MONTEREY NEWS

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The Town

by Maggie Leonard

Barking on Blue Hill

What began as a complaint about a barking dog seems to be blossoming into a court case that may pit the Town Bylaw regarding nuisance dogs against the Right to Farm bylaw. On Monday, June 4, the Select Board reviewed the situation on Blue Hill Road with Police Chief Gareth Backhaus. According to the police report, neighbors of Blue Hill Farm have complained about a dog barking in the wee hours of the night, in the 11 pm–4 am time frame, to the owner of the dog, Sean Stanton. Stanton, who is chair of the Great Barrington Select Board, has revived farming at Blue Hill Farm and lives in Great Barrington and is not on the farm premises at night. The dog is present to protect livestock at night.

Stanton was issued a citation for disturbing the peace and believes that the citation is unwarranted and that the town's Right to Farm bylaw protects him from such complaints. Monterey Select Board chair Scott Jensen suggested that perhaps a donkey or a llama might be an effective and quieter means of protecting the animals

Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell, bishop of Springfield, blesses the recently installed tabernacle at Our Lady of the Hills on June 27. Beginning Saturday, July 7, Our Lady of the Hills will be open for mass every Saturday evening through the end of August. The eucharistic celebration begins at 7 pm. All are welcome to come any and every Saturday. The chapel is at 70 Beartown Mountain Road. (Photo by Siobhanne Pope, granddaughter of Gige O'Connell)

from predators. (A brief online search by this reporter revealed that llamas and donkeys, as well as dogs, have been used successfully as protectors for livestock.)

Chief Backhaus met with the board on June 25 to report that Staunton was unable to attend a court hearing set for Wednesday, June 20, because his attorney was not available. This sets a resolution from the court back about thirty days. Chief Backhaus presented the Select Board with four letters of complaint from the across-the-street neighbors, William and Paula Hall and Wendy Hall-Bauman and Billy Bauman. Because the situation has been ongoing since May, Chief Backhaus is looking for a way to resolve the dispute sooner rather than later. To that end, Chief Backhaus consulted with Town Counsel and was advised that residents can petition the Select Board for a hearing on nuisance dog barking. The Select Board set a hearing date of Monday, July 9. Chief Backhaus will inform Mr. Stanton and also obtain affidavits from the neighbors. Citizens interested in the Town Bylaws or the Right to Farm bylaw can find them on the town web site, www.montereyma.gov.

Cell Tower Update

On Monday, June 18, Eugene Bounous met with the Select Board to inquire if they had any information about the progress of the cell tower that is to be constructed on his property at 31 Main Road. The board had no information; there was a brief review of the parties involved, including Atlantic Tower partners, Florida Tower Partners, Infinigy Engineering, and AT&T. Bounous said that he had a logging company lined up to do the clearing work and to rough-in an access road, but until he is confident the project would move ahead (and the contractors paid) he was reluctant to give the logging the green light. The Zoning Board of Appeals granted the necessary special permit and variances for the cell tower last August.

About an hour later Bounous returned to the meeting to inform the board that he had finally managed to contact a person who was able to update him on the project. Bounous reported that he spoke to Todd Bowman of Tarpon Towers in Bradenton, Florida. Tarpon Towers is the holding company and Florida Tower Partners is a subsidiary. North Atlantic Towers is a dba that Tarpon created for doing business in the Northeast. Bowman stated all systems are "go" for the cell tower installation; construction is scheduled to begin in mid-July.

Health Insurance for Part-Time Employees

Newly elected Town Clerk, Deborah Mielke, has been meeting with the Select Board over the past month to discuss the new municipal health insurance law (Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2011) and the town's policy for providing elected officials and part-time employees with health insurance. The Select Board reviewed a 2009 memo that states, "The Selectmen have determined that elected officials who do not regularly work twenty hours per week will no longer be eligible for participation in the town's group health insurance plan as of July 1, 2009." Mielke responded that she has no problem documenting that she works twenty hours per week. The board, acting cautiously, replied that they needed to check with Town Counsel. Town Counsel responded that the issue before the board is to ascertain if the job functions objectively demand twenty hours per week in order to qualify for the benefits.

At the June 18 meeting Mielke complained to the board that the Inter-Departmental Secretary, Melissa Noe, had expressed a negative opinion regarding her request during the last meeting, and that she believed that might prejudice the board's decision. Mielke requested the board direct Noe to refrain from opining during proceedings. Noe was not present at that meeting to reply, but in a later conversation she said that after the months of wrangling over health care benefits for full time employees she believed the board needed to take the time to fully

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The

Monterey Fire Company
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Saturday, July 28th, 2012

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investigate the variables and perform due diligence, as opposed to making a decision on the spot.

At the June 18 meeting newly elected Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini stated to Meilke, "It's a weighty decision, and we cannot make it lightly. I think we need to consult with the Town Accountant to see how it would impact retirement costs both now and in the future." Jenssen added, "We need to get our information together. What is the expense to the town? How many others may want it? Basically, what are the repercussions?" Select Board member Wayne Burkhart said, "For the past year we have been struggling with the health insurance costs and the town/employee split of the cost. Some communities are really struggling with this and we are struggling with it nationally with the Supreme Court deciding on healthcare legislation. Many businesses and municipals are trying to shed the burden for providing healthcare. We are trying to see where this is going and if it will be difficult for the town to broaden healthcare benefits with the growing costs." The Select Board promised Mielke that they would reach a decision within the next two weeks. "That would be great." Mielke replied, "because right now I am in limbo."

Employee Handbook

The Town Clerk's quandary is a good example of how the town needs an updated employee handbook and personnel policy. Ideally, the employee handbook would clearly outline all positions in the town in terms of responsibilities, duties, working hours, and benefits. Quantifying the various positions would enable the Select Board to set policy without regard to individual considerations. That is not to say that current personnel decisions are made incorrectly; however, if the position for each town employee and elected and appointed official were clearly described, the occasional rancor that can stem from personnel decisions would be eliminated. All the duties and benefits for each position would be clearly stated ahead of time, regardless of whether it is staffed by Tinkerbelle or Attila the Hun.

At the June 4th Select Board meeting board member Muriel Lazzarini suggested that the five people on the Employee Compensation Committee (details on that below) should review a draft copy of the Employee Handbook. Lazzarini also thought there should be more discussion amongst the Select Board about how the handbook will be created and who would be responsible for the work.

Maureen Banner

Bonner McAllester led a nature walk along Diane's Trail in late May. From left: Bonner, Kit Patten, John Heffernan, Michael Banner, Marc Roberts.

Basketball Court Update

Park Commission chair Josh Allentuck was at Town Hall on Monday, June 25, and there was an opportunity to ask him about the progress of the basketball court. Reader's of last month's town news may recall that a group of players who shoot

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hoops at Greene Park have raised funds for a new and improved basketball court as a memorial to a fellow player, Jamie Bogdanoff, who passed away in 2008. Regarding the progress of the project, Allentuck reported that the Conservation Commission approved the plans at their last meeting and that he is in the process of getting bids on the excavation and paving work. Allentuck said that since it is now officially a town project, bids need to be obtained using municipal guidelines for prevailing wages and hiring. "The Huck Finn portion of the project is over," stated Allentuck, meaning that the volunteer services often offered by Monterey residents and tradesmen to keep costs down (as in the construction of the skating rink) would not be applicable since it is now officially a municipal project.

Lake Buel Flood Mitigation

Lake Buel resident Dan Moriarty met with the Select Board on June 25 to express his frustration on the lack of action regarding flood mitigation efforts for Lake Buel. Moriarty contends that part of the problem is trees clogging the Konkapot River in New Marlborough, and the town of New Marlborough does not seem to be moving forward on removing the trees. Moriarty convened a meeting in Monterey several months ago that included State Senator Ben Downing, State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, and New Marlborough Select Board member Tara White as well as Monterey Select Board members. The flooding problems on Lake Buel were discussed. Moriarty contends that solutions were agreed on and promises were made at that meeting; however, there are no minutes or notes from the meeting. Thus it is difficult to hold feet to the fire with no formalized agreements to follow up.

During the June 4th meeting Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini praised board member Wayne Burkhart for his correspondence and pursuit of a Berkshire flood hazard mitigation plan for Lake Buel and his efforts to contact Representative Pignatelli, Senator Downing, and FEMA representatives.

Monterey School Committee

The members of the Monterey School Committee have been finalized with Mari Enoch, Mary Ellen Brown, Tika Snyder, Cheryl Zellman, and Scott Jenssen filling the ranks. The Select Board has finalized the charge of the committee as follows: Determine the viability of the current building; if the current structure is not viable what would need to be done to bring it up to standard; compile information on a multi-use building on a suitable property; devise possible uses for a multi-use building; determine state and district requirements for a school; formulate costs for either repair of current building or construction of a new one; create an outreach campaign to advertise the benefits of Monterey's program; create a proposal with the information collected.

SBRSD School Committee

Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini reported on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) Ad Hoc School Study Committee meeting on June 14. To clarify, the Ad Hoc School Study Committee was formed by the SBRSD to investigate the small schools in the all the towns of the district, whereas the Monterey School Committee's scope is solely Monterey. The purpose of the Ad Hoc School Study Committee is to determine what makes sense for the district with regard to the elementary schools. They have been encouraged to be open minded and to think creatively. Monterey's representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee are Eric Martin and David Micklewright. Lazzarini reported that the committee will meet every other Thursday and will rotate meeting in each of the towns of the district (Monterey, New Marlborough, South Egremont, Alford, Sheffield). The next

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FRIDAY, JULY 27 7:30 PM
$10 Adults/$5 Children 14 & under
***RASCALS AND OTHERS* – THE REAL STORY OF SANDISFIELD**

meeting, as posted on the web site, is July 19, with the location as yet unspecified.

This and That

The Select Board received mail from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) asking if Monterey would like to purchase electricity individually or with other towns. BRPC is referring to the municipal electricity aggregation program and wants to know the following: did Monterey pass a warrant giving permission for the Select Board to participate in such a program? (No.) Would the town like to look into it? (Yes.) Would the board send a representative from the Select Board to a meeting on the subject at BRPC? Select Board members Wayne Burkhart and Muriel Lazzarini were both interested and willing to attend a meeting, the date is as yet unspecified.

