# MONTEREY NEWS

**April 2023 Est. 1970**
**Vol. LIII · Number 4**


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

Julie Johnston

This saves me further frustration in my lifelong pattern of tilting at windmills in a personal quest to address climate change and its environmental, cultural, and political repercussions.
How High page 20

And as I stroked his head he suddenly rolled over in one liquid turn and ever so gently took my hand in his mouth.
Remembering Coco page 18

Your local cultural council wants to be sure you know about some very special events partially funded with our cultural council funds, which we hope our community will enjoy in April.
Monterey Cultural Center page 13

It's a big deal to celebrate Memorial Day in Monterey! Mark your calendars. This year's parade is Monday, May 29.
Memorial Day Parade page 7

Everyone agreed that more trips are in order. If you are over sixty, then the CoA is your organization and we want to know where you would like to go.
Council on Aging Events page 9

Dickey quoted the statistic that it takes six-to-nine thousand caterpillars for chickadees to raise one clutch of birds. So if we want birds, bees, and caterpillars, we need to provide them with native plants to survive.
Too Much Lawn page 12

There is a nominal fee if you are making a profit, but if you live in Monterey and are just having a social gathering there is no charge.
Monterey Community Center page 10

This neglect of private ways is causing occasional damage to public ways, but perhaps more importantly may pose significant hazards to residents along those roads.
Maintaining Private Ways page 26

On Sunday, April 9, there will be an egg hunt at the library at 1 p.m. Don't be late!
Egg Hunt page 15

This means by 2070, our 1% storm will have increased to a rainstorm that dumps 14.42 inches in twenty-four-hours.
Village Culvert Project page 8

Guest: What image comes to mind when you think of the word guest? Maybe someone important, someone special, or someone visiting?
Guest: A Healing Word page 16

I've been privileged to serve on the Monterey Finance Committee these past three years and fortunate to work with Frank Abbott and Ilene Marcus to ensure that Monterey's financial house is in order. Thank you, and save us from suburbia.
Miller's Parting Words page 15

Here's the thing: you have to pay if you want the service. There really isn't a third option.
Town Meeting Topics pages 6–7

So I suggest that civility starts and ends in the mouth of each governmental official and each citizen attendee/speaker *equally*.
Civility in Public Meetings page 17

One of our other long-time summer programs is our Young History Scholar Internship.
Bidwell House Museum page 14

## Town Elections 2022

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, May 9, from noon to 7 p.m., at town hall.

Absentee ballots are available by contacting the town clerk.

### Contested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
Laura Mensi (R)
Scott Jennsen (D)

### Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Gary Shaw (D&R)
Board of Health (3 years)
John Makuc (D&R)
Bylaw Review Committee (3 years)
Anne Marie Enoch (D&R)
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
David Brown (D&R)
Finance Committee (3 years)
Jeff Zimmerman (D&R)
Finance Committee (1 year)
Ilene Marcus
Library Trustee (2) (3 years)
Judy Kamenstein (D&R)
Sam Reggio (D&R)
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc (D&R)
Parks Commission (3 years)
Chris Andrews (D&R)
Planning Board (5 years)
Mort Saloman (D)
Select Board (3 years)
Frank Abbott
Tree Warden (1 year)
Myles Pierce (D)

## Notice of Passing

Ian Ross Jenkins, of Hupi Road, passed away in Lenox on March 1, at age 81. There will be a remembrance of his life published in the May issue. Plans are being made for a memorial gathering in Monterey later in May.

—Peter Jenkins

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

# Town Elections - Candidate Statements

## Jeff Zimmerman

### Finance Committee

I'm honored to have been nominated by both the Democratic and Republican caucuses for the Monterey Finance Committee. While I have only been living in Monterey since 2020, I have been enjoying Monterey for decades, having been a frequent visitor.

For those of you who are not familiar with me or my prior experience that prepares me for this role, here are some of my qualifications and experience:

- During the last ten years I have served, or am presently serving, on finance committees (or as treasurer) for four not-for-profit organizations with annual budgets ranging from about $70,000 to $115 million. This includes the finance committee for Gould Farm.
- For twenty-two years I served as managing partner of a Connecticut mental health practice which had, at its peak, twenty professionals, administrative staff, and seven offices. Here too I was responsible for managing all the financial aspects of the organization well beyond just the preparation of the budget.
- I have served on the Monterey Bylaws Committee since its inception. This has provided me with a good understanding of some of the core principles and values that have been present in Monterey.
- I am a psychologist and trained mediator. I consult and promote conflict resolution in many different sorts of situations.

My style is to be data-based and thoughtful, distinguishing between wants and needs, while having a long-term perspective. In my opinion, it is essential to align a budget with the strategic planning and values of the organizations I serve.

I also am committed to the "Dignity Model" and will participate in town business from this perspective, whether dealing with other town officials, employees, or, of course, all of my fellow Montereyans.

I hope to be elected to serve this wonderful town of Monterey. If you have questions or comments please reach out to me at jeffzimm123@gmail.com.

Thank you.

—Jeff Zimmerman

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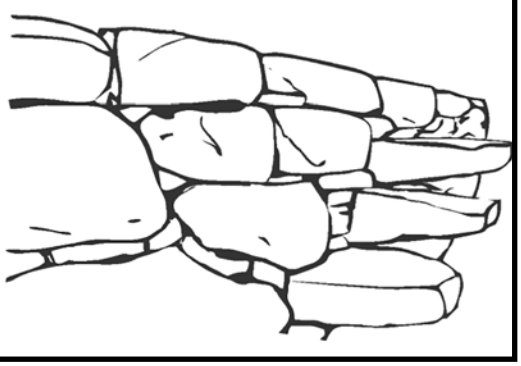

## Frank Abbott
### Select Board

I was elected in 2022 to serve on the Monterey Finance Committee. So why am I running for the select board? And why am I asking you for your support?

This last year has been very rewarding serving on the finance committee. I have learned a great deal about the town, the operations of the different departments, as well as how many committees and boards are needed to make this town "work."

I think the most rewarding part of this past year has been seeing the enthusiasm from residents who serve on these many boards and committees, almost all of whom are volunteers. Their commitment has energized me to do more. I feel I can contribute even more by being a select board member.

I have spent the past year getting to know the department heads and understanding their budgets and their short- and long-term needs. I have told them while I'm sure we will disagree on some, maybe many things, I will never be disrespectful or dismissive. I have offered to show some of the department heads how to look at data and trends in their budgets which would benefit the town moving forward. I'm not opposed to spending money, but I believe that spending decisions should be based on sound data.

I believe my skill set that makes me a good finance committee member will make me a good select board member as well. My career experiences include human resources and personnel management, managing large mechanical operations, zero-based budgeting, formulating long-term capital plans, and mentoring others.

Perhaps more importantly, I've spent my working life building consensus. I'm a good listener. I believe everyone, even those I disagree with, brings something to the table and I have something to learn from them. I listen, gather facts and data, and make decisions objectively always considering the big picture not just the immediate need or problem.

As a current finance committee member and a potential future select board member, I understand my responsibility to our residents and that I am representing all residents, some who may have different needs and wants. My role is to do what's best for the town. Sound fiscal responsibility is what the town needs and deserves. I believe my strength is not coming to the table with preconceived opinions. I want to listen to and distill what the residents want.

The challenge, not just this operating year but moving forward, is to separate true needs from wants. I believe with sound planning and teamwork (select board, finance committee, town administrator, and department heads) we can and will meet the town's needs.

I whole-heartedly support the election of both Ilene Marcus and Jeff Zimmerman to the finance committee. Both Ilene and Jeff have vast experience in creating budgets, understanding accounting worksheets and short- and long-term planning.

Please reach out to me at frankrabbott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

—Frank Abbott

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# Town Elections - Candidate Statements

## Ilene Marcus
### Finance Committee

I am seeking election for the one-year term (to finish a term resulting from a resignation) as finance committee member. I am honored to receive the nomination from both the Democratic and Republican caucasus. Thanks to each caucus for their dedication to Monterey.

I currently run a boutique speaking and consulting practice on "holding the ladder for executives moving up, down, or barely hanging on." As a Techstars Global Facilitator (leading seed accelerator), I travel the country mentoring entrepreneurs to start and scale up businesses. I have over thirty-two years of spearheading high-stakes teams at multi-million-dollar organizations managing up to ten thousand employees. I am the author of *Managing Annoying People*. I earned my Masters of Social Work from Columbia University as well as my Masters of Public Administration. I served in NYC government as special assistant to the mayor and an executive deputy commissioner. I was chief of staff for a $150 million non-profit, and have held the secretary position at the National Association of Social Workers. I have been a registered lobbyist for a large philanthropy, and taught financial management at Columbia University Graduate School as adjunct faculty for ten years, and for three years at Hunter School of Social Work. I currently sit on the Berkshire Economic Development Practitioners Group convened by 1Berkshire, and am the secretary of the board of Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires.

