in denial, as I was when I heard in 1963 that JFK had been shot. My first response then was—"No! They mean Lincoln, not here, not now."

I've grown up a lot in the intervening nearly-sixty years. My first, and continuing, response to the storming of the Capitol to stop the confirmation of the valid election results wasn't so much surprise as simple horror. To me, it's still more dangerous than any variety of the Covid virus that's altered so many of my plans. Dangerous differently, that's all.

If you participated in that event, you may tell me that it was intended as another Boston Tea Party. I'll agree that's your point of view and share my opinion that it had all the earmarks of a hoped-for Kristallnacht. So let's not ignore this first anniversary. Democracy's in as much danger as the medical staff in our health care system, that system itself, and the Covid-struck individuals in need of medical care.

January 2021 arrived eight years after I took the picture accompanying this article. When the year starts eight years after the attack on the 2020 election, we'll be in January 2029. I wonder, what kind of epiphany do you want the sun to illuminate on January 6 of that year? For your country? For yourself? For your children and grandchildren?

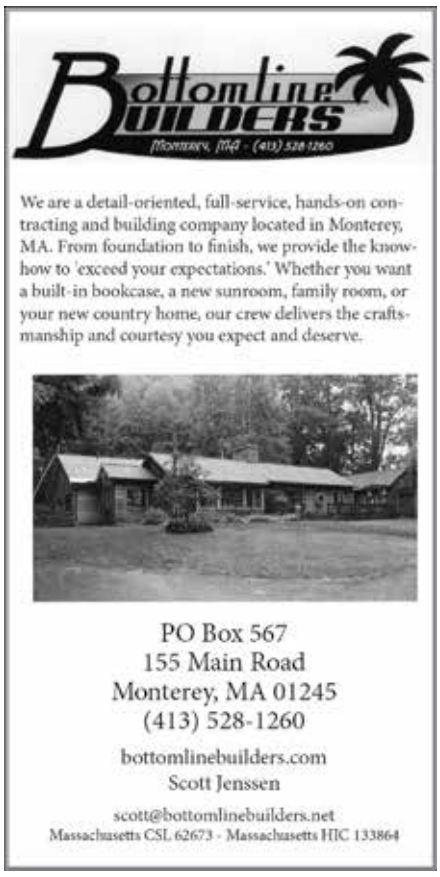
—Mary Kate Jordan

Contributions in December

It was nice to know that despite the busy holiday season some folks kept in mind their local source of information for what is going on in Monterey.

Rebecca Saletan & Marshall Messer
Michele Miller & Peter Murkett
Peter & Linnea Grealish
Jodi Clarin
Keith & LeeLee LePack
Louise Amstead
Dennis & Diana Downing
Jeanne Schroeder
Dan Zweig & Sally Petrick

We wish Peter Vallianos the best as he enters retirement and thank him for his decades of advertising support.



Bidwell House Museum
Conservation Restriction

The Bidwell House Museum Lands are now preserved!

The Bidwell House Museum is thrilled to begin 2022 with the announcement that 180 acres of the museum property have now been preserved. The museum is deeply indebted to Lew and Joyce Scheffey whose Turkeybush Foundation provided $300,000 for the preservation; and to the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, which will co-hold the conservation restriction. We are so grateful to the MPLT for their long stewardship of the Scheffey gift, and this preservation could not have happened without the resources and assistance of both BNRC and MPLT. In 2007, when Joyce and Lew Scheffey dissolved the Turkeybush Foundation, they donated several properties and $300,000 to the Monterey Preservation Land Trust. At the suggestion of Jonathan Sylbert, president of MPLT since 2001, MPLT offered to use the $300,000 toward the purchase of a conservation restriction on the Bidwell House property, thus preserving the grounds and surrounding land. "After stewarding the Scheffey's donation for fourteen years, I'm so pleased to see this conservation restriction become a reality," said Mr. Sylbert. The Bidwell House Museum and its lands now have a more secure future for all of us to enjoy." The funds received as part of the new conservation restriction will help provide financial security to the museum and insure its longevity, a beneficial outcome for the museum, the town of Monterey, and local land preservation.

Jon Sylbert from the Monterey Preservation Land Trust and Heather Kowalski, executive director for the Bidwell House Museum.

Part of the Bidwell House Museum's mission is to provide visitors with a personal encounter with history. The long-term preservation of the museum property will allow visitors, residents of the Berkshires, and neighbors in the town of Monterey, to enjoy the beautiful and unspoiled grounds in perpetuity. In addition to Rev. Adonijah Bidwell's gracious 1760s home, the acres of forests and fields around the house contain the remains of important historical sites, including cellar holes from the home of the early residents of Tyringham (which in 1847 split to become Monterey); the site of the original meetinghouse where Reverend Bidwell preached his sermons; remains of the Boston-Albany Post Road; and many more relics. In addition, the museum property is part of the ancestral homeland of the Mohicans. Preserving this landscape allows the museum to continue telling the Mohican's long overlooked history while also allowing visitors to imagine Mohican lifeways long ago, as well as appreciating their ongoing presence here in the Berkshires.