The board received a notice from the Center For Ecological Technology (CET) to extend the agreement with CET to participate in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection program through the multi-town collaborative. It was agreed that the program is extremely beneficial and that the town wants to continue its participation; the agreement was signed. The projected cost for Monterey for FY2013 is $1,069.

Select Board Appointments

It's that time of year again and the Select Board is busy making appointments and reappointments for the various boards and committees. The following reappointments were made for the terms noted: Care of Soldiers Graves, 3 years, Arnold Hayes; Harbormaster Lake Buel, 3 years, Christopher Cobb; Harbormaster Lake Garfield, 3 years, Gareth Backhaus; Hearings Officer, 1 year, Mr. Burdick; Historical Commission, 3 years, Jan Emmons; Police Department, 1 year, Gareth Backhaus, Police Chief. New appointments include: Monterey School Study Committee, 1 year, Cheryl Zellman; Council on Aging, 3 years, Linda Hebert.

Applicants Sought for Town Government Vacancies

Tree Warden

The Select Board is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy for the elected position of Tree Warden. Duties of the Tree Warden are described in MGL Chapter 87 Section 2. The term expires in May of 2013, at which time there will be an election held to fill the seat.

Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to townmont@verizon.net or by regular mail to Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or to contact the Inter-Departmental Secretary at 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the Select Board agenda.

ZBA Alternate

The Town of Monterey has a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals for an Alternate for a five-year term. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis. Interested parties must be registered voters of Monterey. Applicants should submit a letter of interest to the Zoning Board of Appeals, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or email townmont@verizon.net.

Employee Compensation Com.

The Select Board is accepting letters of interest from Monterey residents to fill a vacancy on the Employee Compensation Committee for a one-year term. Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to townmont@verizon.net or by regular mail to Select Board, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or to contact the Inter-Departmental Secretary at 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the Select Board agenda.

Speaking of Committees

The Town of Monterey is once again formalizing an Employee Compensation Committee. Currently the members are Maynard Forbes, Gareth Backhaus, Melissa Noe, Muriel Lazzarini, and Dan Moriarty. The Select Board is looking for one more citizen member to fill a seat. If you are interested please contact the Inter-Departmental Secretary at the Town Hall: email, townmont@verizon.net, or call 528-1443. ॐ

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General Store Opening Update

Oops. Scott Cole planned to open the Monterey General Store in early May, but, as often happens, life got in the way. Do not despair, however. The latest word is that the General Store will open "shortly" after July 4.

The major stumbling block to a full opening is the installation of a "costly exhaust fan/fire suppression system," which is necessary to bring the General Store up to code so the Building Commissioner can grant permission for the store to operate at full capacity.

Rather than wait for that, though, Scott will open the store with a limited capacity. He will be baking on premises, which means freshly made scones, muffins, cookies, and the like. He will prepare cold sandwiches and will be stocking all of the basic food provisions and items. And, joy of joys, there will be coffee and newspapers every day.

So sometime in the next week or two, once again Monterey will enjoy a general store. If you're like me, you can't wait!

—Laurily K. Epstein

Flag Honoring WWII Serviceman Donated to Town

On Memorial Day I received a gift for the town from the family of Private First Class Michael Dosick who served in WWII in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

The family received the flag from the United States of America upon the death of Michael Dosick. The flag of the United States is meticulously folded twelve times by a total of six honor guards, three on each side of the flag. Thereafter, an honor guard composed of one or more branches of the United States Armed Forces, presents the flag to the next of kin. The presenter, if possible a member of the same service as the deceased, will generally kneel while presenting the folded flag, with the straight edge of the flag facing the recipient. The presenter then recites the following wording, which was standardized on April 20, 2012: "On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Army and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."

This flag will fly at the Town Hall on July 4, 2012, in appreciation of Michael Dosick and his many years of service to his country and family.

—Michael Johnson

Poetry Writing Course Begins July 9

A free, six-session course in poetry writing will be offered in Monterey starting in July. The workshop is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council and will be taught by part-time Monterey resident Don Barkin, a widely published poet and experienced teacher. The classes will take place on Mondays, July 9–Aug 13, from 7 to 9 pm in the center of Monterey. The workshop is open to adults sixteen and over. No experience is necessary. Members will read great poems, old and new, and try their hand at writing poems, in forms such as the ballad and the sonnet, as well as in free verse. Anyone who is interested can email Don Barkin at: mbarkin@snet.net or call him at (413) 528-3145.

A collection of Don Barkin's poems, *That Dark Lake*, was published by Antrim House in 2009 and was a finalist for the Poetry Book of the Year from the Connecticut Center for the Book. Barkin has taught writing for many years at Yale, Wesleyan, and Connecticut College. He has also taught English for many years at private and public high schools. He was educated at Harvard and Cambridge universities.

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"Verdant Monterey" Knox Gallery Summer Exhibit

"Verdant" means green with grass or other rich vegetation, of the bright green color of lush grass. In a stretch of the imagination, "green" can also refer to the village green, the core of a community.

This is the theme of the Knox Gallery summer 2012 exhibition, with an opening on July 7 from 7 to 9 pm. The show will feature a wide variety of work by Monterey residents and friends and includes all media. The show will be up through the end of August.

Exhibit Proposal forms are available in the Knox Room of the Library if you have an idea for a future show.

From the Tax Collector

Fiscal year 2013 Real Estate and Personal Property first quarter tax bills have been mailed and are due **August 1**, 2012. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office, (413) 528-1443 x117. These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 1). However, if you wish, you may pay both the first and second quarters now. Once again, pay online for current Real Estate and Personal Property bills is available at www.montereyma.gov.

Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at (413) 528-1443 x115. The tax collector's office will be closed on July 10.

Berkshire Children's Chorus Sings at Lincoln Center

The Berkshire Children's Chorus recently traveled to New York City to participate in the Children's Choir Series of the Manhattan Concert Productions. BCC members became a part of a large group of about one hundred children from all over the country who gathered to perform under conductor Henry Leck at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall on June 9.

The choir members arrived in New York City and, in between Starbucks runs, began rehearsals no less than an hour after checking in at the Sheraton Hotel. Rehearsals were long and hard, most of them three or four hour sessions. Each song the Children's Choirs sang in performance had been previously learned separately, but Mr. Leck, arranger or editor of each one, added the final touches and his thoughts to the pieces, making the group one unit. The final product was moving not only to the individual choirs' conductors and the choir members, but also to the audience members in Alice Tully Hall.

The trip was not all work, though. Each of the separate parts of BCC (Start-Up, BCC, and Coda) had time to explore the city with their managers and each other, and even watched *The Lion King* on Broadway. Each member of BCC and of the other participating Children's Choirs enjoyed every moment of it and gained much experience from this unforgettable trip to NYC.

—Devorah Sawyer

Devorah Sawyer will be a senior at Mt. Everett Regional High School in the fall.

Hannah Clapp, Elisabeth Enoch, Marya Makuc, Shanna Sawyer, and Meadow Wicke, all of Monterey, also sing with Berkshire Children's Chorus. The chorus sings under the direction of Nancy Loder and rehearses weekly in Sheffield. Auditions are now being held for Start-Up (grades 3–5), Berkshire Children's Chorus (grades 6–9) and Coda (grades 10–12). Please call (413) 229-2465 for more information.

Monterey Firemen's Steak Roast July 28!

The Monterey Fire Company's annual steak roast, a summertime highpoint, will be held Saturday, July 28, with serving from 5–7 pm, at the firehouse at 411 Main Road.

In addition to the food—steaks, swordfish, assorted side dishes, salad, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks—there will be live music and entertainment for the children.

Tickets are $25 each. They can be purchased in any of the following ways:

- from any Monterey firefighter
- in downtown Monterey and at the Transfer Station on weekend mornings during July
- on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, from 7 to 9 pm
- by calling 528-3136 (leave a message, someone will get back to you).

The Fire Company hopes to see you all there.

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Monterey Library Notes

There's a lot going on at the library in July! Join the Friends of the Library and help out with our annual book sale on July 28! The Friends will be looking for help the week before and after but mostly on the day of the sale. Especially important times to help would be at 8 am to set up and 1 pm to pick up. Please consider giving an hour of your time to help out in our biggest fundraiser of the year. The Friends of the Library have given the library much financial support over the past few years—including museum passes, e-readers, and loads of help in cleaning and restoring the Knox Gallery room. Refreshments will be provided.

On July 30 the adult book discussion group will discuss *Three Weeks in December* by Audrey Schulman at 7:30 pm. Order a copy today on CWMARS—the group welcomes new members!

Our summer reading program theme is Dream Big-READ! Children can register in July and August; by recording what they've read or someone else has read to them they can win gift certificates to The Bookloft! Come to the library for details. Dream Big-READ! is sponsored by the Monterey Library, Friends of the Monterey Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Our Saturday morning programming for the summer is set for July and August. Be sure to check out the following links to preview these interesting shows. We have some new performers sure to entertain and educate children of all ages this summer. Starting on July 7 at 10:30 am, Jeff Boyer, known as the Bubble Man (http://jeffboyer.com/) will start us off with a science show that will astound you. Check out the website—and come to the library and be amazed. On July 14, also at 10:30, John Porcino (http://johnporcino.cohousing.com), who has been coming periodically to the Monterey Library for many of the thirty years he has performed, will return for yet more storytelling that you won't forget. Come prepared to sing and see all sorts of different musical instruments. On July 21 John Heffernan, at the special time of 10:00 am, will be at the library demonstrating and working with kids on Lego robotics. The first ten kids will be able to participate in this two-hour workshop. On July 28 there will be some fun activities for kids at the book sale—crafts and fortune telling.

On August 4 Kevin Kopchynski, with over twenty years of experience in teaching at museums and for Massachusetts Audubon will present a program on "Stories of the Night Sky," also at 10:30. August 11 will feature a surprise story and craft—come prepared to see the kids show off their artistic talent. Finally, for our last performance, on August 18 for Monterey Fest, at 10:30 am we will have our longtime friend, singer Tom Seiling (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr4U36p4A0Y), who has entertained many children over the years all over the United States.