Over the past six years, I have served on several town committees, including the council on aging, the parks commission, and the Memorial Day parade committee (get ready—Memorial Day is around the corner!).

I'm ready to continue in a bigger role. During the past few months, serving as an appointment member on the finance committee, I've learned about our town operations. This is a tough year with our flat tax revenue against increasing supply chain and labor costs. Given my background in municipal and non-profit finance, combined with deep operational experience, I bring insight to the data and conversation that helps us build consensus on difficult decisions to keep our town finances in order.

One objective for the next term is to continue our process of implementing zero-based budgeting. (You can read my article in the February issue of the Monterey News on pages 6–7.) Zero-based budgeting is a budgeting method that requires all expenses to be justified and approved in each new budget period. This method analyzes each department's needs and costs by starting from a "zero base" at the beginning of every budget period. Zero-based budgeting requires every item in our budget to be justified, including quantity needed, price, usage, and other factors that influence the cost. Zero-based budgeting demands we examine our way of doing things and make conscious choices moving forward.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. My email is ilene@alignedworkplace.com, or call me at (917) 626-9616. Yours in service.

Thanks for your consideration.

—Ilene Marcus

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## Judy Kaminstein
### Library Trustee

Dear Neighbors,

Last year I was elected to complete a partial term as library trustee. I have now completed almost a year in this position and have learned so much about how the library operates and the work of the trustees.

With Monterey's beautiful new library building we have the opportunity to provide the community with a place to gather, access to over thirty thousand books and periodicals, and technology. The library currently serves many individuals and groups and I am excited to be part of the library's strategic plan committee which will lay out a five-year plan to meet the current and future needs of Monterey.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to participate in this work, and I hope you will vote for me to begin a new three-year term.

Yours truly,

—Judy Kaminstein

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## Sam Reggio
### Library Trustee

Hello. My name is Samuel Reggio (I go by Sam) and I would like to be considered for a seat on the Town of Monterey Library Trustee Board. I live on New Marlboro Road and have lived in town for three years now. I currently work at Guido's Fresh Marketplace in Great Barrington.

I grew up in Asby, Massachusetts, in a small town on the border with New Hampshire. My father was a select board member for a number of years, and through his experiences I am familiar with smaller New England town politics and government. I have a BA in English (2004) from the George Washington University in Washington, DC, and a Masters in Library Science from The Catholic University of America (2014). Primarily my career has been in libraries, both as a staff member in academia and in public libraries, and then one shorter stint as a professional librarian at the reference desk at the Berkshire Atheneum in Pittsfield, MA. Along the way, too, I've worked in record stores (music is a passion) and taught English in Japan. Cooking and good food are also interests, hence my current employment.

My specific library experience has been a total of four library jobs: the borrowing desk of a busy academic library in DC; the manager of a special collection—a performing arts library—for that same institution; lead staff member at the borrowing desk for the Great Barrington libraries; and finally the outreach librarian for the Berkshire Atheneum. I currently work at Guido's by choice and really enjoy being on my feet and interacting with people. My job allows me to live a nice life here in Monterey.

Clearly I would bring my years of library experience to the role of library trustee. Equally important, I believe, is that I'm an avid library user. The staff at our library know me well, and I make full use of the CWMars library borrowing system.

I choose not to have the internet at my house, so I make good use of the library's Wifi, and really appreciate it. I always tell people my favorite spots in town are the library and the Monterey Mall (aka the transfer station and swap shop).

I wouldn't say that I have any issues to run on, in the traditional sense. But I definitely have opinions and values when it comes to public libraries; how could I not, having decided to make libraries my profession? A good public library is well-used, open and inviting, and meets many community needs within the scope of its mission. I'm particularly drawn to libraries as "third places" in the Robert Putnam essay, "Bowling Alone" (1995) vein: places that are not work or home, and where civic engagement and sense of place can thrive. I also believe that tax-payers should get high-quality library services for their tax dollars.

I look forward to engaging with peers in continuing the great work that the Library Trustees already do, and to learning all I can about the management and oversight of a small town public library. I welcome questions and conversations.

—Sam Reggio

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## Mort Salomon
### Planning Board

Voters of Monterey.

I have received the Democratic nomination as a candidate for the Monterey Planning Board. Let me introduce myself to you.

I started residing in Monterey in 1984, first as a summertime renter and eventually as a homeowner. In 2020, my wife and I moved to Monterey as full-time residents. For the past two years I have served on the Monterey Board of Health, and I am hoping to find additional opportunities to serve this community and participate in municipal matters.

Professionally, I have been a physician for more than forty-five years. My clinical practice was in emergency medicine, pediatrics, and toxicology. And for more than thirty years I was the director or chairman of my department. I also hold an academic appointment as Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Over the past thirteen years I have phased out of clinical care and worked as a consultant in health care finance with a plan to retire this year.

I have no immediate experience in municipal planning. But my administrative responsibilities as a department leader in medicine has included the design and building of two emergency departments and a children's hospital.

—Mort Salomon, MD

## Help Take Down the Pavilion Skating Rink

Hey all! Spring is here and it's time to take the rink down!

Join us on Saturday, April 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the firehouse pavilion. Bring a cordless drill if you can. A two-wheeled dolly or handtruck, and a leaf blower, would be helpful as well.

—Peter Poirier

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# Town Elections - Candidate Statements

## Laura Mensi
### Zoning Board of Appeals

My name is Laura Mensi. I am asking for your support for a position on the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals. My family members have been part of the Monterey community since the 1950s. My husband and I have been fortunate to have had Monterey as an enviable backdrop in raising our four children and six grandchildren. We both feel strongly that contributing back to the town for all that Monterey has given to our family is the right thing to do. Presently I am co-chairperson of the planning board, a planning board delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and treasurer for the Friends of Lake Garfield.

I believe my past professional experiences prepare me well for participating on the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals. I have served six years as an elected member of Avon, Connecticut's Board of Appeals. Avon is a town of twenty thousand people in the Farmington Valley. I was co-chairperson during the last two years of my term. I had a career in residential real estate. As a realtor for eighteen years, I have developed proficiency in evaluating real estate values and an understanding of special permits, variances, and appeals regulated by municipal zoning bylaws. Lastly, my familiarity with our town's values and character will provide me with an excellent perspective to serve on this board.

Thank you for considering me to be a member of the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals.

—Laura Mensi

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

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# Annual Town Meeting
### Topics To Be Decided

I have done my best to present the thoughtful arguments to support the decisions of the select board and finance committee, but these are my words, not the words of the boards/committees as a whole, and this article has not been formally approved at any meeting.

## Salary Increases

This is our year to do right by the folks who work for our town. Monterey has a long history of thoughtful investment in our equipment, much of it first class, and though we wrangle at town meetings, we usually choose wisely when it comes to capital investment to make sure our town can meet the residents' needs. This year the select board and finance committee felt it was important to invest in the people who work for our town.

While we have given cost of living adjustments (COLA) in recent years, they were often below the COLA used by state and federal governments, as well as the private sector. That effectively means we were reducing salaries even if employee performance was excellent, and over time the salaries have become non-competitive. For years, we have had an employment market that favored employers, but that is no longer the case.

In a labor favored market, employers must stay competitive or lose their employees. Unemployment is at one of the lowest levels in a long time, and virtually every employer in Berkshire County is having a hard time finding staff at every level. We are raising pay rates for a number of employees because our salary ranges are not competitive for our region. For example, an entry level worker for the Massachusetts DOT is currently getting $30/hr. Many towns are losing highway workers to other towns with better pay, as well as to the DOT. We are trying to make sure that we can keep the solid employees that we are lucky enough to have, especially when you consider

that we might well not be able to replace them without paying that higher wage to the next person!

The select board and finance committee have gone through a lengthy process, carefully considering each raise, and the raises appear on the budget because we feel that they are warranted to support our town services. No one wants to see taxes go up, but everyone wants excellent services. Here's the thing: you have to pay if you want the service. There really isn't a third option.