The Bidwell House Museum is also an important site for outdoor recreation here in Monterey. Hikers, walkers, nature lovers, and cross-country skiers and snowshoers have access to six miles of trails, including the recently opened Loom Brook Trail, that are open for free year-round—a resource that adds joy to the local quality of life—and something the museum is happy to share. This conservation restriction will protect the land around the museum from development, guaranteeing that the property will be accessible to all for generations to come.

BNRC's President, Jenny Hansell, says, "We are so thrilled to have helped ensure that this land is protected in perpetuity. Partnerships with organizations like Bidwell House and the MPLT is what makes it possible to keep the Berkshires green, and ensure public access to some of the most beautiful spots in the county."

For more updates about the museum, sign up for our email newsletter at the bottom of our website's homepage.

The museum is so happy to begin the New Year with this exciting news and we can't wait to see all of you, our friends and neighbors, out on the trails this winter.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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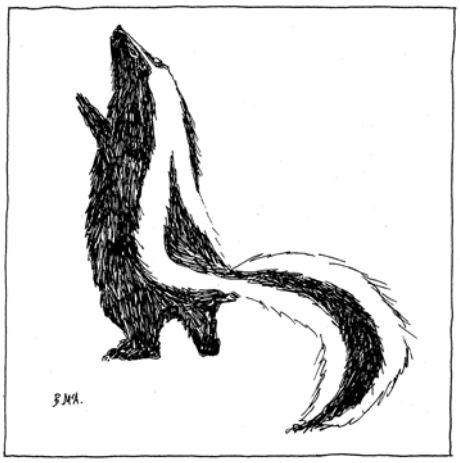
Brer Polecat



We have an old-style wildlife camera that comes and goes, depending upon the weather, and we can only use it in the winter: it is fresh snow. Sometimes those tracks are hard to identify. Maybe more snow has fallen and made them indistinct, just when you want to count the number of toes so you can tell if this is a five-toed or a four-toed foot.

If it is five, it might well be a member of the weasel clan. They are up and about in the winter and range in size from the otter down to the long-tailed weasel. Until recently, the striped skunk was considered part of this *Mustelidae* family, but taxonomists have now given all the skunks their own family, *Mephitidae*. Once the scientists get hold of your DNA there's no telling who your family will turn out to be.

Our snow album often tells us an otter has been by. They are big, up to twenty-five pounds, and loop along leaving pairs of five-toed prints with a long space between sets. Usually you can see a "tail-drag" and often the places where the otter takes a running leap and toboggans along on its belly, sliding over the snow. As for the weasels, they leave tracks in pairs, too, and are much smaller than otters, only about twelve ounces. In winter they are white, sometimes called "ermine." This is protective coloring in the snow, but the tip of the tail stays black. If the ermine is seen by a predator, maybe thanks to movement or maybe due to being a different shade of white from the new snow, that highly visible black tail tip can save its life. An owl or hawk may make a grab for what is most visible and the tail can slip through the talons and the weasel vanish before the big bird gets airborne to try again.

Skunks are highly visible in their black and white coat. They don't rely upon protective coloration, or speed to escape predation. Rather, their distinctive coloring combined with a reputation for serious spray keeps them safe from all but a few. Owls for some reason don't mind the spray of a skunk, though for the rest of us it is as bad as tear gas when delivered straight to the face. It can also cause temporary blindness and pain that you don't forget. After that you leave the slow-moving, peace-loving skunk alone.

Though they are no longer part of the "weasel clan," skunks are still among those animals known as the "seven sleepers." Skunks do not go into a true or deep hibernation, rather a winter dormancy or "carnivorean lethargy." A warm spell in winter may bring them up from a sleeping place so they will move about foraging for a meal. Though they don't climb trees, they do like eggs and we once had a skunk visiting our little hen house, nosing under the chickens to take an egg. The hens did not raise much alarm and we were able to go out in the dark with a flashlight and watch the action, from a respectful distance.

Skunks up and about in winter are usually the males, and it could be they are restlessly thinking about mating time, which really comes later. Once the "sows" are up in spring, they will mate and after two months' gestation she moves into the den to give birth. Little kit skunks are born blind and naked, but their black and white pattern shows up on their skin. At three weeks, their scent sacs develop and when they are six weeks old they go out with their mother looking for insects and grubs. She may teach them to swim and go fishing, but their marksmanship with shooting out their musk seems to be an innate ability. The musk is oily and yellow and can fire eight or ten feet with great accuracy to the eyeballs. Any animal hit at this range will react immediately with nausea and blindness for about twenty minutes.