If you're looking for something for the kids to do on Saturday morning while you get to browse the library collection or check your email on either our computers or with your device on our wifi—you need to bring them down to the library. The Friends of the Monterey Library are the main sponsor for these programs, which are also supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Moxie, our Monterey Library "reading" dog, works with special needs adolescents in a school in NYC with her owner, Dr. Barbara Wolf-Dorlester. They will be showing a video of their work on Saturday evening, August 4, at 7 pm, with a discussion to follow. Join us to learn how animal-assisted therapy can be a vital part of the treatment with people with special needs. Reading is just one of Moxie's many talents.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

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McLaughlin-Wilson Fund Awards $77,400 to Sixteen Monterey Students

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of $77,400 in scholarships to sixteen students from Monterey. The fund, created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her longtime friend Marjorie McLaughlin, supports the young people of Monterey as they pursue a college education.

"We were pleased to be able to help so many students this year," said Maeve O'Dea, Program Director at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which administers the fund. "Especially in these difficult times, scholarships make a huge difference to families who face soaring college costs."

First-time scholarships for undergraduate fall enrollment were awarded to: Kelsey Alcantara to attend Salem State University; Jonah Carlson to attend Reed College; Eloisa Dean to attend Susquehanna University and Gabriella Makuc to attend Lawrence University.

Renewal scholarships for undergraduate studies were awarded to: Lauren Andrus to attend Wentworth Institute of Technology; Jessica Brown to attend University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Norah Crossnohere to attend Skidmore College; Keller Dinan to attend Endicott College; Laura Dinan to attend Salve Regina University; Jason Duryea to attend Unity College; Bennett Ferris to attend Brown University; Fiona Lacey to attend Evergreen State College; Bruce McAlister to attend Berkshire Community College; Grace Mendel to attend Grinnell College; Dinah Mielke to attend University of the Pacific; and Oriana Raab to attend University of Prince Edward Island.

A committee of Monterey residents reviewed applications and awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, community service, a desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

The next deadline for scholarship applications is May 1, 2013. Applications are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers.

Planning for New Marlborough School Tabled

The plans for moving forward in the process of naming New Marlborough Central School an Innovation School came to a screeching halt at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's school committee meeting on June 13. School Committee member H. Dennis Sears (Sheffield) asked that the scheduled presentation by Elementary Principal Erin Woodsome be tabled. Charles Flynn (Egremont) seconded the motion, and Mr. Sears read a prepared statement asserting that both the initial three-member screening committee, convened and chaired by Superintendent Dr. Michael Singleton, and the subsequent Innovation Plan Committee violated the state Open Meeting Law. Mr. Sears asked that all actions to date be set aside and any new process should be done in full compliance of the Open Meeting Law.

Though the motion to table had been made and seconded, Vito Valentini (Sheffield) then read his prepared statement agreeing with Mr. Sears that those violations had occurred. He further opined that New Marlborough Central did not qualify to be an Innovation School as there was no measurable and defined need. Among his concerns was that NMC did not have a principal employed under an independent contract. He also questioned why the principal was listed as the lead applicant of the prospectus but Dr. Christopher Nye of the Myrin Institute authored it. At this point, Dr. Nye, sitting in the audience asked if he could respond. He was informed he could not and Chair Herb Abelow (New Marlborough) tabled the agenda item.

Schools that are designated Innovation Schools can operate with greater flexibility in areas such as curriculum, schedule, professional development, budget, and staffing while remaining part of the district. New Marlborough Central is applying as a Whole Child Innovation School focusing on project-based learning supported by numerous community partnerships. The process to be designated includes approval by an initial screening committee and a majority vote of the school committee with at least one public hearing. There are no deadlines in the process.

—Mari Makuc

Eileen Lawlor
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Township No. 1 Day July 7
Community History Celebration

The Bidwell House Museum is inviting Monterey and Tyringham residents and all friends to the Art School Road fields for a free celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history on Saturday, July 7, from 1 to 4:30 pm. The event is named for the earliest official moniker of the settlement—"Township No. 1 at Hoosatonnuck," which included both towns until they split in1847. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the town as "Tyringham" in 1762.

The Bidwell House is planning a full afternoon of programs and entertainment for all ages:

Live Music in the Tent

1 pm, Monterey's own Eric Martin.

2 pm, The Adams Brothers of Tyringham.

3 to 4:30 pm, Berkshire old-time duet Moonshine Holler (Paula Bradley & Bill Dillof) will present "Appalachian Roots and Branches: An Exploration of Southern Appalachian Music." This musical program is supported in part by a grant from the Tyringham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For the Young and Young-at-heart

Games, crafts, popcorn, face painting, and more.

For the collector

1 to 2:30 pm in the tent nearest the parking lot: antiques appraisals by Charlie Flint of Charles Flint Antiques, Lenox. Bring your treasure and for a $5 donation (or 3 for $10) you can learn about its origins and approximate value.

For the local history buff

1:30 to 2:30 pm: Meeting House and Stone Wall Walk with Rob Hoogs.

2:30-3:30 pm in the Carriage Barn: Local historian Bernie Drew will talk about his newest book: *Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts* (McFarland & Company, 2012).

Historic crafts

1 pm on: Steve McAlister and sons will demonstrate the working of a forge.

2 – 3:30 pm: A Redware Pottery Talk and Demonstration by master potter Rick Hamelin. You might even be able to try your hand at working a piece of clay.

3 pm: Michael White and crew of Michael White Contractors, Mill River, will demonstrate the building and raising of a timber-frame bent.

A Close Look at Nature

3:30-4:30 pm: Vernal Pool Walk with Richard Greene.

For the Baker (or the Taster)

1:30 pm: A baking contest. Bring your favorite home-baked pies, cakes, or cookies and enter them in the taste-off. Prizes for the best confection. Judges: Select Board Members Muriel Lazzarini and Wayne Burkhart of Monterey and Al Wilcox of Tyringham, among others. Entry forms can be found on the museum's website.

For all

Tyringham Historical Commission and Monterey Historical Society exhibits of photos and more.

For more details and to confirm times, please check our website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org

Please visit the Bidwell House Museum on July 7 and bring your friends!

Township No. 1 Day is supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Cultural Council, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Bidwell House Museum's mission is as a New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house and collections to reimagine, re-create, restore, and research colonial and early American life in Western Massachusetts. The museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 am to 4 pm with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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Town Clerk News

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee nomination papers for the November 6, 2012, election are available at the Town Clerk's office. Nomination papers must be submitted by 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 24, 2012, for certification of signatures by the Board of Registrars. Papers are also available from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District central office in Sheffield. The minimum required number of signatures for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee is 27. It is recommended that you have more than the minimum in case of disqualifications. Questions? Call the Clerk's office at 413-528-1443 x 113. This is a four-year seat

Ninety-eight. That is my best guestimate of the number of unlicensed dogs in Monterey. Is yours one of them? Your dog must be licensed per MGL Chapter 140, Section 137 by April 1 of every year. I'm hoping for 100 percent compliance by **August 1, 2012**. The Clerk's office is open 4-6 pm on Wednesdays, 9:30 am-12:30 pm on Saturdays, or by appointment. You need to bring $4.00 for a spayed/neutered animal, $10.00 for male or female, and a current rabies vaccination certificate.

—Deborah Mielke, Town Clerk

Monterey Policemen in Boston Run to Remember

On May 27 Officer Michael Johnson and Officer Shaun Reagan of the Monterey Police Department represented the Department and Town of Monterey as they took part in running the 2012 Boston Run to Remember. Officer Johnson ran the 13.1-mile half-marathon course and Officer Reagan the 5-mile course.

The courses for Boston's Run To Remember took participants on a truly historic tour of downtown Boston. Highlights included the State House, Government Center, Faneuil Hall, Boston Common, the Public Garden, the Old State House, and Post Office Square.

Those venturing out on the half-marathon course had the added bonus of running along Memorial Drive with the backdrop of the Boston skyline to inspire their every step. These USATF-certified courses are fast and well supported, and they provide an amazing opportunity like no other to experience downtown Boston.

Officer Reagan ran the 5 miles in 51:18, and Officer Johnson ran the 13.1 miles in 4:31:44. They ran to honor all Massachusetts Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty by celebrating their lives and giving back to the community.

Officer Johnson also ran in honor of the late Rabbi Jack Stren, a friend who passed away a year ago. Officer Johnson raised money for Rabbi Stren's favorite charity, Mazon. Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing and alleviating hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds.

Bidwell House History Talks

The Bidwell House Museum is sponsoring two talks on local history in July. On **Saturday, July 21**, Steven Paterwic will talk on "The Tyringham Shakers." Mr. Paterwic tells the story of how the Shakers came to be at Tyringham and the expansion of the settlement to several hundred members and 1500 acres of land. He will also tell about the sudden end, who survived the community, and where they went. Mr. Paterwic is a frequent presenter at Shaker seminars and forums, and is the author of numerous articles on the Shakers, including the most detailed study of the Tyringham settlement.

On **Saturday, July 28**, Carey McIntosh, Prof. Emeritus of English, will give a talk on "Colonial English: Old Words and New in 18th-Century Massachusetts," exploring how the language of the settlers reflects their rural culture and the social changes of the 1700s.

Both talks will be held at 10 am in Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham.

June 2012 Wildlife

The reports have come in fast, furious, and many this month, from the moths and birds right up to the large mammals. On June 17, Will Marsh saw a "very sturdy" bobcat that "trotted leisurely across our yard." A few days earlier, Will says, "As I was returning from downtown Monterey last Tuesday (the12th) mid-morning, a bicyclist had stopped in the middle of north lane. He was trying to herd with his bicycle wheel a large snapping turtle back from whence it came. I stopped, saw that the snapper had no intention of going back—it was snapping and lunging (very quick, this turtle) at the bicycle wheel. I suggested that we let it proceed the way it wanted to go while we directed traffic around it, and that's what happened. It made it across in no time and continued onward into the wetlands by the Konkapot. One of the trucks that came by while said turtle was in middle of road was driven by Rick Mielke; he leaned out the window and said, 'That's a female.' Guess he knows his females."

Will says also that the turkey vultures around his place continue to circle overheard, so "I try to look alive."

On June 18, Tim Lovett saw a "large and beautiful bobcat leaping across Route 23 in Otis, just east of Monterey." Two days earlier, Tim saw a porcupine, a skunk, and an owl between Eaton Road and Beartown Road. He had been taking his dog Frosty for a scenic drive.