## Part-time Employee Holidays and Sick Leave

The select board and finance committee also both support the implementation of some new benefits for part-time town employees, namely paid sick leave and paid holidays. While municipalities are exempt from the Massachusetts requirement to offer these benefits to part-time employees, we feel that offering these modest benefits to our part-time employees is a sound way to honor their service and dedication. *(Currently the town has about fourteen part-time employees, along with over twenty who provide emergency services in the police and fire departments. -Editor)*

## Short-term Rental Community Impact Fee

Short-term rentals (STRs) are proliferating all over the country and certainly here in the Berkshires. Monterey has always had a substantial part-time population, with many folks having weekend, vacation or summer homes here. But over the last few years, we have seen a shift from long-term rentals for the summer or winter months to very short-term rentals for a few nights or a week. Although these rentals are economically beneficial to some home owners, as they can charge premium rates with little risk from itinerant tenants, they may be detrimental to the community. Many of the short-term visitors have little interest or incentive to get to know the community or participate in its life. The constant turnover takes a toll on our roads and emergency services, not to mention the feeling of safety and security previously enjoyed by our long-term residents. (Talk to our fire chief about short-term renters who struggle to safely make toast. I wish I was kidding.)

Short-term rentals are essentially unregulated hotels. Monterey already has several houses recently purchased and operated by incorporated entities that are functionally unlicensed hotels. Regulating short-term rentals has become quite contentious in many local communities. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has already ruled that STRs are a business pursuit and therefore not actually legal by right in towns where businesses require a permit to operate in residential zones, as is the case in Monterey. Perhaps Monterey is not ready to regulate STRs quite yet, but at least we can ask these businesses to contribute to the cost of the services they are utilizing and for the toll the constant stream of visitors is taking on our community. I strongly doubt that folks who are paying up to $600 per night to stay in Monterey will balk at a few dollars more.

Egremont and Great Barrington have already approved short-term rental fees, and I suspect a lot of other communities will be following suit soon. The select board is recommending that the town approve a room occupancy excise tax of 6%, along with a community impact fee of 3%. The online rental platforms (Airbnb, VBRO, etc.) collect the tax, and the state will distribute the money to the town quarterly.

—Susan Cooper
Monterey Select Board member

## Don't Let The Parade Pass You By!

It's a big deal to celebrate Memorial Day in Monterey! Mark your calendars. This year's Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 29.

- Get a group of friends, neighbors, dogs, and goats!
- Who will you be standing next to?
- Will you be waving to the crowd from a vintage truck or car?

We'll all gather at the end for a celebration at the firehouse and be part of our town picture!

If you want more information or to book a spot in the parade, write to: MontereyIs175@gmail.com.

—Ilene Marcus and Tom Sawyer

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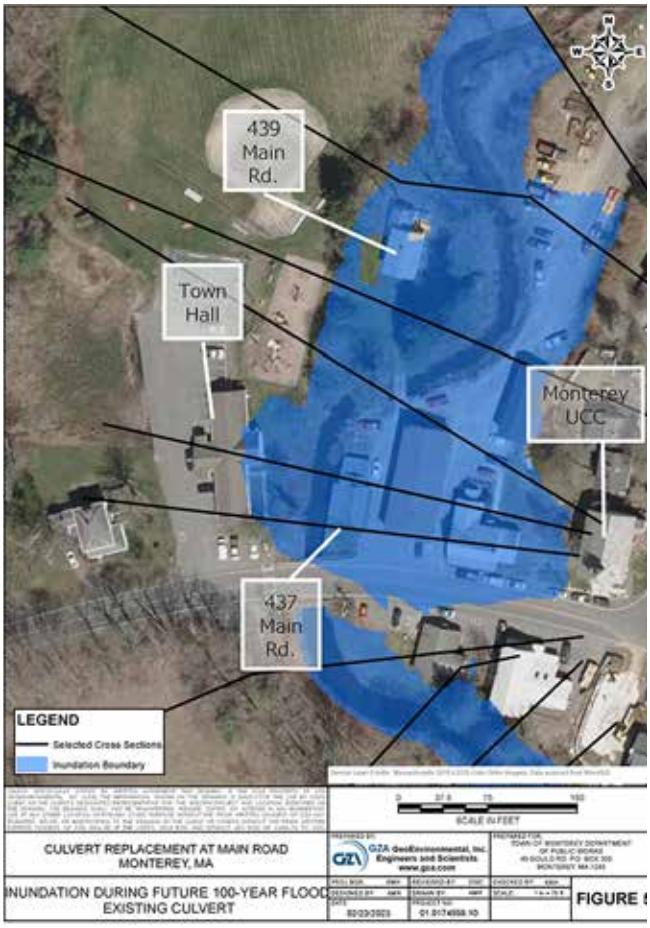
## Main Road/Route 23 Culvert Project Update

According to NOAA the Northeast has already experienced a 55% increase in heavy precipitation events since the 1950s. This trend is expected to increase as our climate warms. For many of our New England towns, infrastructure is outdated and undersized. Our culverts and drainage systems in particular are designed for a different time of steady and infrequent flood. For this reason, the Town of Monterey received a grant to study the Main Road/Route 23 culvert next to town hall. Located near critical facilities (town hall) and crossing under the major travel route through Monterey, it is essential that this structure does not fail when emergency services need to travel Route 23 the most.

In the initial study, the inundation maps were created under current storm conditions. Different sized storms are described by return intervals in years. For example, you might have heard of the five-year, twenty-five-year, or hundred-year storm. These are statistical likelihoods of a particular sized storm raining down on our town. Currently a hundred-year storm in Monterey is 8.36 inches of rain in a twenty-four-hour period. This means that in any given year there is a 1/100 or 1% chance of Monterey receiving a storm of 8.36 inches.

Climate change is expected to increase the likelihood and intensity of storms in our region. The Town of Monterey has been working with Berkshire Regional Planning and engineering consultants GZA since October to estimate the impact of future storms on the Main Road/Route 23 culvert in order to create designs that will accommodate future storm conditions. Using climate prediction models and NOAA data, our hundred-year storm is expected to increase more than 70% by volume. This means by 2070, our 1% storm will have increased to a rainstorm that dumps 14.42 inches in twenty-four hours. If the culvert were to remain the same, future floods would inundate much of the area upstream between town hall and Tyringham Road, the basement of town hall, as well as most of the road. The culvert failing would leave nearly twenty homes, the town hall, and the fire house without water as the water lines are located under the culvert. The inundation map here shows flooding caused by a hundred-year storm in 2070 given predicted increase in precipitation if the Town did nothing and kept the current culvert (titled "Current Culvert during Future 100-year Storm").




*—Map by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.*

The past study of the Main Road/Route 23 culvert replacement explored three alternatives. The scenario selected was replacement of the culvert with a twenty-five-foot span. A twenty-five-foot open bottom bridge meets the state's "Road Stream Crossing Standards" and reduces severe flooding. Most notably, culvert replacement is predicted to save the town hall from flooding. What's more, it completely passes the future twenty-five-year storm with little impact on surrounding properties.

In the coming months, the town will be working with engineers to finalize replacement design plans. Stay tuned for opportunities to learn more both here and at public presentations later this spring. If you have any questions feel free to contact me as the regional environmental planner helping with this project at cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org.

### Earth Day Activity

Monterey Native Plants Working Group is hosting an Earth Day event at the Monterey Community Center on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join to learn about some of the environmental initiatives in Monterey. I've been invited to speak about an exciting volunteer opportunity to restore the vegetative buffer at Bidwell Park which lost a large number of trees to two micro-burst storms in 2022.

—Courtney Morehouse
Berkshire Regional Planning

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## Council on Aging

The council started our spring season with sixteen of us visiting the Clark Art Institute, and as usual, the museum did not disappoint. We enjoyed a docent tour of the permanent collection, lunch, and some additional time enjoying the grounds and sunshine. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie on the van and agreed that more trips are in order. If you are over sixty, then the CoA is your organization and we want to know where you would like to go.

Monday, April 17: April's lunch will be closer to home—our very own community center, on Patriot's Day. See below for more details.

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

—Kathryn Roberts
CoA Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

*From our visit to the Clark Museum in Williamstown. Photos by Kathryn Roberts.*

### Events

**Monday, April 3:** Monthly council board meeting, in town hall, from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town website. All are welcome.

**Wednesday, April 12:** Movie night in the Monterey Library, at 7 p.m. We will be showing the 2023 new release, *A Man Called Otto*, starring Tom Hanks as a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around. Refreshments will be served. (Movie night is always the second Wednesday of the month.)