We were sleeping in our tipi one night when we woke up suddenly to what felt like a chemical onslaught. It was our poor dog, running to us desperate with pain and confusion, having been hit in the face by skunk spray. Skunks spray as a last resort, after giving plenty of warning by lowering the head at an enemy and growling. The skunk stamps its feet angrily. Finally, never taking its eyes from the target, the skunk turns its hindquarters around, raises its tail high, and lets fly. A nearby molester will be hit squarely in the eyes with the oil, and at a greater distance this material is atomized and carried on the wind, sometimes detectable a mile and a half away.

The Cree name for skunk is "sheegawk" and the Abenaki say "seganku." The city of Chicago gets its name from the Indians and means "skunkland" or "place of skunks."

Some folks use the name "polecat," as in this southern jingle we learned from a friend.

"Brer Polecat wear a great big smile, and dress himself in scrumptious style.

But he can't hang his hat on society's rack, for the scandalous way he answer back.

And he ain't by himself in that, in that.
He ain't by himself in that."

—Bonner McAllester

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Remembrance

Cindy Jane Andrews, 64

Surrounded by family and a lot of love, Cindy passed away on December 20, after a courageous battle with acute myeloid leukemia. Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Cindy was the youngest of four children born to J. Mortimer and Jacqueline (Schlossman) Rubenstein.

In 1983, Cindy married Mark Andrews. They were married for thirty-eight years, having first met in high school. Together they raised three exceptional children: David, Stacy, and Michael. Cindy was connected with the Jewish community throughout her life, attending Camp Ramah in the Berkshires for many years, fully engaging in synagogue, serving in leadership roles including president of Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough, New Jersey, and being a lifelong learner. Professionally, Cindy worked in various accounting and administrative positions, concluding her career as a partner in an insurance industry start-up.

There are many ways to encapsulate Cindy's character, personality, and positive impact on those who knew her. Her family members, friends, and colleagues all knew her boisterous laugh, kindness, and ability to accept everyone as they were. Cindy's continued relationships with friends she made throughout her life, some for at least fifty-five years, were a testament to the strong connections she made with everyone she met. Witty, caring, fun, loving, helpful, authentic, intelligent, curious, nurturing, sensible, spirited, spiritual, inclusive, humble, and wise are among the many characteristics that describe Cindy. She was a haimishe mensch. Cindy was clear about what really mattered most in her life and always faced situations she couldn't change with: "It is what it is." Cindy lived by three simple principles: Be kind, give back, and love fiercely. Even in the face of her own mortality, Cindy remained grateful for her wonderful life, her family and friends, and all of her experiences.

Cindy is survived by her husband Mark (above); her three children, David Oleander (Amelia), Stacy Andrews (Matt Piatek), and Michael Andrews; her sister Ruthanne Rubenstein Warnick (Larry); two brothers, Bill Rubenstein (Judy Eisenberg) and Dan Rubenstein (Margaret); ten nieces and nephews; and one great-nephew.

Funeral arrangements were made by Birches-Roy Funeral Home. A memorial service was held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire on December 23, followed by interment at Ahavath Sholom Cemetery (located in Elmwood Cemetery), Great Barrington, MA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, or a charity of your choice in memory of Cindy.

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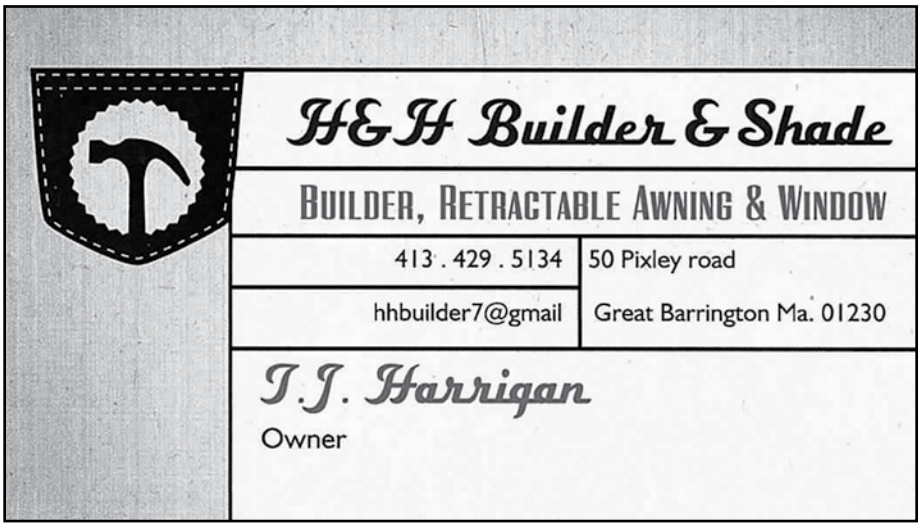


A Super Gentle Yogi

James Boneparth

During January, there will be a new offering at the Monterey Community Center. Fridays at 9 a.m., we will be offering "Super Gentle Yoga", a practice that is original and created by James Boneparth. If there is enough interest, we may be able to continue.