Suzanne Sawyer

Sue Protheroe, one of our Lake Buel wildlife reporters, saw two sandhill cranes. First a single one flew over, and she knew right away it was not the usual great blue heron. Then she saw two of them walking in the grass by the side of the road. Sue was on her way into Great Barrington, from Route 57.

At a recent Monterey News Board Meeting, we learned that Melissa Noe spotted a luna moth outside Town Hall. Speaking of moths, Steve Snyder reports a recent sighting of twelve different kinds of moths at one time on one side of the maintenance shed at Gould Farm. That evening in early June, there were eight luna moths, along with those eleven other different species. Steve says there are two coyotes between Wellman Road and the gravel pit at Gould Farm, and they can be seen anytime around dusk.

Besides all this, Steve tells of a milk snake on a water heater under a cupboard and a snapping turtle trying without success to lay her eggs on a hard gravel road.

This has been a full report already, but wait until you read on. Nancy Kalodner has written in and phoned from Mt. Hunger Road, where she describes "Monterey's Wild Kingdom." First she phoned on June 18 to tell of a "big, shining, glorious black bear, so healthy and sleek," that was walking down her driveway. An hour later, she saw a fine red fox, "healthy and perky," with a tail that was black on top from the base to the tip." As if this were not enough, later the same day a big porcupine, the "mother or father of all porcupines," came "ambling across the driveway."

Nancy saw the bear again, less than twenty-four hours later, also a raccoon, and then a bobcat. And for her third excited report, Nancy describes on June 22 a "lovely doe just thirty feet away from my back deck," with an attendant phoebe sitting nearby, which then jumps onto the doe's back and pecks at something. This is perhaps a "cleaner bird" ridding the deer of ticks and deerflies, and getting a good meal for itself and its youngsters. Thanks, Nancy, from up high on Mt. Hunger Road.

Bears, bears. Rosemary McAlister reports a "mama and a baby bear" also a young adult or adolescent, on Chestnut Hill Road, near the old Hephzibah Heights driveway. And we had bears up Hupi Road here, one seen on June 22 by Bob Carlson, early in the morning, then again the same afternoon by Mt. Hunger Road. Bob feels it was the same bear. And then there's this month's bear photo (above), a breakfast guest of Suzanne Sawyer on Main Road,

Early in the month, Eileen Lawlor saw a bear here on Hupi, and I was out early, up her way, at just this time, but I did not see it. Nor have I yet seen a moose. But thanks for telling me about *your* sightings!

—Bonner McAllester, 528-9387,
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Are You a Friend of Lake Garfield?

If so, then please join The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG).

We need your help. Our mission is to protect and preserve Lake Garfield for the enjoyment of all in Monterey. It takes diligence and funding to accomplish our mission. Your $35 membership goes a long way. Join at the Special Friend level for $50 or the Very Special Friend level for $100, and the money goes even further. Or join as an Outrageously Generous Friend and choose your own dues level.

Here's how we've put your dues to work . . .

1. Managing Drawdown, the most efficient, chemical-free way to prevent excess weeds from owning our shorelines. FLG has achieved a longtime goal, partnered with our town and the Conservation Commission. We've met the requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, allowing the town to manage drawdown according to best principles of lake science for the health of Lake Garfield. In 2010 we funded a scientific amphibian survey ($2,400) to satisfy the commonwealth's requests. You see, if drawdown were harmful, amphibians would be the first to suffer (like the canary in the mine). Turns out our little amphibian friends are flourishing.

2. Additional Weed Control. We stocked the lake with a type of weevil that has a voracious appetite for milfoil, a weed that was choking our ecosystem. It worked!

3. Weed Control on the Shores. With matching funds from the town, we conducted a three-year insecticide-free test to control purple loosestrife, a weed that takes over shorelines in such great profusion that nothing else can grow. It worked! And it keeps working.

4. Water Testing. Three times each year, along with a state representative, we test the waters of Lake Garfield for phosphates, oxygen levels, temperature, and other measurements that monitor the health of the lake. The lake is healthy.

5. We've been on the lookout for those pesky zebra mussels that have already invaded Berkshire lakes. The last few summers, we set traps for zebra mussels in the spring and removed them in the fall. So far, so good. Happily, no zebra mussels to be found in Lake Garfield. We will keep up our vigil.

6. LakeFest, launched by the Friends of Lake Garfield, this year will evolve to an even more exciting MontereyFest, on Saturday, August 18. Write down the date. And while you're writing, jot down the dates of our FLG summer meeting: Saturday, August 4, 9:30 am at the town beach (or firehouse if rainy); Coffee and doughnuts to be provided.

7. Work with other Western Massachusetts lake associations disseminating information on how to keep lakes healthy and how enjoy safe boating.

Please join us. Lake Garfield needs all the friends we can get.

—Julio Rodriguez, President
Friends of Lake Garfield

ॐ

Monterey Seniors Bowling

The NSL, a national Wii bowling league for seniors of all ages and all abilities, is starting up. Everything will be provided except the bowler! The league provides a fun social atmosphere, promotes concentration and focus, provides a platform for exercise, and is a confidence builder and something to look forward to on a weekly basis.

Sign up now for ten fun weeks of competition. Bowl one match a week in your own community and post your scores on line. We'll tell you each Friday morning who wins, how your team is doing in its league, and how your bowlers are doing compared to other bowlers in the NSL.

An informational meeting will be held on Monday, July 9, in Town Hall right after the Select Board meeting, so bring a friend and come see how much fun Wii bowling is. For more information call Michael Johnson (413-528-1443 x 247).

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MontereyFest 2012
Community Groups Partner to Make a "Fabulous!" Event

Can you say "fabulous fun-filled family festival" five times, fast—and without flubbing it? If not, you can just say "MonteryFest 2012." To ensure that this event will indeed be "fabulous," many of our local groups are scheduling special activities for Saturday, August 18.

Berkshire National Fish Hatchery will open its waters again for the annual Fishing Derby. You'll want to hurry the family over to the Monterey Library for a special program, "Howl at the Moon," with the wonderfully engaging singer, guitarist, and humorist Tom Sieling. Get in shape, while you admire the beauty of Monterey, with a nature walk on Diane's Trail, led by Gould Farm's Forestry Manager, Bob Rausch. And walkers who complete this 1½ mile trail will be treated to lunch at nearby Harvest Barn.

Explore Monterey's colonial history with a visit to the Bidwell House Museum. Special free tours will be conducted during MontereyFest 2012 at 2 pm and 3 pm, and will last approximately one hour.

Lake Garfield will be the scene of many fun activities throughout the afternoon and evening. Children and adults of all ages will have an opportunity to participate in relay races at Lake Garfield, coordinated by staff from Berkshire South Regional Community Center. No experience is needed to carry an egg in a spoon across the sand, join a bucket brigade or a back-to-back water balloon race! The Monterey "Face Painters" and Roger, the Jester, will be there for the kids. The Friends of Lake Garfield will have a table at the beach to educate us on the many ways we can help protect Monterey's beautiful natural resource. And the Cultural Council will display the top three winning submissions of the MontereyFest 2012 Children's Art/Writing Contest.

Bring a picnic dinner to the beach and mingle with friends, grab a hot dog or hamburger at the beach BBQ, and top it off at the Marshmallow Roast. The evening fun will begin when DJ Gabriel Squailia starts spinning and fitness instructor Mimi Rosenblatt joins the fun and encourages everyone to dance.

To close this full day of family activities, Berkshire Fireworks will be back to fill the skies over Monterey with a spectacular array of lights and colors. Don't miss it!!

Robin O'Herin at Knox Trail Inn July 28

Robin O'Herin is the next performer in The Knox Trail Inn Concert Series on Saturday, July 28, at 7 pm. Robin is a Berkshires-based, acoustic blues, and gospel musician with a hint of Appalachian mountain music. She plays bottleneck and finger-style guitar and the mountain dulcimer. Robin specializes in historically rich, often interactive concerts that include original and traditional American music. Attendees are invited to call the Knox Trail Inn (Route 23 in East Otis) for dinner reservations at (413) 269-4400. Admission to the concert is free.

Berkshire Murder Mystery Writers Read-Aloud Aug. 4
Chilling Stories of Death by Organic Food and Killer Clichés

Murder mystery lovers: prepare for death–organic death. The 2012 Berkshire Murder Mystery Writer's Contest, sponsored by Music & More and the New Marlborough Village Association, will host the annual mystery writers' read-aloud event on August 4, at 4:30 pm at the Meeting House Gallery on Route 57. The event is free and a reception follows.

This year's contest, titled "Slice 'em & Dice 'em, or *I think I need to Lie Down Now*," called for the victim or victims to be killed off with organic edibles that are ingested, absorbed, or otherwise introduced into the body with lethal intent. In addition, this year each story must include at least one cliché relating to the story (i.e. "blood is thicker than water"). Submissions were due in June.

After the readings, the top three winners will be announced and awarded prizes of $300, $200 and $100. This contest, conceived and directed by John Manikowski, is made possible through a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council together with New Marlborough's Music & More program, now in its 21st year.

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Lonnie Sumner

Monterey softball is continuing its over thirty-year run of Sunday pick-up adult softball games at Greene Park. Players from Monterey, Sandisfield, Otis, Great Barrington, and surrounding towns meet for informal games at 10:30 through October. The games last about two hours and are open to players of all levels.

Art at New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery

The New Marlborough Village Association will presents two art shows at the Meeting House Gallery in July and August featuring the work of regional and local artists working in a variety of mediums.

Artists will present their multimedia works at "Transformation," an invitational show, with an opening reception on Friday, July 20, 5–7 pm. The thirty featured artists, including Nancy Goldberger, Alan Roland, Betsey Farber, Stephanie Wain, Cynthia Schmulky, and others, work with an array of materials and mediums, from metal to crayons and eggs, acrylic, oils, and other materials. The show runs through August 19.

On August 24, an opening reception will be held from 5-7 pm for "New Marlborough Artists," an exhibition featuring the work of local artists, including Maria Gay, Abbe Stahl, Brian Mikesell, Shawn Fields, and Pamela Hardcastle. Opening., Route 57, New Marlborough. Show runs through September 23.