**Monday April 17:** Patriot's Day bag lunch at noon in the community center. We will try to stream the Boston Marathon during lunch, and please linger after to share cell phone tips with each other! Lunch will be catered by Barrington Bagel. Please RSVP to Kathryn at the email or phone number above, and feel free to specify menu preferences if you would like.

**Thursday April 20:** Wellness check continues at the community center, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tritown Health nurses will check blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen level. Flu and Covid vaccines will also be available. No appointment necessary. For those who are homebound and unable to come to the community center, please call Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209 to arrange for vaccines at home.

**Wednesday April 26:** Documentary film at 2 p.m., in the community center. *My Life as a Turkey* will be shown. The film describes how Joe Hutto raised a brood of wild turkey hatchlings from birth to adulthood. He describes how he learned their language and was impressed by their instincts and native intelligence. The council will serve light refreshments.

### Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Tuesday, April 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. (note change in usual week and day) in the Monterey Library. Richard Pargament began our APDA-approved support group in October 2021. He and Roberta Weiss always provide a kind, compassionate, and informative two hours. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call the Council on Aging at the number above if you'd like more information about the program.

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

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

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running, or on your bike are available in town hall for walkers and bikers.

## Monterey Community Center News

Wishing you all a very happy spring, as we enjoy the sunny equinox. Just as new life will be springing up in your gardens in Monterey and the surrounding woodlands, we have new programs we are looking forward to offer to you.

The community center works hand in hand with the library and other community groups to find the best ways to serve you. Our mission is to enhance the artistic, cultural, social, and recreational life of Monterey. Lately, we are getting more instructors contacting us who work in the health and wellness field and more folks interested in wellness classes. As you read on, you may get an idea about something you would like to do, learn, or teach at our intimate pastoral setting. In the recent past, besides two ongoing and different music groups, we have held five concerts, two support groups series, and three yoga groups. We have also held lectures, health clinics, painting groups, small craft fairs, and much more. You don't need to be a coffee drinker or a mahjong or bridge player to find something you like here.

Though we are a relatively small venue we have held several birthday parties, a family reunion, a baby shower, and two celebrations of life. There is a nominal fee if you are using the MCC and making a profit, but if you live in Monterey and are just having a social gathering there is no charge.

### Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly activities

**Mondays:** Simple Meditation—all are welcome. Bring a cushion for comfortable sitting, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (new time)

**Tuesdays:** Chair Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Tuesdays: Mahjong,** 7 to 9 p.m.

**Tuesdays and Fridays:** Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 5:** Renewable Energy Working Group, at 6 p.m. First Wednesday of the month.

**Wednesdays:** Tai Chi with David Crowe, at 10 a.m. $30 fee for the month.

**Thursday, April 6:** Darn Yarners, at 10 a.m. First Thursday of the month.

**Thursday, April 20:** Wellness Check, 2 to 3 p.m. Third Thursday of the month. With Tritown Health nurses. Checkups include blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. No charge for Monterey residents, no appointment needed.

**Alternate Thursdays:** Chorus, April 13 and 27, at 4:15 p.m.

**Fridays:** Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email jamesboneparth76@gmail.com.

**Alternate Fridays:** Support group for people with diabetes. April 14 and 28, at 11:15 a.m.

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

**Alternate Saturdays:** Art sessions for painting and drawing with Margaret Buchte. April 22 (not meeting April 8), 1 to 2:15 p.m. There is no fee. For details and materials, please email margaretbuchte@gmail.com. Please register (see below).

**Saturdays:** Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m. No ping- pong on April 8.

**Sundays:** Al Anon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. Sunday, April 2, Thursday, April 20, and Thursday, May 4. from 6:30 to 9 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments and singers. If you are interested. Please contact Mark Andrews at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

### April Events

**Saturday, April 1:** Spring Renewal, with Sandrine Harris, 11 a.m. to noon, $10 cash/check. A fluid mix of brief guided mediations, conversation and reflection, and quiet time to embody renewal, an experience of remembering the energy and possibility of new growth in spring. Register through MCC, see below.

**Thursday, April 13:** Yoga Nidra, with Nancy Monk at 6 p.m. An easy, pose-free way to slow down and recover from the stressors in your life. By donation. To register, email nancyamonk@gmail.com. (See page 13.)

**Sunday, April 16:** Empowered Herbalism, with Angela Highsmith (at right above) at 1 p.m. Herbal remedies

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to ease our transition into spring. Learn how to create simple remedies that build wellness while enjoying a cup of herbal tea. For more information about Angela, go to beautifulsentience.com. $20 fee. Register through MCC—see below.

**Friday, April 28:** Transformational Breathwork, with Antonia and Roger Vanoro, 5 to 6:30 p.m. A combination of deep rhythmic breathing, vocalization, self massage, and energetic movement. Please see our website (ccmonterey.org) for more information and to find a link for registration through Calendly. Suggested fee $30.

**Sunday, April 30 and May 7:** *Shodo*: An introduction to the art of Japanese calligraphy. On April 30, Writing with Ink; on May 7, Painting with Ink. Sessions run from 1 to 2:30 p.m., $10 fee. Michelle Arnot (above), who holds a license in this art from the Japanese Calligraphy Society, will guide. Register through MCC—see below.

Please see our full calendar online at ccmonterey.org.

If you have questions about an event, want to use the space, or would like to register for a program, please call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

## Pavilion Update

We were allocated (or promised) roughly $75,000 by a federal ARPA grant through the select board recently but this is a more complex process than just installing a wooden pavilion. We need to do some site work, add an ADA-approved walkway, and add another toilet (at right), plus improved parking. It will increase our permitted occupancy. We are working on this with stakeholders and professionals to move forward but it does involve fulfilling these necessary requirements. Stay tuned.

We will have a tent again this summer. Thank you.

—Mary Makuc and Nancy Kleban

## Finalist for MCC Pavilion 2nd Bathroom

Pros:

- Available 24/7
- Can be made ADA compliant
- Low maintenance
- Excellent airflow
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- Within project budget

Cons:

- Too close in summer
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## Page Dickey's Presentation
### "To Much Lawn"

It is no secret that pollinators such as bees, birds, and butterflies have gradually been decreasing from our landscapes. The good news is that we can do something about it. On March 13, the Monterey Native Plant Working Group sponsored a talk at the library by well known garden designer, author, and lecturer Page Dickey, who provided ideas on attracting pollinators based on her three decades of experience in the gardening world. As our neighbor in nearby Falls Village, CT, she is familiar with the local landscape and has come to the conclusion that we have "too much lawn," which provides nothing for the pollinators to thrive. In her talk, she shared ways in which we can easily become the pollinator-friendly town we committed to at our last town meeting.

Her first suggestion was to reduce the amount of lawns on our properties. Now you might be thinking, "I don't want to get rid of my lawn" and you don't have to, but you might consider reducing some parts of your lawn and letting it return to its wild native ways, or cutting it less frequently, or leaving some parts of it higher to provide a nice contrast with the closely mown grass. While a nice green lawn is lovely to look at and provides a play area for children and animals, it comes with some drawbacks. Turf grass has very shallow roots and therefore needs to be watered more frequently. It needs

to be mowed frequently which creates a large carbon output, not to mention the expense of keeping it up. And, it provides no nourishment for butterflies and birds, who need bugs and caterpillars in order to survive. Dickey quoted the statistic that it takes six-to-nine thousand caterpillars for chickadees to raise one clutch of birds. So if we want birds, bees, and caterpillars, we need to provide them with native plants to survive.

So does this mean we have to give up our beloved roses, dahlias and other flowering favorites?

Absolutely not! But by planting some native plants in our gardens, we are helping to create a pollinator pathway for those important critters who depend on them. Native plants are not all that uncommon and you may already have some of them in your gardens. Dickey cited coneflowers, yarrow, butterfly weed, bee balm, baptisia, ironweed, and Joe Pye weed as common natives available at most local nurseries. If you really want to make the pollinators happy, plant some aster and goldenrod (no, it does not make you sneeze, that's ragweed) which entomologist and ecologist Doug Tallamy refers to as " nature's great gifts to native life." It's not hard to do and can make a huge difference in our ecosystem.

Many thanks to Page Dickey for sharing her knowledge with us and helping Monterey to become a better habitat for those indispensable pollinators.

Coming up in April, there is another Backyard Ecologist talk, moved from the usual second Saturday of the month to Saturday, April 22 to align with Earth Day. The speaker will be Courteny Morehouse, Senior Environmental Planner with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, who will be discussing the Bidwell Park buffer project. We will learn about the trees, shrubs, and plants that will be installed there, as well as volunteer opportunities to help with this project. Displays and materials to help create pollinator gardens on our properties will also be available. More details will be forthcoming about this event on the Monterey-Community Google group, and on the Google group Pollinators01245@gmail.com. In the meantime, please save the date, April 22, for this special event.