You may know James if you've been inhabiting the Monterey Library over the past couple of years, where he is a volunteer. James has been practicing yoga for sixteen years and has just begun teaching yoga last spring at Gould Farm. Those classes are not open to the general public, but word has gotten out that individuals at the farm have found those classes beneficial. With the support of coordinator Mary Makuc, we are proud to bring the Super Gentle Yoga practice to the larger community.

Feeling stressed out and down on his luck in 2005, James tried a Basic Yoga class at the Sports Club LA/ Boston. He found it beneficial, and continued to practice. He spent a few weeks at the Kripalu Center SEVA program, and then moved to San Francisco in 2009. There, he spent one hundred hours doing a yoga teacher training. He only made it halfway through the training before injuring his back while bowling with friends.

At that point, James, dealing with a chronic back condition, found that normal classes aggravated his back. Out of the

mud, sprung a beautiful lotus flower—James created his own, back-friendly practice which he has coined "Super Gentle Yoga." Using a technique he learned on a trip to India, where short periods of breathing occur between each pose, James reprioritized Eastern values by returning yoga to a spiritual practice.

Super Gentle Yoga has so far been beneficial to both guests and staff at Gould Farm for exactly that—its ability to trigger a relaxation response and capability to transform our lives through spiritual growth. It is for this reason that James is very excited to bring Super Gentle Yoga to the greater south Berkshire community.

Some important details: Space is limited, so it will be necessary to preregister by leaving a message at (413) 528-3600, or by emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org. Please bring $5 per session plus a yoga mat. Also, yoga pants are highly recommended.

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 9:30 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

Remembrance

Mary Meigs Brock, 93

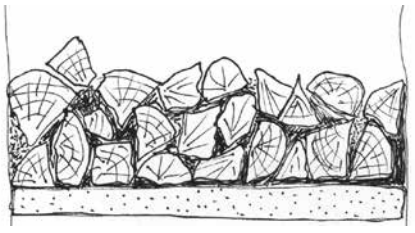
Mary passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 21, 2021.

The youngest child of Robert Rodgers Meigs and Margaret Houston Meigs, Mary was born in Havre de Grace, Maryland and grew up in Philadelphia, PA where she attended Springside School. A graduate of Wellesley College, she met and married the love of her life, John Brock, while they both were teaching at Chestnut Hill Academy. They made their home in Philadelphia, PA, Lakeville, CT, and finally in Sandisfield, MA where they enjoyed their sheep farm. They particularly enjoyed summers spent in Vinalhaven, Maine.

They were the parents of Susan B. Saltonstall (Endicott) of Plymouth, MA; Jennifer Brock of Marysville, PA; John M. Brock (Sheila Dugan) of Missoula, MT; Peter Brock (Janet) of Barrington, RI; and Stephen C. Brock (fiancé Sheri Romer) of Vinalhaven, ME. Mary was predeceased by her husband and their daughter, Jane B. Scott, of South Dartmouth, MA. Following the death of her husband, Mary lived briefly in Monterey, MA before moving to Maine and settling in Cape Elizabeth. Mary loved children, especially young ones, and she leaves fourteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Mary's interests, volunteer work, and donations all centered around her love of Vinalhaven, Maine; animals, especially birds and dogs; conservation, with a focus on land trusts; and equality and peace, particularly the American Friends Service Committee.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Mary's memory to: John and Mary Brock Memorial Fund, American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102; the Vinalhaven Land Trust, PO Box 268, Vinalhaven, ME 04863; or Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, 371 Tuttle Rd #2, Cumberland, ME 04021. To leave a note of condolence, go to nickersonbourne.com.



Mary Brock

A Neighbor Remembers Mary

Our old friend and neighbor Mary Brock has passed away, after a long life of principled and conscious living, in peace and caring for the "Land Community" of Aldo Leopold. Included in this attention were the many domestic animals at the farm in Sandisfield where she and John Brock made their home. After his death, Mary moved to a smaller place, right through the woods from us here in Monterey. I often walked over to see her, on Mount Hunger Road where she lived for many years. She was an active member of our local Quaker Meeting, in Great Barrington, and after her move to Maine she attended the Portland Friends Meeting.