The Meeting House Gallery is located at 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road, on the Village Green.

Otis Arts Festival July 28

Over fifty artists from Berkshire County, the Pioneer Valley, Connecticut, and Vermont will be at the Fifth Annual Otis Arts Festival on Saturday, July 28 from 9 am–3 pm. The event will be held at Farmington River Elementary School (indoors), 555 Main Road (Route 8). From 11 am to 1 pm, Admission is free. For information, call (413) 269-0220.

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Congratulations, Graduates

Congratulations to the following Monterey 2012 high school graduates: From Mt. Everett Regional High School (Southern Berkshire Regional School District): Essy Shapiro Dean and Gabriella Rose Makuc. From Monument Mountain Regional High School (Berkshire Hills Regional School District): Kelsey Alcantara, Jonah Carlson, Cody Funk, and Galen Grove. From The Waldorf High School (Great Barrington): Alice Hixon Kirk.

Gabi Makuc, class Valedictorian, received the Daughters of American Revolution Good Citizenship Award, the Superintendent's Award, and highest achievement awards for English, Social Studies, and Music. She also received a McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship. Gabi will attend Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin in the fall.

Essy Dean also received a McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship and will attend Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Jonah Carlson graduated in the top two percent of his class. He was a member of the National Honor Society and served as Student Senate President. Also a recipient of a McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship, he will attend Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

Kelsey Alcantara also received a McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship and will be attending Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts.

Alice Kirk will be attending Smith College in Northampton.

—Mari Enoch

Please submit additional news of our children and young adults to us. College graduates?

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Mount Everett Valedictory Address

Delivered at the 2012 Mount Everett graduation by Gabriella Makuc, Valedictorian. Gabi is the daughter of Mark and Mary Makuc of Monterey.

Thank you, superintendent, school committee, faculty, staff, parents, and friends. Thank you for coming today to support us. Thank you for all of your guidance in what has so far been a dynamic journey. Class of 2012, it is time to make this journey dynamic in our own way.

This journey is beginning on, of all things, a rainy day. I would like to thank the rain for joining us. While it may not be optimal weather for such an occasion, this occasion is about a lot more than having perfect weather and taking the perfect picture. It's not about any one moment as much as it is a reflection on our past as we move into the future. We are entering a mist of transformation. If we move past initial judgments and appearance, we can see the rain as the most real backdrop to the beginning of our lives as adults. It is in some ways a difficulty and a disappointment, but it is a force for cultivation and beginning again.

The other day in calculus class, I heard a few students singing that song from elementary school: "We come from the water, we come from the water, go back to the water, turn the world around." Literally and figuratively speaking, we do come from the water. Perhaps coming back to it will make our lives well lived in the long run. It may even turn the world around.

Water is pure; its composition is unchanging. It flows through rivers, down mountainsides, evaporates, joins the world in another hemisphere, gets tossed around in the Great Lakes, but remains the same. We return to the water when we're true to our authentic selves. We are all made of the same stuff—perhaps the stuff of which stars are made, or perhaps this simple element that's common to all humanity. Sometimes it's easy to see life for the moments and the passing images. It's easy to get caught up in our appearance and our status and forget that who we are inside is, like water, always changing form and expression while remaining that same pure soul. When we brave the leap off of the rocks to let this genuine soul cascade into a transparent, vulnerable waterfall for the world to see, we can reflect the light and goodness within others a whole lot better. We can communicate more truthfully and more deeply. Our relationships are more meaningful. And that is the foundation on which a life well lived is built.

Water is both yielding and incredibly strong. It can be gentle, and it can be one of the most powerful forces on the planet. I challenge you to be both at once. Embrace wisdom from others just as a stream is open to new waters and beams of light. When we are open to any sudden bout of inspiration and we realize that each rock and sunrise may change us a little bit, the whole world can see each new light that we reflect and, in turn, be inspired. Sometimes we are afraid of daunting opportunities

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ANNOUNCING OUR NEW DIVISION: VACATION RENTALS

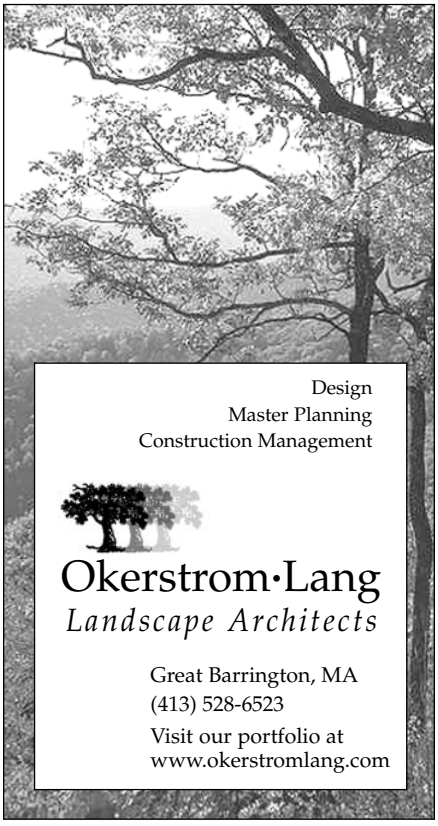
to be transformed. At Mount Everett, we have learned to try new things—we wouldn't be the people we are today if we had not completed some of the projects that were outside our comfort zone. When we expose ourselves to failure by trying something new and plummeting off that waterfall, we find our strength. Once we discover something we're passionate about, we dig and carve into the rock. We sacrifice to make our goals realities. We are made of no less than the rushing torrents of water that have cut through layers of rock to form the Grand Canyon. That is the very strength that we can cultivate within ourselves.

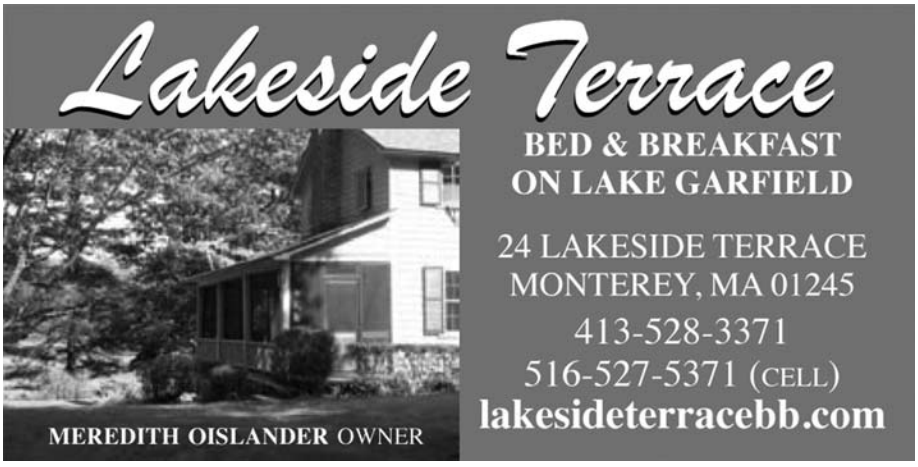
The Grand Canyon is no mark of instant gratification. Like today's graduation, it has earned its mark with time and incredible perseverance. When our process of living is both open minded and filled with determination to dig in and build community where our pure nature tells us it is right, our journey becomes monumental. It was our pure nature that sparked the meaningful long-term goals we wrote in freshman English class. We all anonymously completed the statement "with my life, I will . . ." I echo now the dreams of three unnamed students onstage: "With my life, I will become a marine and make my father proud." "With my life, I will make a person laugh every day." "With my life, I will have spoken positively to someone I can't stand." This unique list continues. How we eventually fulfill these goals may change, but we cannot allow the intention behind them to die; that intention must become the process behind how we live.

We are incredibly blessed to have spent the first part of our lives in the Berkshires, with so many unique bodies of water to center, calm, and refresh us. I'm sure that we all have memories of moments by the water. Maybe it was a fleeting rainbow above the lake; maybe it was a mist over the river at dusk that disappeared. All of these images that we hold dear are incredibly personal. But they are also incredibly universal. Water is both spontaneous and eternal. The strong journeys of our rivers will be filled with surprise but remain everlasting. We can overcome the self-centered nature of the world's current culture of instant gratification by making personal the most universal parts of life. When we internalize the parts of life that can truly connect us to one another, including family, faith and community, we embrace the whole world in the broadest and deepest sense that we can. It is no coincidence that these most universal parts of life are the ones which require the most time and cultivation.

Water is rebirth. We must understand that the world, like a river, is in a constant state of creativity and flux. We must understand others this way, not judging, but encouraging, not limiting, but giving second chances. Water has no limits. We are made of the most giving and transformative substance on the planet. Its purpose is to connect. It connects civilization to civilization, community to community—it connects us all to our earth. A life well lived is distinguished in its continuous, connected nature. This does not mean a lack of variety—quite the opposite. It means turning myriad experiences into one integrated flow. Civilization springs from water, and people spring from connection. In school, we divide disciplines by subject. At Mount Everett, we have been fortunate enough to engage in cross-curricular projects. We do not need to live within the subject lines. Water spills over human-made boundaries, fostering life and beauty wherever it goes.

Go back to the water, turn the world around—and forward, of course. Let us embrace technology and the ever-closeness we have to everyone across the globe. Let us also embrace the elements that have always made us the same. It would be a shame if our world grew closer but we did not grow closer as human beings. Enjoy the moments along the way, but live for finally meeting the ocean. That is where our hard work makes every unique moment by each waterfall and each pond last forever. Our graduation today and the connections it creates between past and future cannot be contained in a single photograph. Our meaningful lives and all of the goals, people, and moments they connect cannot be contained by anything less than the vast ocean. They certainly cannot be contained by any stagnant vernal pool—they will remain alive forever in the ever-changing, ever-unbroken tide. Go back to the water, turn the world together. ॐ





Dog Poison or Miracle Cure– or Both?

Dogbane, *Apocynum cannabium*, is a cousin of some sort to milkweed. It has that milky sap when you break it and all those warnings when you read about it. You know you are looking at power and magic when the first thing books tell you is to keep away. In fact, dogbane's Latin name is translated as "Dog, Away!" including the exclamation mark. First the descriptions are all about toxicity, complete with chemical names and diagrams we haven't seen since organic chemistry class. Then the next paragraph gets into medical uses, still warning that the plant must be harvested when young, or that we may only nibble on the root to stop our heart attack and if we ever touch the stalk we are done for, just like the dogs.