—Laurie Shaw

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## Monterey Cultural Council
### April Events

Your local cultural council wants to be sure you know about some very special events partially funded with our cultural council funds, which we hope our community will enjoy in April. The cultural council is funded with money approved at town meeting, and by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Saturday, April 1, from 10 to 11 a.m., in the Monterey Library, Don Barkin will lead a discussion on some of the poems of Robert Frost. A month later in May, the focus of the discussion will be Emily Dickenson. Closing the series, Hartford poet Wallace Stevens will be the focus on June 3.

In nearby Housatonic, Pulse Studios offers Moving Life Stories. In Great Barrington, Berkshire South Community Center continues to offer free weekly musical activities for adults: Berkshire Sings! and Berkshire Ukulele Band (BUB).

Over in Sheffield, Dewey Hall presents a variety of themes and performers each week. Programs include Jazz Jam Sessions, TapRoot Dances, Use Your Words, and Young at Heart; you can get more information on their website, deweyhall.org.

Feel free to reach out to any of us for more information, or to help spread the word about events others may enjoy.

—Maggie Barkin, Janet Jensen, Erica Stern, Dorene Beller, Carole Clarin, Stephanie Sloane, and Barbara Dahlman.

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## Free Reiki Healing Sessions

Nancy Monk, certified medical Reiki master, and her students, who are in her master's program, will offer free reiki healing sessions at the Monterey Library on Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reiki is a Japanese form of stress reduction and relaxation that promotes healing. The idea is that energy flows from the practitioner's hands into the client. It is based on the idea that a "life force energy" flows through us and is what causes us to be alive. If one's "life force energy" is low, then we are more likely to get sick or feel stress, and if it is high, we are more capable of being happy and healthy.

A session feels like a glowing radiance that flows through and around you. The experience is very soothing and results in the client entering a wonderful state of relaxation in which one's worries and cares seem to melt away.

Reiki promotes relaxation, stress reduction and symptom relief to improve overall health and well-being. It can:

- Foster tissue and bone healing after injury or surgery,
- Stimulate your body's immune system,
- Promote natural self-healing,
- Relieve pain and tension,
- Support the well-being of people receiving traditional medical treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation, surgery and kidney dialysis.

Reiki complements other types of medical and therapeutic treatments, and it can increase the efficacy of other types of healing.

Your reiki practitioner will invite you to lie fully clothed on a massage table or sit in a chair. The practitioner gently place their hands on or slightly above your body as they travel from head to toes with the intention of moving energy.

This reiki master's program group is predominantly Berkshire Medical Center hospital staff looking to incorporate this healing modality in their personal and professional lives.

Come Join Us!

Pre-register at nancyamonk@gmail.com, (203) 685-2104. Space is limited.

Nancy Monk has been working in many healthcare settings, starting the Serenity Stations for staff at Yale New Haven Hospital. She has a private practice in Monterey and at the Healing Nest in Norfolk, CT. Nancy has been working at Berkshire Medical Center and at Fairview providing sessions to staff and patients as well as providing sessions pre, post, and during surgery. She also teaches Reiki I and II and master's level programs.

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## Bidwell House Museum

Springtime can be wonderful, once mud season passes us by, but as the sun gets warmer each day, we can all look forward to the glorious summer season that will be here before we know it.

Over the last few months the Bidwell staff and board of directors have been busy creating a delightful slate of programming for this summer and we are excited to share a preview this month.

Saturday, May 20: Have you ever wanted to reach out and touch history? Talk to figures from the past? If so, stop by the museum on Saturday, May 20, between 1 and 4 p.m., for our special season opening event where you can meet "George and Martha Washington." They will be receiving visitors all afternoon while enjoying the Bidwell House Museum gardens. The 3rd Massachusetts Regiment will also be in attendance to drill and share their experiences as soldiers in the War for Independence. There will be cookies and lemonade in the carriage barn; and the gardens and grounds will be just beginning to bloom! This event is free for members and $20 per person for non-members. During the week following this program, the museum will host a special series of member house tours before the official start of guided tours on Memorial Day. Members are invited to come to the museum on May 22, 25, 26, or 27 for a guided tour of the house without an appointment. Tour times will be 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. on each of those days.

*The Washingtons gossiping in the morning.*

Beginning in June, the museum has even more wonderful programs planned, including:

• Saturday, June 3: A Zoom history talk titled "Navating New England Fashion & Politics During the Revolutionary Era, 1760s-1770s."

•An in-person history talk at the Tyringham Union Church on June 10th titled "An Easy Air: Dress and Performance in the Long 18th Century."

•A guided walk on June 13 with Russ Cohen to look for wild edible plants on the Bidwell grounds.

•"The Army on Campaign," a 1770s "Living History" event at the Bidwell House Museum on Friday through Sunday, June 23 to 25. Reenactors will be onsite all weekend setting up camp, giving historical talks and participating in tactical demonstrations.

All of this is just what we have planned through June! We have much more coming up in July and August, including our summer fundraiser "Party Gras" which will be happening at the museum on Saturday, August 19, from 4 to 7 pm. For more information about all of the Bidwell House events, head to the museum's website (bidwellhousemuseum.org) for descriptions and tickets.

### Volunteer to Help

To keep the museum and all of our programs running we depend each year on a number of dedicated volunteers. This year we are looking for people to help with our "Living History" reenactment weekend in June; to do some weeding and mulching work in our gardens; to help plan our summer party on August 19; and occasionally lead house tours. If you are interested in volunteering at the Bidwell House this year, contact the museum at 413-528-6888, or bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

One of our other long-time summer programs is our Young History Scholar Internship. The museum is looking for three or four interns for June through August who are interested in learning about history, giving tours and helping with events. Each internship lasts forty to fifty hours, has a stipend, and the hours are flexible. If you know a high school or college student who loves history and is looking for an enlightening summer experience, contact the museum at the phone and email address in the previous paragraph.

Last but not least, just a reminder that the museum gardens and grounds are open every day, year-round, free of charge. Don't forget, spring means mud, so if you are planning a visit and have any questions about the condition of the road, call the museum at 528-6888, or check for updates on the museum's Facebook page.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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## Knox Gallery in April

Celeste Watman's *Reuse/Revision* is currently on exhibit at the Knox Gallery. Watman is an Otis resident who did her graduate work in library science at Long Island University, and lived on Long Island for several years before retiring to the Berkshires.

The artist's collages are composed of a variety of materials—photos from magazines, decorative paper, text, old books. Some are three-dimensional, which is not surprising, since she professes an early influence from the works of Joseph Cornell, especially "his unusual use of images and objects assembled in a wood box." She took off from this inspiration, and the learning she had acquired from studying art history, and began creating her own wood box, mixing materials and constructing a few more, but later moved solidly into two-dimensional collage. Her work suggests narrative and interest in texture, image, juxtaposition, and marking. She combines different sizes of known forms in new configurations and situation.

*Reuse/Revision* will be on view through April 29, followed with an exhibit by Carol Diehl opening on May 5. Please keep a lookout early for e-blasts and posters for more information on Diehl's Show.

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

—MaryPaul Yates

## Egg Hunt

On Sunday, April 9, there will be an egg hunt at the library at 1 p.m. Don't be late! The parking lot will be blocked off, and yellow tape will mark the boundaries of the search. We will hope for good weather, but there will be a hunt regardless. Bring your own basket or bag.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for sponsoring this and all that they do for the library!

—Mark Makuc

## Letters

### Michele Miller's Parting Words

Friends,

I've been privileged to serve on the Monterey Finance Committee these past three years and fortunate to work with Frank Abbott and Ilene Marcus to ensure that Monterey's financial house is in order. We worked to create strong capital and budget planning policies at the request of the select board and agreed on the guidelines we developed with them.

We were most disappointed when select board rushed through two capital projects with ARPA money without giving them the same scrutiny required of any other capital expense in town. At the annual town meeting you will be asked to approve a number of these capital expenses, but you will never have an opportunity to weigh in on a $100,000 playground or an $85,000 pavilion at the Monterey Community Center. The finance committee asked the parks commission to scale back the project and use some of the funds for the ball field or other priorities they asked for in their budget. The answer was no.

It's a disservice to us all to commit large sums of "free money" without oversight or a plan B. Entities in town, be they public or public-private partnerships, should be transparent, inclusive, and accountable as they rely on town funding.