Mary and her dog Pepper walked about five miles every day, on the dirt roads and through the woods near her home here. She was quiet and observant and though she did not suffer fools gladly, she was kind. This was also true of her relationship with the mice around her house. These she removed a short distance, to an upturned stump at the edge of the yard, where she took them food and generous scraps of wool for nesting.

I miss her, and miss my visits to her up in Maine, too, where she went to live near kids and grandchildren. I asked her why she was going, when she did, and she said, "I want to do this while I still can." Ever practical, responsible, she went with us by bus to demonstrate against the Iraq War and brought along spare ponchos of the disposable type, in case it rained and any of us had not brought rain gear. I still have that poncho, up in my garden toolshed, so I think fondly of Mary when I get caught in the rain up there. "Disposable" plastic poncho? Mary would not have thrown it out, and neither have I.

—Bonner McAllester

Remembrance

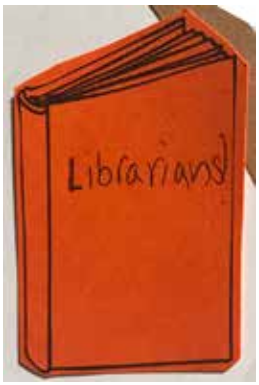
Ruth M. Briggs, 89

Ruth was called home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at Oak Grove Manor Nursing Home in Mansfield, OH.

Ruth was born on December 22, 1931 in Chicago, IL, the daughter of the late Howard and Grace Davis. She was the youngest of three. Her two older siblings, Robert and Will, predeceased her.

Ruth attended Moody Bible Institutes where she met and later married Rev. Glenn A. Briggs. She served the Lord together with Glenn at New England Keswick in Monterey, MA for thirty-seven years. Glenn predeceased her in 1990.

Ruth furthered her education at the Berkshire Christian College where she earned a B.A. in Theology and Elementary Education. She went on to teach at Berkshire County Christian School and The Master's Christian School both located in Pittsfield, MA. In her retirement, she joined New Tribes Mission where she served for ten years teaching at the Tambo School in Bolivia, South America and then one year in West Guinea, Africa. Ruth was known for using object lessons, flannel graph, and puppets in her classrooms.



After returning from the mission field, Ruth was able to finally retire at The Home for New Tribes Missionaries in Sanford, FL where she lived for ten years. She then moved on to Ohio where she lived with her daughter, Linda, before moving to Oak Grove Manor.

Ruth is survived by her four sons and four daughters: Linda (Richard) Haapanen of Ontario, OH; Timothy Briggs of Myrtle Beach, SC; Sandra (Rick) Iriarte of Ashley Falls, MA; Charles (Celia) Briggs of Friendship, ME; William (Kim) Briggs of Bolton, CT; Cheri (Todd) Anderson of Browns Mills, NJ; Laurie (Will) Parker of Myrtle Beach, SC; and Peter (Shannon) Briggs of Myrtle Beach, SC.

Ruth loved all of her grandchildren: Rachele, Michele, Seth (predeceased), Gabriele, and Noele (Linda's children); Brian and Valerie (Timothy's children); Micah and Careth (Sandra's children); Christopher, Laura, and Matthew (Charles' children); Eric, Kelly, and David (Cheri's children); Jonathan and Joshua (Laurie's children); and Miles, Nathan and Scarlet (Peter's children); and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Ruth had a deep love for the Lord and always had a smile on her face! She was known by many as Aunt Ruth and by her great-grandchildren as "GG."

Services were held at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington, MA on Sunday, December 5, 2021. Burial followed at Corashire Cemetery in Monterey, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to New Tribes Mission/Ethnos 360, in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. To view the full obituary and send remembrances to the family go to finnertyandstevens.com.

Remembrance

Carol Heimann, 87

Carol was and had always been a fiercely loyal friend, partner, and parent. While she suffered no fools and had no problem giving people her unfiltered opinion, she was definitely the person you would want in your corner when you needed help.

On December 12, 2021, Carol decided it was time to rejoin her predeceased husband Herb and son David.

Born in Brooklyn, New York on September 26, 1934, Carol had a tough childhood. From a young age she was the strong protector for her sweet mother Stella and younger sisters Stella and Mildred. Carol was determined to create a better, more stable life for herself and pursued that goal with gusto. Her creativity, organization, and determination allowed her to be successful in whatever she did—even playing piano at the famed Carnegie Hall by the tender age of fourteen. Aptly described in her high school newspaper as a "young miss whose activities reflect perpetual motion," Carol went on to become her school's president and valedictorian before embarking on a career as a highly sought-after hair stylist.