One dogbane cousin is oleander, which sounds Shakespearean at first glance. If it's comedy you picture a twin sister, mistaken identity, some pranks. It might be a tragedy, in which case there would be the midnight soliloquy in the dark of the moon and then another sorry young death.

My book, *The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers* by Timothy Coffey, 1993, gives us this on oleander, quoting John M. Kingsbury, 1964: "Loss of human life, sometimes involving large numbers of persons during military exercises, has repeatedly occurred when meat was roasted while skewered on oleander branches" (*Poisonous Plants in the US and Canada*, Prentice Hall, 1964). These men were killed not through combat with strong enemy forces, rather by that sly oleander, slim and covert around the home campfire.

Read on about dogbane and look at its other common names: Choctaw Root, Indian Hemp, Silk Weed, Wild Cotton. Now this complex character is our best friend. We can make bowstrings, snares, all sorts of rope and twine and textiles.

Here on our homestead, dogbane is a familiar presence along the path to the upper pasture. Thirty years ago one of my eager fellow outdoorsies told me this was wolfbane. So far it's done no harm I know of to canines wild or tame. The dog trots right by it every day. They say the dogbane's toxin, or wonderful medicine, is terrible for grazing animals, but we had goats in the pasture for twenty-five years and they suffered no heart attacks or recurring deaths from shish kebab sticks. On the other hand, you can still see the dogbane up there any day of the week but not a single goat. Goat, Away!

Dogbane sends roots horizontally all through the ground, and new youngsters pop up along the rootlines. Milkweed does the same thing. This is asexual reproduction, and it is a good system for keeping the plants up and active even in times when sexual reproduction doesn't pan out. The dogbanes have begun to bloom here, with little quarter-inch pink and white blossoms. Milkweed is blooming, too. Seeds will be forming in the long slim dogbane pods, and milkweed fluffs will send their next generation out on the wind. Still, you never know when that pollen won't quite get delivered at the right moment, or some foolish wolf or dog or soldier might chomp down a plant just as it was about to conceive. Times like this, those underground roots pick it up and carry it on.

For some reason, the books barely mention how handsome dogbane is. I'm looking at it now along the path I take

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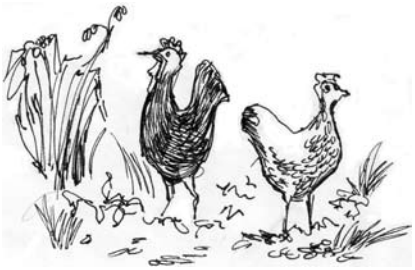
every day to the upper pasture. The sun is just up, clouds coming in, and our pasture is a miracle of wildflowers. Goats were glorious, back in the dairy days, but the diversity here has exploded since the livestock left.

Wolfbane or dogbane or Chocktaw Hemp, this two-foot plant is deeply brilliant in dark red and green. The tops of the leaf stems are red in a royal way, also the main central vein heading toward the tip of each leaf. The leaf surfaces are a matte and darkened green, and the main vertical plant stalk is green up one side and red up the other, the south side that gets the sun. A painter would have specific names for these colors, Shakespearean words like oleander, cerulean, sepia, burnt umber. I look at it and think: Just Right!

—Bonner J. McAllester



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Historical Society Talk on 1800s Diary

On Friday evening, July 6, at 7 pm, Barbara Swann will give a lecture in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement on a very special diary recently copied by the Historical Society, at the request of and sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. Perhaps by then there might be pictures of Harriet Townsend, the author, in addition to photos of her house and scans of passages in the diary.

The Historical Society recently received the extraordinary chance to copy the 144-page (entire 1854 year) journal of Harriet Bentley Townsend (1827–1900), as well as one of her husband, Jonathan Townsend (1819–1892), for roughly the same time period. Harriet's journal has been copied and improved to black and white from the faded ink and yellowed paper of the original, and transcribed so that we can eventually publish this unique account of the daily life of an upper-middle-class woman in Monterey, 158 years ago. Jonathan's journal will take more time to transcribe since he wrote it in an early form of shorthand.

Harriet was born the daughter of John Bentley, a respected Deacon of our then newly separated and built Congregational Church. At the time Harriet was writing this diary, she was also the mother of a one-year-old and the young wife of Jonathan Townsend, also a Deacon of the church, a farmer, and our first Town Clerk after we separated from the Town of Tyringham. As the epitome of an upper middle-class woman living on a Monterey farm of the time, her daily chores, the skills required of her, the visitors she welcomed, and visits she made were all faithfully recorded in her journal. Scattered among these accounts were commentaries on the cost of living and her vicissitudes and trials, as well as goals of the family farming ventures.

Perhaps more importantly, her spiritual aspirations and the arguments she had with herself concerning both her status and well-being in that area are an unmistakable clue to Harriet herself and the times she lived in. In passing, she introduces us to the state of the roads of that time in Monterey, gives an account during a full year of how often and how far she and others traveled on visits, reviews topics of common conversation in her Monterey, and gives a fairly good idea of how Monterey raised its children. Of course Harriet couldn't vote, and how she dealt with that fact is equally interesting.

There's a lot more to the Townsends' story than this one lecture and one diary. We think you will be fascinated by their history and their varied pursuits.

We will need your help through advice and contacts in order to publish Harriet's journal with maximum profit for the Society and begin to help us reestablish a Museum from which we cannot be removed and where our extensive collection will be safe. The Society has minimal funds for this venture, although we are now a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit. Sales of an eventual publication would be tax deductible. So, please come hear the lecture and join the Historical Society. We are counting on you to lend your thoughts and assistance. And we think you will be interested in Harriet!

—Barbara Swann

ॐ

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Bridging Mortality

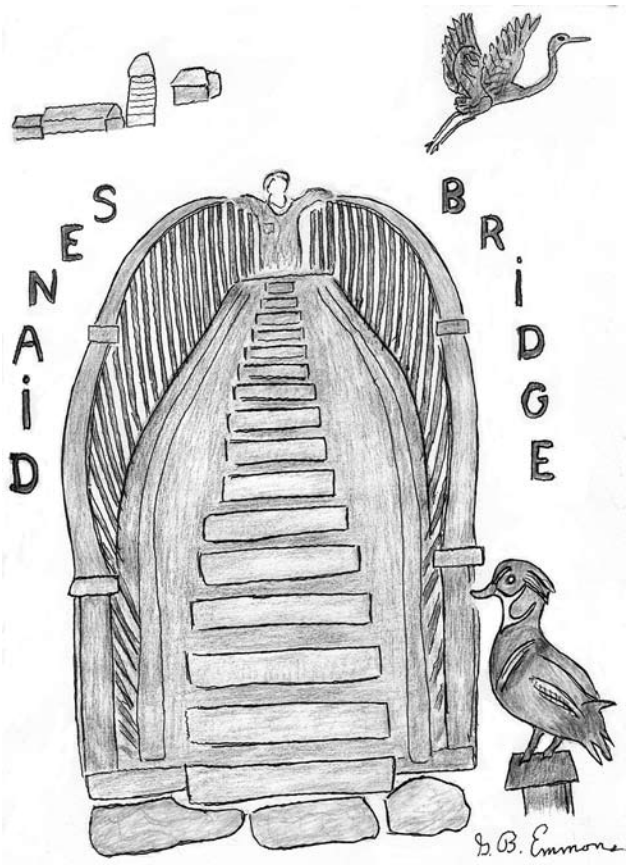
Thornton Wilder wrote his novel *The Bridge Of San Louis Rey* in 1927, a very good year for achievements such as Lindberg's Atlantic solo flight, Babe Ruth's sixty home runs, and Oscar Hammerstein's music for *Show Boat*. Wilder's literary triumph soon won him national fame and a Pulitzer Prize; later it was named as one of the one hundred best novels in the twentieth century.

The town of Monterey quickly caught on to his story of several unrelated people who happen to be on a bridge in Peru when it collapses, killing them! Wilder raises the question of why unfortunate things occur to people who seem innocent or undeserving.

Our library still has a copy of the original 1928 edition, with the list inside the back cover of readers who checked it out: In 1928, Barnum, Young, H. B. Smith, Taggart, Geeker, Sill, Gregory. In 1929, Contessa, Johnson, Lyman, Pope, Ware, Beatie, Wolfer. In 1930, Ensign, Kaufman, H. Lutz, J. Miner and L. Miner, D. Tryon. In 1931–1935, Pogue, May, O'Connell, Zad, Briggs, Carlson, Wasiuk.

For the first time Wilder also achieved financial status, launching a sequence of monumental works, many portraying themes built around the consequences of fate on the human conditions. Among his plays were *Our Town*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Ides of March*, and *The Matchmaker*, which became *Hello Dolly!* His novel *The Eighth Day* won the National book Award for dramatizing issues of living in small-town America.

Twenty years later, with all his works to choose from, *The Bridge Of San Luis Rey* was selected as required reading in my English A course at Harvard. Wilder was also the Charles Eliot Norton Visiting Professor of Literature. We spent time in class debating his conclusion: "There is a Land of The Living, and a Land Of The Dead and the bridge is love, the only survival and the only meaning."



Sitting next to me was Charles B. Flood, who took courses and made friends with Wilder. After graduation he wrote the *New York Times* best seller *Love Is A Bridge*. When I came to Monterey, I wrote the first of what has grown to no less than three articles about Diane's Bridge. I ran into Charles Flood in 2001 at our fiftieth reunion, and we were treated to breakfast at the Faculty Club by the event committee. Then we walked over to Emerson Hall to see literary works submitted by class members. And on display next to his latest work was my contribution to the *Monterey News*.

Later that same year of 2001, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* was quoted by British Prime Minister Tony Blair during the memorial service for the victims of the September 11th attack. Today in Monterey, thinking back through human experience during visits to Diane's Bridge reminds me of the Native American belief that the spirit of whatever happens in a place may always live there. And again I will quote my first article on Diane's Bridge that when people are separated by mortality, "Love is a bridge between Heaven And Earth."