Monterey will be fortunate to have Frank Abbott join the select board, and I feel confident that Jeff Zimmerman will build on the foundation we have put in place this year.

Thank you, and save us from suburbia.

—Michele Miller

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## How "Guest" Became a Healing word for Me

I was a guest from April 2006 to November 2007. Being a guest altered the course of my life and steered my path towards getting my GED during my time at the Boston program and graduating cum laude from college with a bachelor's degree when I returned home. I came back to volunteer for a summer five years after leaving. It was like nothing had ever changed though there were plentiful fresh faces. The Gould Farm community evolves yet stays recognizable due to its core values like calling residents guests, and including them as active community members.

—Elizabeth,
former Gould Farm guest

*Guest*: What image comes to mind when you think of the word *guest*? Maybe someone important, someone special, or someone visiting? The first thing I found curious upon my arrival at Gould Farm was the title I was given—guest. I thought to myself, "What an unusual place I have landed?! A place where my mental health diagnosis makes me a guest? How silly and strange!" At Gould Farm, the word *guest* is reserved for a resident or person receiving care. To my dismay, I realized I now had a new title. And *guest* would be the term used throughout my entire stay to describe my place in the community and I would learn to call others like me guest. In the year I spent at Gould Farm and the seven months spent at their extended program in Boston, I would learn what it meant to be a guest at the one-hundred-plus-year-old therapeutic community in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts.

At first, there was much confusion over who was who of the ninety or so people who call Gould Farm home; moreover, who is staff, a staff family member, a volunteer, and who is a guest. I became initially a bit overwhelmed having to differentiate who is who as a newcomer to Gould Farm's community. Little did I know this is Gould Farm's intention: to integrate the guest with the staff member, or family living on site, or volunteer, to reach an all-inclusive community. I wish I would have seen this beauty at first, the blurring of the community members' roles, but by the time I left it was ingrained in me that I was part of a community just like everyone else. It didn't matter that I was a guest and someone else was staff—it's what we were working together for. In retrospect, I think of those first days when I knew few people, and what a colorful community was at my fingertips where I had an important role too—just unknown to me.

*Francie, Jess, Brenda, Mike, and Liz sing in the dining room —one of our rituals during morning meeting.*

Eating together has a long history of embodying life in a community setting, and Gould Farm sticks to this community ideal. Nowadays, meals are buffet style. However, during my stay, they were occasionally family style. In the late afternoon, napkin rings with name tags attached to them were carefully placed at assigned seats across the dining room. In the past, this was done by a Gould Farm notable who lived on the Farm until she was quite elderly. Everyone in the community had a napkin ring and always received a new place to sit during family-style meals.

The Farm has a set of weekly meetings as check-in points with the community. These take place in the homes where guests

live, during breakfast, and with a weekly community meeting. These are like the oil and gears of the community "machine." This gives the guest time to bring up issues within the community and more importantly appreciate those in the community. This is where a stuffed animal named George comes in. George gets passed weekly through the community to show a sizeable appreciation to an individual who then keeps him for a week and gives him away the following week to another deserving member.

Changing how I was addressed did matter, and it changed what I thought of myself. When I thought of myself as a guest at Gould Farm it stripped away an ugly diagnosis and pieces that weren't me and were never me. They were labels simply put upon me. I was free to simply enjoy my time at the Farm without seeming like I didn't belong. *Guest* became a healing word for me. It also reminded me my stay was temporary. Being a guest equalized the playing field and elevated the title of those like me that needed a lift in dignity. I felt respected.

No one at the Farm ever talked down to me because I was a guest or devalued my opinion because I was a guest alone. I always felt like an equal member of a community. I remember speaking to guests about other guests and it was revolutionary how ingrained this term is by everyone on the farm alike. If we were "patients" I'm convinced the Farm would have an entirely different feel and it wouldn't have added dignity to my name. It would put me in an inferior position and back in a box I'd been stuck in too long.

Gould Farm changed my life and it changed how I viewed myself. It made me see the role I played in a community. It equalized what I had to give. I wasn't just receiving services. There was give and take. The work programs allowed me to contribute to the community by cooking and baking in the kitchen and working with the public at Roadside Cafe. At the end of the day, I learned words matter. What I called myself mattered. In a world where you can be anything, "guest" is an affirming title to hear.

You can find Elizabeth on Instagram at @wordsholdhope where she posts encouraging content as a "twenty-two-year survivor of bipolar, depression, and anxiety."

—Submitted by Stephanie McMahon

## Letters

### Civility in Public Meetings

A very recent decision of Massachusett's highest court may be of considerable interest to Montereyans in light of our difficulties over the past several years in conducting our governmental meetings.

The MA Supreme Judicial Court in Barron v. Town of Southborough said: *"Although civility, of course, is to be encouraged, it cannot be required regarding the content of what may be said in a public comment session of a governmental meeting* without violating both provisions of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights, which provide for a robust protection of public criticism of governmental action and officials. *What can be required is that the public comment session be conducted in an 'orderly and peaceable' manner*, including designating when public comment shall be allowed in the governmental meeting, the time limits for each person speaking, and rules preventing speakers from disrupting others, and removing those speakers if they do." [emphasis added]

The Court recounted that when the Southborough Select Board chair tried to cut the plaintiff off as she berated the board for repeated violations of the MA Open Meetings Law, Barron repeatedly called the chair a "Hitler." That's when he lost his temper and threatened to have Barron physically removed from the meeting room.

If read quickly, one might conclude that the Court has forbidden all civility codes applicable to governmental meetings.A closer reading suggests that a very narrowly drafted civility code might pass muster. (Keep in mind that, for many, calling someone a "Hitler" is no minor matter.)

So I suggest that civility—which the Court said should "*be encouraged*"—starts and ends in the mouth of each governmental official and each citizen attendee/speaker *equally*. Monterey (and every Massachusetts town) needs civility in all its town meetings and, if individual governmental officials fail to model civility themselves, the ballot box is the ultimate solution.

Sincerely,

—S.L. Wallach

## Appreciation for Our Highwaymen

I would like to thank Jim Hunt and the highwaymen for the amazing job they did during the March storm. Getting through the storm would have been more difficult to impossible without their dedication and hard work. By Wednesday, our roads were clean and ready for driving.

We are fortunate to live in a town where we help each other.

On a personal note, I would still be stranded if not for the help they gave.

—Cheryl Zellman

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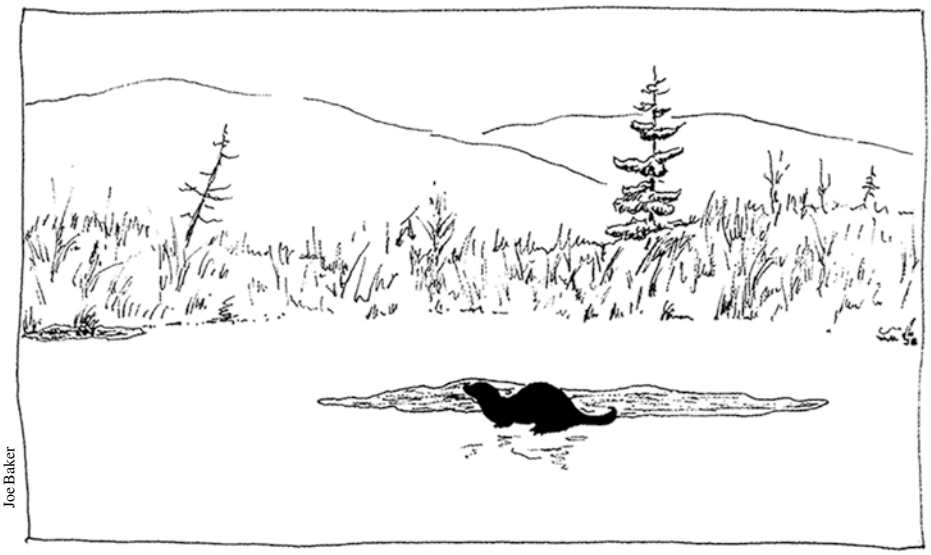
# Watching Otters, Remembering Coco


Joe Baker

This is April, spring is jumping out all over, and for many it is a time of mating, of egg-laying, of nest-building, of birth. The otters around here are bringing "pups" into the world, usually two or three per mom. There is a pond just east of our place where I have been watching adult otters for some weeks. They have been easy to see, dark against the ice, where there are several open "blowholes," as I call them. Sometimes there would be three big adults, just lolling near the hole, then one or two would slip down into the water. Maybe all three would vanish.