In 1964 on a winter afternoon, Carol found her perfect match, the yin to her yang, when Herbert Heimann charmed her at a Mount Snow après ski bar. This dashing, extroverted Jewish boy provided the stability, warmth, and ease she had always sought. She converted to Judaism and they married, eventually completing their family with the arrival of David (1968) and Mark (1970). Carol blossomed as a mother, putting all of her energy into raising her two boys and sharing with them her many talents and skills. Summers were spent on Lake Garfield in the Berkshires; this was their happy place, where life was simple. Carol was a natural home designer and a phenomenal cook, always excited to entertain guests. Thanksgiving was her favorite holiday, as it combined her love of family, planning, and cooking.

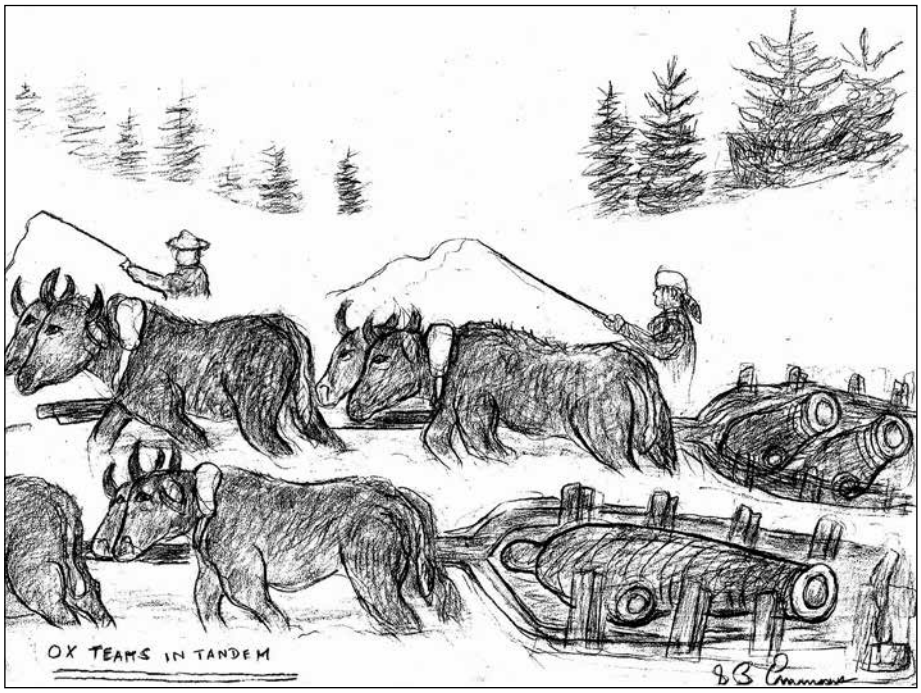
When her boys reached high school, Carol returned to the job market as a special events coordinator and eventually the heartbeat of the Executive Television Workshop as its office administrator and director of marketing. It was a perfect fit for Carol, who was always a dominant force and in control of everything she did.

But life has a way of reminding us that, ultimately, no one is truly in control. Their son David's tragic death in 1987 forever changed Carol and Herb. They persevered, and supported each other and others with the help of The Compassionate Friends, a wonderful organization that supports bereaved parents and siblings. They found some solace by moving full-time to their home in Monterey, Massachusetts, but their days still grew darker. Herb was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and as it got progressively worse, Carol was his advocate and champion, tirelessly looking after his every need until the day he died. She never stopped being a fiercely loyal friend, partner, and parent.

Though Carol lost her husband and one son, she never lost her voice or force and always made her presence and thoughts known. You can take the girl out of Brooklyn, but you can't take Brooklyn out of the girl! She moved to Hamilton, New Jersey at the beginning of this year to be closer to her surviving family: her son Mark, daughter-in-law Lara, and grandchildren Olivia and Jonah. They are grateful to have been able to spend more time with her this past year, including one final Thanksgiving.

A private funeral was held for her on December 14. If you would like to honor Carol, please consider donating in her memory to CompassionateFriends.org, which supports families after the death of a child.

The Historic Sledding of January 1776



When the twenty-six-year-old Henry Knox, recently assigned as General George Washington's artillery commander, came through this part of the country with eighty teams of oxen pulling forty-two sleds loaded with more than sixty tons of ordnance, several feet of snow had fallen across the Berkshire Mountains. Weather had been a major factor from the very beginning of his three-hundred-mile journey from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. The first leg of his gauntlet lay across thirty miles of Lake George, where high winds swamped his largest barge, followed by thin ice over the Hudson River, causing a near sinking of a sled carrying a five-thousand-pound cannon. Both were shallow sinkings and the cannons were retrieved before he reached Albany.