—George B. Emmons

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Hobbies and Patience

Some of you may remember the days when I ran around town in my classic 1990s leggings (thank goodness I eventually outgrew that phase). I recently turned twenty-five, and as I wrote a letter to myself to open when I turn thirty, I also had a chance to reflect on my childhood and the last quarter century. For all the amazing opportunities I've had, and things I've done, I realized that I lost some hobbies along the way. People should have hobbies, activities they do for fun because they enjoy them. Despite my overall quality of life in DC, I'm lacking a well-rounded existence. It's easy to get sucked into the Beltway mentality of politics, work, happy hours, and networking all the time. I've come to realize how diverse my life was as a child, and if I stay in DC for another few years, I know I won't be content without more variation.

I danced from age four to fourteen; I did ballet, tap, jazz, and modern. I had a pony and took riding lessons and went to summer horseback riding camp. I took swimming lessons at the Monterey beach for years and passed my level ten for Swim America, earning the big gold sticker. Even after, I've always enjoyed swimming. I took an embroidery class once a week with Mary Kate Jordan and other artistically inclined youngsters at the Monterey church; I made pillows and quilts and stitch-by-numbers. Beyond that, I read voraciously, built forts in the woods and hay forts in the barn (although, yes, my parents may have moved the bales). I was busy, and while some of those were not technically hobbies, they contributed to a very rich childhood growing up in the Berkshires. Once I went to school, I had less free time, as one might expect. Ultimately, my energy turned toward homework and doing well in school; I tried to keep dancing, but gave that up after freshmen year in high school.

It's been just over ten years since I started going to school and now that I can carve out some free time again, I'm eager for hobbies. Still, I'm finding I can't just pick something and have it be a hobby. Which means, there is more to a hobby than it just being an activity you do. A few weeks ago, as I was pondering my options, a friend told me about her personal bucket list. I realize some people may find this a bit morbid, but I was intrigued. One thing that has been on my mental bucket list for years is to learn how to play the guitar. I mentioned this to my mom when I was around fifteen, not just once but several times over the course of a year, and so she brought me a guitar for my birthday. And then, life got the best of me and I never actually learned how to play.

I don't have to excel or play the most complicated songs out there, but I'd like to know the basics. I'd like to play a decent number of songs for sing-along groups. I can't sing personally, but I could play the music. It turns out my friend, and soon-to-be second roommate, knows some guitar basics. When I was home recently, I picked up my guitar and my mom showed me a few chords. Now, after a few weeks, I'm figuring out how to strum a bit, I have my three chords and I'm working on picking up a fourth, C, that is proving a bit difficult. And I'm getting better at it. I sit down in the morning and play a bit, and in the evening. I'm building calluses on my fingers and thankfully, because at first, they really were quite sore. I spend less time on my computer and find it hard to put down the instrument when it is time to go to work. Friends here also play and are helping me along; it's been a lot of fun so far.

I do other things as well, like take a hot yoga class every now and then; I am part of a young professionals group, I do touristy outings on the weekends, and so on. But those aren't hobbies exactly. I have other things I think I would like to do, but I haven't done them yet, and so I wonder if that is somehow a sign that I'm trying too hard.

At twenty-five, I can say I've missed hobbies on an emotional level. I wasn't fully aware of how much they added to my life. The DC mentality says you should do other things to sound impressive and flesh out your resume. I would like to do other things for me, because of how these pursuits make me feel as a person. It is about being dynamic and three-dimensional in a world that is rushed and always demanding a strong performance and success. Finding what is fun takes time and patience. You have to feel it and want it. At twenty-five, I'm having a blast.

I wish you all a happy Fourth of July and a wonderful summer.

—Tarsi Dunlop

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"Garden Gustation"

What's Cooking from Monterey Gardens and Farms

Berries, Biscuits and Bambi

I knew we were gardening deer free on borrowed time. We've been delighted these last few years without the intrusion of deer in our wide-open garden space edged on two sides by woods. We'd seen deer occasionally in the field and naively thought that the field was enough food for them and that our dog and the egg putrescence alone would deter them from coming our way. The glory days are over. Maybe that sounds a bit dire, but when we head out to the garden on a new day and see that the sweet corn has been chewed off to nubs, it's pretty frustrating! Bambi go home.

We have been enjoying our first strawberries. Last spring I bought fifty plants from Johnny's Selected Seeds. I bought two varieties, Earli Glo and Jewel. I chose these two for their flavor and because they don't ripen at the same time. In the past, we had been enjoying these two varieties from our springtime trips to the Thompson-Finch Farm in Ancramdale to pick strawberries. We made an excursion out of it and came home loaded with piles of beautiful berries. The processing chores were then ahead of us: freezing, jamming, pie making, and just plain eating as many as we could. What a great season!

Things were going along swimmingly as our berries began to ripen, picking for breakfast, for lunch, for dinner. I would notice a few berries chewed or pecked into but not too many, so I decided it would be okay to share a few with whatever birds or critters were helping themselves. And then it happened: one morning many of the leaves of the Jewel strawberries were missing . . . YIKES! Now that was a little more than I was willing to share. For some reason the deer only browsed the leaves of the Jewel variety. I wondered if maybe they were variety specific, maybe the lush, deep green leaves of the Earli Glo variety didn't taste as sweet. So that evening we covered the Jewel plants hoping there wouldn't be any more damage. And what happened?? Of course they ate the plants we didn't cover—the Earli Glo! We felt pretty stupid; Bambi won. They weren't eating the berries, just the leaves. So we continued to cover all of the plants and continued harvesting our delicious berries for a couple more weeks.

The following isn't a recipe for Bambi, but for biscuits to smother your fresh strawberries over. Make sure to top them off with lots of fresh whipped cream.

Mom's Baking Powder Biscuits

2 cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
½ cup cold butter
1 T (heaping) vegetable shortening (optional, can substitute with another T of butter)
a little salt
½–¾ cups High Lawn Farm milk
1 T sugar for sweet biscuits (sugar can be left out for plain biscuits to be served with stews and/or creamed chicken)
High Lawn Farm heavy cream (for whipped cream)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl, cut the butter into the flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar until a coarse meal is formed. Slowly add the milk and stir just until milk is incorporated, do not overstir. Dough will be craggy. Drop by large spoonfuls onto a greased baking sheet. Shaping is not necessary, uneven edges of biscuits will be delicious crispy bites. Bake biscuits for 15–20 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool a bit, cut in half horizontally, and cover with strawberries mixed with a little sugar. Place the top half back on, add a few more berries and be generous with the whipped cream. Place a few blueberries on top, if you have them, and enjoy for July 4th and beyond.

I hope I don't have any more Bambi stories!

—Wendy G. Jensen
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From the Meetinghouse . . .

Old Home Week

For a brief moment in June, I enjoyed Old Home Week In Monterey. You missed the party? That was because it happened at a dinner table in Rowe, Massachusetts, not here in town. Peter Amidon and I were the only two participants present in body at this Old Home Week until Peter's wife, Mary Alice, joined us at the table, but, oh, the invisible crowd that hovered around us made our hearts sing.

Much of that same crowd's invisible here in Monterey, too, as a number of the folks we reminisced about have passed on. That was appropriate, too, as Peter and I were at a workshop focused on singing for the dying, a workshop which he helped facilitate.

A short riff on three bits of our conversation follows. If you're new to Monterey, these names won't mean a thing to you. Bear with us, though. Try to imagine these are characters in a play, a play that's a favorite of people you love. Imagine that the play is set in one of your favorite towns, too. You'll be right on target, twice.

Millie Walsh used to run the Mobil gas station and health food store at the east end of town. Her dim eyesight brought her a faith that grew from necessity and strengthened her trust in people: When someone paid her for gas or a food item—those were the days when we habitually paid cash for such things—she'd ask us what denomination we'd just handed her, and give change according to what she was told. Most people, she had discovered, responded in kind to her open and direct simplicity. As the Shaker songs asserts, 'tis a gift to be simple.

Millie had a contagious smile, and a hug that melted icebergs. She loved to cook and organized a community program she called Food for Friends, a monthly meal served at midday (I believe) in the church community room.

Helen Shaw taught phys-ed at the Monterey School when Peter went to school there, back in the days when the building housed students through sixth grade. Peter asked me to call Helen's daughter, Judy Hayes, to find out how Mrs. Shaw learned to call square dances while seated at the piano. Judy said she remembers that her mother had a record she played to learn both the music and the calls. By the time Peter and his friends finished sixth grade, they'd all learned to love square dancing, and Peter still marvels at Mrs. Shaw's ability to call dances so keenly from the piano.

Edith Wilson was the artist who designed our town seal. She'd attended art school in Chicago before moving to Monterey. Once here, she settled into a town where she was known for the rest of her long life as one of "the girls," a title that has since been passed on to a new generation. While I was one of her hospice workers, she told me that she'd been named for Woodrow Wilson's wife, Edith, bur never mentioned any possible family connection.

Happy chatter about folks Peter and I both know who are still in town (including but not limited to: Judy Bach; Dick, Barbara, and the Tryon clan; Peter's parents, Fran and Dean Amidon, brought us full circle at the table, so I asked Peter and Mary Alice how they chose Vermont as their now-longtime homestead.

They wanted a good place to raise their kids, of course, but, as with so much in Peter's life, music settled their choice. They moved to be near an extraordinary teacher, and the rest is another page in Monterey's extended local history.

To explore the music that brought me to Rowe for the weekend workshop, go to hallowell-singers.org. (Peter is one of Hallowell's music directors as well as a gifted music arranger.) To explore more of the music that fills Peter and Mary Alice Amidon's lives, go to amidonmusic.com.

By the waters of Babylon
where we sat down
and where we wept
when we remember Zion
By the waters of Babylon
where we sat down
and where we wept
when we remember Zion

Where the wicked carry of us away
captivity require of us a song.
How can we sing our holy song
in a strange song land?
Where the wicked carry of us away
captivity require of us a song.
How can we sing our holy song
in a strange song land?