In only twenty seconds one or more would pop back up, often all the way out onto the ice, bringing a fish or crayfish to eat, for a picnic. In short order, that snack would be gone. Maybe the otters would sit and visit awhile, but more often, back they would go, one after another, to the grocery store under the ice.

Sometimes I would get to the pond in early afternoon and it looked like the otters had been out of the water for awhile, maybe drying out in the sun a bit, looking more silvery. But when they first come up out of the water they are gleaming black. As the days went by, I wondered how long the food supply would last. So far it has been a few weeks.

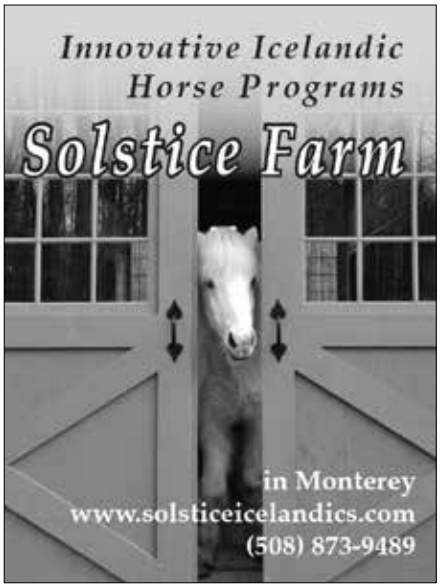
Otters are mustelids, members of the same family as weasels, skunks, martens, fishers, badgers, and the big wolverines. All these animals eat meat, and for otters this is mainly fish, but also frogs, crayfish, shellfish, turtles, snakes, birds, and birds' eggs. They hunt in the water, where they are faster and more agile than any fish. Both front and hind feet are webbed and the big males may weigh twenty-five pounds, with a total length of nearly five feet. Of this the long strong tail is a foot or a foot and a half.

When the ice is gone and an otter is out in open water wanting to look around, he can poke his head up and tread water, sometimes just using those strong hind legs and feet so the head, neck, front legs and chest are up above the surface. This is the periscope in the long body design. Though otters are supreme athletes, they do not look built for life on land. To be fifty-four inches long and only nine inches at the shoulder seems like it would involve dragging the unsupported middle. But "dragging" is not the word!

On land or on ice or snow, otters can travel fast by tobogganing. They take a few running steps and then launch themselves forward, front legs back at their sides. In the snow you can see where they have given another surge by pumping with the hind feet. Run and slide, run and slide. They love tobogganing down a steep hill into water, especially on a clay riverbank, and develop favorite "slides" where they return for fun. Observers and writers say that whenever they have watched otters at play like this, on a bank slide, it has never been a solo otter. Rather there are always two or more, playing together.

Otters are particularly playful and sociable, throughout their lives. In his 1909 *Life-histories of Northern Animals*, Ernest Thompson Seton writes:

"It is the rule for young animals to play together, and occasionally the full-grown will indulge in a good-natured sham fight or a chase, for sport, but this is >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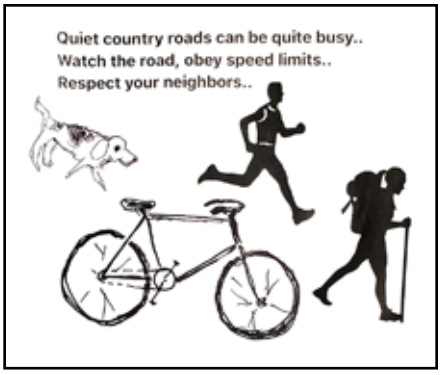


*A driving reminder from Marc Gordon and Cheryl Zellman.*

the only case I know of among American quadrupeds where the entire race, young and old, unite to keep an institution that is not connected in any way with the instincts of feeding, fighting, or multiplying, but is simply maintained as amusement."

Some people, one way or another, have had an otter for a pet. I am of a generation lucky as a kid to have come upon the book *Ring of Bright Water*, by Gavin Maxwell. I fell in love with otters before I'd ever seen one. Years went by and I was in Mexico with my two young children, riding in the back of a pick-up truck on the way to a river trip. The truck stopped at a café/house and a man came out with a furry animal in his arms. "Coco!" he said, "*un perro de agua*."

This was a half-grown otter and the next thing I knew he was in my arms, snuggling, nuzzling into my elbow. He was like a kid in a sleeping bag, horsing around, only the sleeping bag was his own dense coat.

I held his webbed hind foot and it was soft and delicate and warm. His foot was impossibly sensitive. I was so moved by this I didn't know what to say, but he put me right at my ease with some of his "jokes," like this: "Ur…ur….urrr (snuffle!) Mm, mm, ur… ur…ur…urrrr!" And as I stroked his head he suddenly rolled over in one liquid turn and ever so gently took my hand in his mouth. Coco held my hand, explored my fingers, flattered me with his attentions and good manners. In the end I had to give him back.

Gavin Maxwell the writer, Seton the biologist and artist, and Coco *perro de agua*, I thank you. You still speak to me and make me smile, like the otters down the road from here.

—Bonner McAllester

## Remembrance
### Patricia Andrus

Patricia Ann Andrus, 89, went home to the Lord on Tuesday, February 28. Patricia was born on January 12, 1934 in Albany, NY, to Helen Hanley. She moved to Long Island at an early age and was raised by her mother and her aunt, Irene Kenny. Patricia graduated from Saint Agnes in Rockville Center on Long Island and continued her education at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, NY receiving a nursing degree.

After graduation, she moved to Monterey, during which time she was employed as a nurse at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. She met Thomas E. Andrus and the two married on May 3, 1958. Together they raised five children: Thomas, who married wife Kathy and whose children are Melissa and Max; Susan with her husband Ken; Daniel, whose children are Daniel II, Nicole, and Ukiah; Richard and wife Denise and their children, Lauren and Hunter; and Jon and wife Heather and their children, Morgan, Rene, Ashley Alison, and Felicity.

Patricia also was a great-grandmother to Octavian, Olivia, Xavier, Everett, Indie, Lotus, Freyja, Jackson, Ivy , and another due in May 2023.

In 1980, after raising her children, she returned to Fairview Hospital working in the maternity ward until her retirement. Patricia was proud to assist and see all twelve of her grandchildren born. Patricia was also an organist at Immaculate Conception Church and Our Lady of the Valley. Her interests included teaching piano, horses, gardening, and painting watercolors and oils.

Patricia was pre-deceased by husband Tom, and son Thomas.

Mass was held on March 8 at Our Lady of the Valley in Sheffield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fairview Hospital, Hospice, Monterey Library, or Our Lady of the Valley Building Fund, all in care of Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Condolences may be made through the funeral home's website.

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## How High?

Various aspects of climate change have captured my attention for most of my life. In 1971 I moved to Monterey with a dream of sustainable independence, latter-day homesteading.

In *Monterey Lights the Way*, the 1980 chronicle of a fire-drill energy contest, filmed by John MacGruer and Mickey Friedman, I am one of the talking heads extolling my hippie ideals. At the time, my wife and I lived off the grid on our woodland clearing with a garden, chickens and pigs, self-employed at work we loved to do.

I installed a small Pelton wheel turned by a jet of water piped from a spring way up the hill, making seventy-five watts of continuous power, stored in a bank of lead-acid batteries at my woodworking shop. The system never amounted to much. I lit a few lights and topped off the fuming batteries for long enough to dislike the chore, akin to cleaning the chimneys of messy kerosene lamps at the house. Eventually we got grid electricity just like everyone else.

As the new millennium dawned, I learned that a standard-issue diesel engine can be modified to run on vegetable oil. I still remember the moment: I could drive carbon neutral on restaurant waste? Take that, megacorporate oilman! Heal, climate! I took up the challenge, and bought a diesel behemoth that originally belonged to the US Army, vintage 1986. I drove it a hundred thousand miles over fourteen years; maybe 70% of those miles ran carbon neutral on waste restaurant oil. (The system was dual-fuel: start on petro diesel until the engine coolant is warm enough to thin the veggie oil to fuel consistency, then switch over, switching back before shutting down for the next cold start.) My exhaust smelled like french fries.