If Knox had been dreaming of a white Christmas, he got his wish a little later, before what was to be called "A Noble Train Of Artillery" started down the east side of the Hudson toward Claverack and Kinderhook, then turning east. He must have known that there were very few good roads to take him along his next route through Alford, Great Barrington, Monterey, Otis, Blandford, Westfield, and then on to Springfield. His best chance to get through was to use powerful teams of oxen, steady and surefooted, to drag his precious cargo on sleds through the snow. For the largest loads, several teams, sometimes three or more, were hitched one behind the other. Top speed was about two miles per hour.

Each team was yoked together by an oxbow so that the force of the draft was distributed across their shoulders. However, when they started down the steep slope on the other side of Mt. Glasgow in Blandford, sleds started to run away, because yoked oxen could not slow a sled like a harnessed horses. Teamsters refused to go on until proper precautions were taken. When they reached Springfield, the worst terrain was behind them and the roads were better. The ox teams from New York were relieved and sent home, replaced with a faster train with more horses. None too soon the badly needed cannons reached Dorchester Heights, and to celebrate a patriotic spring they were trained upon the British Fleet in Boston Harbor. The British general elected to withdraw, seeing that Washington now had the upper hand in what had been a stalemate for control of the city, so also losing all of New England by his departure.

Knox was promoted to colonel for his role in bringing about a major turning point in the War of Independence. He then organized a force of artillery that could be moved wherever the army went to fight, with as many as four hundred teams available for the task. With the artillery, battles were won at Monmouth, Princeton, Trenton, and finally at Yorktown, Virginia, where the British surrendered. After the smoke of the Revolution had cleared and George Washington became President, Henry Knox was appointed our nation's first Secretary of War.

When Henry Knox rode through Monterey in mid-January 1776, he was destined to be recognized as a giant among his compatriots. Not only did he weigh more than three hundred pounds, but his ability to move mountains compares to Hannibal crossing the Alps to attack the Roman Legions, as well as to the Allies invasion across the English Channel to liberate Europe. Each venture depended on an assessment of topography and climate. In Knox's case, the mountain was a column of cannons, capable of turning the tide of battle and tipping the balance toward independence. To borrow from the poetry of Ralph Waldo Emerson, he was one of those whose shots would be heard round the world.

— George B. Emmons

Editor's Note: Having come across George's article from January 2007 I asked him if he would allow me to republish this. He enthusiastically agreed.

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Wildlife Report

December 2021 was a good month for wildlife and wildlife spotters in town. In mid-month, the Banners were visited by an otter in their pond and watched it swimming and diving in the open water. By the end of the month cold weather had frozen up many local ponds. I saw a great blue heron at a frozen beaver pond, a place where I have often found a heron, maybe the same one. This one flew up in alarm. I'm sure there is still good hunting and fishing over by the open water in the Housatonic. Maybe it is just practical to check out the home pond, too. Shallow ponds stay warm and open along the edges of the ice as some of us non-resident species have found out.

Mark and Mady Holzer sent a late December photograph of another big bird and ice (at right). This was a bald eagle just offshore from their place on Point Road, along Lake Garfield. The Holzers also saw hooded mergansers, back in November when the lake was open, and sent a photograph of a handsome male (top right).

Alice Berke saw a big bird visiting, a gyrfalcon roosting high in a tree. And Lin Saberski had a winter visit from a yellow-bellied sapsucker. I read that these

birds generally come in small groups but in recent years she has been sorry not to see any at all. Now there is one back, and it comes alone but regularly, for the past five weeks.

I have seen my first skunk in the snow of this winter. What a remarkable sight, and all the more so as I think of skunks as sleeping during these dark, cold months. But the males will come up, restless with procreative urges, during a warm spell. (See "Brer Polecat" essay on page 18.)

woodpeckers are rarely seen in Massachusetts in the winter, but it can happen. Then they depend upon the larvae of bark beetles to stay well-fed. Here Joe and I think of sapsuckers as returning during maple sugaring time, and not before. The plink-plonk of sap hitting the buckets, and the sound of sapsuckers foraging in the trees are the music of early spring for us.

Lin took a photograph of the sapsucker at her and Bob Cutick's place (above). Maybe it will stay around. Anna Poirier has had a welcome visit from a lone red-breasted nuthatch, coming every day to the feeders. Anna's experience has been that these little

There is another of the "sleepers" not sleeping. Bob Carlson found bear tracks (above) in the snow on Hunger Mountain in early December, and Joe Baker watched an adult and cub cross the swath just west of Cora Baker's place, also in December.