So let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in they sight,
Oh Verai
So let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in they sight,
Oh Verai

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Sandisfield 250th Birthday Celebration July 27–29

In typical small-town fashion, Sandisfield will host a weekend-long celebration featuring an old-fashioned country fair complete with pie-eating contest, three-legged race, craft demonstrations, and a host of vendors, refreshments, and entertainers. All are welcome to join in the fun starting Friday evening, July 27, and running through Sunday afternoon, July 29. Most activities take place at Carr Field on Route 57 in Sandisfield. (Look for the big red barn at 47 Sandisfield Road.)

Sandisfield is Berkshire County's largest and most rural town, with a vital history that has just been documented in a 528-page book, *Sandisfield Then & Now: 1762–2012*. Copies of the book and other 250th-commemorative keepsakes will be available during the celebration weekend.

Festivities kick off at 7:30 pm Friday evening, July 27, at the Sandisfield Arts Center with *Rascals and Others*, a community theatrical production dramatizing the "real story" of Sandisfield. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children 14 and under. Following the performance, Sandisfiield's own Lewis family, owners of Berkshire Fireworks, will put on a fitting display at Carr Field.

On Saturday, July 28 at 9 am, local and regional dignitaries, school children, soprano Jean Atwater-Williams, and the American Legion will lead the community in commemorative speeches, the pledge of allegiance, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, and the raising of the flags. Sandisfield resident Reverend Donald Peet will give the invocation.

Following the fair on Saturday, Sandisfield's Fire Department will host a BBQ at the American Legion Pavilion, followed by a dance featuring Connecticut rockabilly band Harm's Way.

On Sunday, the fair continues with the addition of Yankee Street Rods' Classic Car Show. Some of the many events planned during the weekend include an open house at local farms, a walking tour of the New Boston Cemetery, and a Clam River ramble led by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. A complete schedule of activities is online at www.sandisfield.info <http://www.sandisfield.info>.

"Fragile Landscapes" at Stanmeyer Gallery

Stanmeyer Gallery on Route 23 in West Otis is open for its third season in the Berkshires. This year, the gallery highlights photographs of the environment by *National Geographic* magazine photographer John Stanmeyer and works by special guest Ken Packie, one of the world's top wood carvers. Packie is featuring his brilliant, intricate carvings in his first gallery showing.

Packie received first place at the Husky (Husqvarna) Cup World Championship in Mulda, Germany. Towering as high as eight feet, his work is surrounded visually by large-scale photographs by Stanmeyer, who is presenting for the first time his seven-year project, Trees and Vistas of the World, in this collaborative exhibition titled *Fragile Landscapes*.

The 4,000-square-foot gallery space within a nineteenth-century renovated barn presents an astonishing, visual perspective of our fragile environment through impressionistic images, in balance with lifelike art carved from naturally fallen trees. Ten percent of all art sales will be donated to The Trustees of Reservations, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Stanmeyer Gallery is located on Monterey Road (Route 23) in West Otis, less than a mile from Tyringham Road and a short drive from Monterey and Great Barrington.

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ANDREA NUCIFORO FOR CONGRESS

Political Musings from Monterey

Not Time to Give up on Public Housing

On a recent trip to New York City, I was struck by the high-rise public housing projects. Sadly, the brick and concrete facades of these urban monoliths have become icons of poverty, crime, drug abuse, gang activity, and reduced opportunity. And while the projects are struggling in New York, similar developments in Chicago, Baltimore, and elsewhere have fared far worse. It is a problem that has been apparent for years. Beginning in the 1970s, governments reacted by demolishing the most decrepit projects and encouraging scattered-site housing, which attempts to place low-rise, small-scale public housing establishments in middle-class and affluent neighborhoods. Unfortunately, the stigma associated with urban public housing led to homeowner backlash in host communities, which made implementation of scattered-site housing too slow and inadequate to meet high demand.

Faced with the frequent failure of high-rise projects and the impracticality of scattered-site housing, policymakers have pivoted to a third option. Now, many benefits to low-income families come in the form of a subsidy which can then be used to rent privately owned apartments. However, the cheapest apartments are often owned by "slumlords," landlords who collect rent without properly maintaining their properties, becoming wealthier as their tenants' homes fall into disrepair.

How can we stop tax dollars from funding unscrupulous slumlords while still helping the people who need assistance most? We might start by recognizing that the underlying problem is *not* government-constructed high-rise housing. It is neglect and a lack of vision. Instead of stark skyscrapers built as cheaply as possible, the projects could be beautiful, architecturally inspired public-private partnerships. Instead of simply housing, the projects could be homes, with schools, community centers, businesses, and nonprofits integrated into the same structures. Instead of havens for gang activity, the projects could be desirable places to live with the addition of regular maintenance, proper tenant screening, and robust oversight.

It is imperative that we not abandon the construction of public housing, but we are on the path to doing so as a society. So, what is to be done? Step one is the realization that providing homes for those who need them is in itself thinking big. The process of building and maintaining them should be similarly unconstrained.

—Jonah Carlson

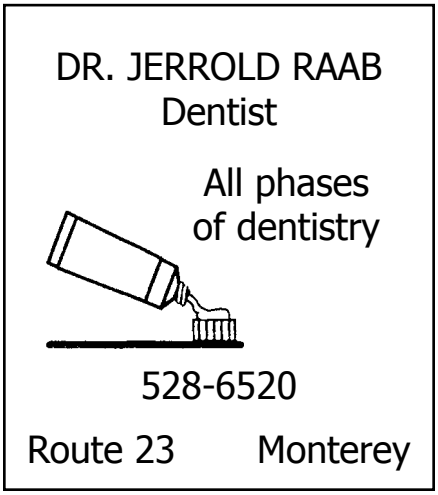
More of Jonah's musings, are at www.politicalmusingsfrommonterey.com.

Remembering James Dunlop

James E. Dunlop (Jim), 72, of Monterey and formally of Southbridge, Worcester, and Webster, MA, passed away at home on June 26 surrounded by his family. Jim was a printer for the *Worcester County News*, *Southbridge Evening News*, and Old Sturbridge Village. He later went on to work with individuals with mental and physical disabilities for The Center of Hope (The Bridge) in Webster and The Eagleton School in Great Barrington. Jim was known by many as a very compassionate, kind, and gentle man who accepted and welcomed others from all walks of life; he was deeply loved by his family and friends. His children remember fondly him bringing home disabled adults for the holidays who would otherwise have no family to spend them with. Throughout his life he studied many philosophies and religions but chose to live his life following the Buddhist values of peace and loving-kindness. He was also an avid learner, amassing a large library. In 2000 he moved to Monterey to help his father after his mother passed away.

Jim is predeceased by his mother, Gladys Dunlop, and is survived by his father, Edward Dunlop; his two daughters, Kristin and Vanessa; his wife, MaryAnn; his two grandsons, Nicholas and Joey; six siblings, Craig, Brian, Steve, Wayne, Janice, and Christopher ;and many nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

A private gathering will be held. To honor Jim's life please consider giving to your local Public Radio station or supporting a human rights movement.



Sandisfield History Book

Sandisfield Then & Now: 1762-2012, a hefty history of the Town of Sandisfield, with over 500 pages and just as many images, is now available, just in time for the town's 250th birthday celebration in July.

Author Ron Bernard spent over two years working day and night to complete the project for this anniversary year. In true Sandisfield fashion, much of the community was involved in the making of this impressive tome. Over one hundred "founding sponsors" supported the project with donations, while a committee of residents and contributing authors met monthly to discuss content, fundraisers, and marketing. Hundreds of residents met personally with the author to share stories and photographs.

A brief review of the Table of Contents shows nearly 200 pages devoted to general history with chapters on everything from dance halls, stagecoaches, and taverns to subjects unique to Sandisfield, such as the Suicide Hill ski run, famous residents, and the Baptist church turned orthodox synagogue (now the Sandisfield Arts Center). Another 300 pages cover each section of town and the historic houses within, as told through the people who lived there throughout the centuries.

Copies are available for $40 while they last. Visit www.sandisfieldthenandnow.org or call (413) 269-0012 to order.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Every Sunday: Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park.

Wednesday, July 4: Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station closed.

Thursday, July 5: Transfer Station open, 8 am–1 pm.

Friday, July 6: Historical Society lecture by Barbara Swann on diary describing life in Monterey in the 1800s, 7 pm, Meetinghouse basement. See p. 19.

Saturday, July 7:

Science show by Jeff Boyer, the Bubble Man, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Township No. 1 Day, 1–4:30 pm, Bidwell House Museum. Free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history. Many events. Free; see p. 10

Opening reception for "Verdant Monterey," summer Knox Gallery exhibit, 7 pm, Monterey Lbrary. See p. 7.

Monday, July 9:

Poetry writing course, 7–9 pm (continues every Monday for six weeks) Free, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 6.

Informational meeting on Seniors Bowling League, Town Hall, after 9 am Select Board meeting. See p. 13.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 12: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, July 14: Storytelling and music by John Porcino, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Friday, July 20: Opening reception for "Transformations," multimedia art show, 5–7 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery. See p. 29.

Saturday, July 21:

Lego robotics demonstration and workshop for kids by John Heffernan, 10 am–noon, Monterey Library.

"The Tyringham Shakers," Bidwell House Museum History Talk by Steven Paterwic, 10 am, Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham.

The Observer
May 26 – June 25

High temp. (6/20)	90º
Low temp. (6/5, 7)	43°
Avg. high temp.	76.1°
Avg. low temp.	54°
Avg. temp.	65.1°
Total rainfall	4.49 in.

Rainfall occurred on 17 days.

Tuesday, July 24: 5 pm deadline for filing nomination papers for Monterey representative on SBRSD School Committee (four-year seat). Call the Town Clerk's office, 413-528-1443 x 113, for nomination papers, information.

Friday–Sunday, July 27–29: Sandisfield 250th Birthday Celebration: Country Fair, Colonial Encampment, Classic Car Show & More, various Sandisfield venues. See p. 24.

Saturday, July 28:

Friends of Monterey Library Annual Book Sale, 9 am–1 pm, Monterey Library. Crafts and fortune telling for kids. Volunteer helpers needed.

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast, Monterey Firehouse Pavilion. See p. 7 for ticket info.

Otis Arts Festival, 9 am–3 pm, Farmington River Elementary School, 555 Main Road (Rt. 8), Otis. See p. 25.

Monday, July 30: Book group will discuss *Three Weeks in December* by Audrey Schulman, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library.

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