Ed Salsitz is happy to have seen his very first possum (or opossum, either name will do) in mid-December. June Thomas has written in about a possum, too, and got a good photograph (above). Opossums have expanded their range northwards over the decades. They survive our winters despite not having any fur on the ears or tail. After their first winter many have scars from frostbite on these extremities. They like to visit birdfeeders and are good climbers. They have no close relatives in these parts, and are our only marsupials. Their success here is said to be the result of an omnivorous diet that includes just about anything. They also have fifty teeth, more than any other land mammal. I have a possum skull and the jaw opens very wide, to the back of the long narrow head, making room for all those teeth on the jawbones. Possums have prehensile tails and can hang upside down. They can also carry nesting material curled in the tail.

Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati are also pleased to have a cardinal at their place, for the first time (above right). They live in a deeply wooded area. Cardinals often prefer a little more open country.

Emily Sottile on Mount Hunger Road saw a clear, clean set of deer tracks at her place and took a good photograph (above right). Cindy and Rob Hoogs feed the birds all year round, bringing the feeders in at night to avoid attracting bears. Cindy says a bear recently came anyway, during daylight. She has also reported that the big flock of Canada geese in the field has in fact been there for months now, not just many days. Besides this, the bluebird is back, diving at the window.

Steve Moore was lucky to see a brightly-colored red fox with a "gleaming white tail-tip" crossing Wellman Road. Also in the wild canine department, I

got an enquiry recently about some very pale coyotes seen around Gould Farm and elsewhere. The question was: will coyotes become very pale or blond as protective coloring during winter, the way some other animals do? This would include weasels (ermine) and snowshoe hares, also called varying hares, which turn white in winter. Ptarmigans, a type of grouse, do this too. So far, we don't have any in these parts. They are Arctic birds, living on the tundra. As for the blond coyotes, I hope to learn more about them. So far, I have never heard of a winter color change in coyotes. Maybe this is a local marvel.

Thank you for all your sightings, for your interest in our wild neighbors of all kinds.

—Bonner McAllester
413-528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com

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— Steven Weisz, Chair
John Weingold and Justin Makuc
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(johnweingold@gmail.com)
(justin@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov.

For agendas and links to watch public meetings of towns and boards, go to the town website (above), select the board or commission of interest, and choose "Agendas" or "Minutes." Links for online viewing are listed in the agendas.

You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search "Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings" and click on videos.

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

Open Burning Permits

The Monterey Fire Department will again be using an online application for burning permits. Permits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, only when weather conditions allow for open burning. The DEP requires fires to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. for air quality purposes. Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

Go to bcburnpermits.com, read the regulations, and follow the section titled "How to obtain a permit." If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call (413) 445-4550 (Berkshire County Sheriff's office) between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., and follow the prompts. Make sure you print out your permit and keep it with you when burning.

- You may only burn brush—no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or any other material.
- All open burning must be a minimum of seventy-five feet from a building or structure.
- Burning is allowed only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain, or increase a fire in open air except by permit.
- You must be eighteen years or older to apply for a permit and tend the fire.
- You must have a means to extinguish an open fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the fire department.
- The fire department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.
- Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

Driving down into Monterey last January. Will we get snow this year?
Photo by Lin Saberski

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Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center
Tuesdays:
Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., Monterey Library.
Bridge and cards, 1 p.m. MCC.
Wednesdays: Ping pong, 3 p.m., MCC.
Saturdays: Ping pong, 2 p.m., MCC.
Thursday, January 6: Parkinson's support group, 2 to 4 p.m., Monterey Library. See page 3.
Sunday, January 9: Game night with Aldeth, 3 p.m., MCC.
Tuesday, January 11: Movie night, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. *The Last Word*. See page 3.
Sunday, February 6: Making our town pollinator friendly discussion, 2 to 4 p.m., MCC. See page 9.
Sunday, February 20: WinterFest (in planning stages), MCC.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Town Administrator:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
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.org
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.

Council on Aging Services

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to get an appointment. Council on aging covers $10 of her fee.
Wellness Clinic: Second Thursdays (January 13) at community center. 2 to 3 p.m. Blood pressures, check medications, and educate us about Covid vaccinations and precautions.
Transportation: For seniors and disabled folks to Great Barrington/ Pittsfield through the Great Barrington Council on Aging. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hour notice required.
Safety Vests: Vests for walkers and bikers are available free at the town hall through the council on aging.

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)528-4007 or email.

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Beginning July 2021

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 1:30–5 p.m.
Thursday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 4–8 p.m.
Friday..... 4–8 p.m.
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Thanks to Carey Vella for the Tree of Gratitude photos

Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 23; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.