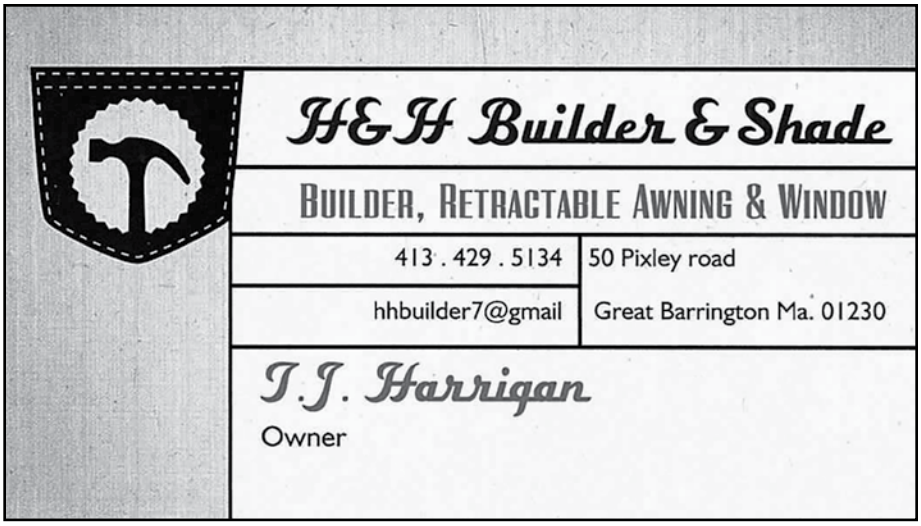
Electric cars, with one-tenth the moving parts, now make a mockery of the Rube Goldberg contraptions that all internal-combustion engines really are, let alone my ancient diesel with alternative fuel system. I sold my truck last fall to a friendly guy from New Hampshire who drove down in his late-model Dodge Ram with club cab, towing a big trailer to take my truck to its new home. He allowed that he would not run it on veggie oil; he was into the military thing, and this was his boy toy. I sold my large stash of restaurant oil to a couple of guys making biodiesel, and nailed my first and last vanity plate, SGTVEG, to the wall. I am getting along fine without a truck. I have a nifty roof rack and a trailer hitch on my VW Golf. With a little judicious coasting, I get over 50 mpg driving downhill into Great Barrington, even in winter.

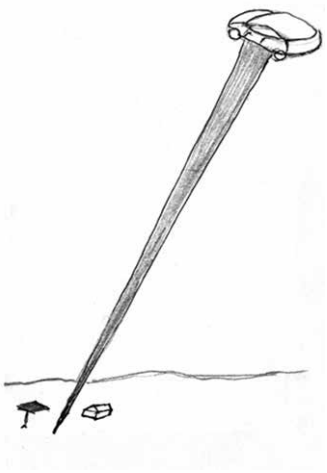
Do you see a pattern?

Lately, I learned of lifted-weight energy storage. It can do the work of lithium batteries useful in countering the intermittent nature of electrical generation by solar panels and wind turbines. When generation exceeds demand, use the electricity to lift a weight; when demand exceeds generation, let the weight down to generate more electricity. The concept gave me that old thrill: here was a clean way to solve a problem using simple, proven technology (electric motor, winch) while eliminating harmful side effects (mining lithium and cobalt).

In my role as chairperson of the Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group, I have learned that Monterey is most likely to have the greatest clean energy impact by encouraging dispersed, small-scale solar panel installations. Our best bets are extensive residential photovoltaic arrays, and a few installations on the roofs of large municipal buildings like the firehouse, pavilion, town garage, and salt shed. At least, that's the current focus of the working group.

Although there are a few large-scale, lifted-weight energy storage projects worldwide, involving dormant mine shafts, giant towers, or cog railways, there is nothing at residential scale. I suspected that simple physics made small scale impractical, but was curious about the details. Myah Shostek shared my curiosity. (Myah is the student leader of the year-long examination of clean energy in Monterey, a UMass Clean Energy Extension initiative.) We put the question





to her professor Ben Weil. With expert ease, he did the math: using my 5.5 kW residential system, I would have to lift my car 180.5 feet vertically, then let it all the way back down to generate enough electricity to run my fridge for an hour.

The calculation provides a comically absurd illustration which has killed the concept of lifted-weight energy storage at residential scale, once and for all, in my mind. This saves me further frustration in my lifelong pattern of tilting at windmills in a personal quest to address climate change and its environmental, cultural, and political repercussions.

In my youth I might have lamented a shift from outlier crusade to mainstream effort. The romance of Don Quixote, Sancho Panza, and Rocinante criss-crossing Spain from one hilarious adventure to the next is hardly lost on me. At this stage, however, what we need is maximum measurable results, an effort from every group and person—the academy, government, business, individuals. If consensus on the consequences of climate change is broader than ever, reaching agreement on next steps remains a challenge as we continue to refine schemes for human homesteading on the only planet we have.

—Peter Murkett

## The American Crow and The Fish Crow

The American crow is one of the most widely distributed and recognized birds in North America. According to naturalists, there are more crows in this country now than when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. Their success is due in part to the fact that they take good care of their young and are very clever in defending them against numerous enemies. With spring coming on, the American crows are returning from their winter gathering places. During winter they gather in huge flocks so they can roost safely and warm near municipal heating systems and in the warmer air flows above rivers.

In my illustration I show a fish crow left behind all winter in the seaside cold and snow on Little Bay in Fairhaven, MA. The fish crow is slightly smaller than the American crow and hard to separately identify. One difference is they make a muted crowing, "urk, urk, urk" compared to the American crow's loud "caw, caw, caw."

The population of fish crows is increasing and their habitat range is spreading further north, inland up the rivers away from the coasts. They have become much more common for bird watchers in recent years.

All crows can recognize certain people and they remember how they've been treated. They also have a habit of collecting a treasure trove of shiny objects on the ground near their nests that they enjoy turning over to brag about from time to time. They can also imitate a range of human sounds, like a child crying, a hen clucking, or a rooster crowing at the rising sun at dawn. Males are skilled in courtship with females in flight as they both do acrobatics to demonstrate the relationship together. Henry Ward Beecher once remarked that, "If men had wings and bore black feathers, few of them would be clever enough to be crows."

Crows have earned a crafty, albeit bad reputation among humans as a thief and robber by stealing eggs and baby birds from nests. However, when they see a hawk or an owl about to do the same thing, they call together more of their kind to dive loudly from above to mob and drive the predators out of the area. The bad reputation of crows sometimes appears in children's literature of fables and legends in the form of almost supernatural scheming to find a way to get what they want. On the other hand, some Native Americans' stories feature crows as tricksters, teachers, or symbols of great importance.

—George B. Emmons

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# Monterey Historical Society News for April

**History Talk postponed to April 20**

The "Third Thursday History Talk" scheduled for March 16 was postponed due to the after-effects of the snowstorm, and it has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m., at the library. Barbara Swann will talk about Montereyans who fought in the Civil War. Don't miss it.

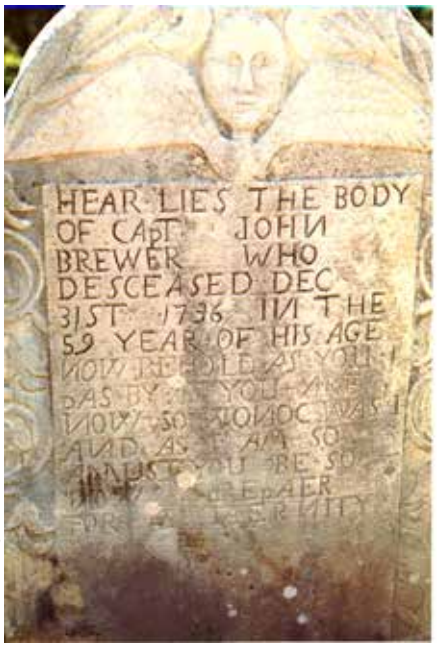
But if you can't be there in person, the talk will be videotaped and made available for viewing a few weeks later. We'll send out an email to the Google group with the link. Hopefully in the next few months, the Monterey Historical Society will have a website set up to host these links for remote viewing and other resources. Please contact Rob Hoogs if you'd like to help with this project.

## The Brewer Family of Monterey

We have been very pleased with the response to the monthly talks as well as these historical articles in the *Monterey News*. Several readers have sent us inquiries and information about their ancestors' history in Monterey. One of these was from a descendant of Capt. John Brewer, which stimulated a research effort to learn more about him and his family and their role in the formation of the township.

You may have read the "cliff notes" version of Capt. Brewer's story:

The proprietors voted June 8, 1739, "that Mr. John Brewer shall have the saw mill lot containing 75 acres, on the condition that he build a good saw mill and




RobHoogs

HEAR LIES THE BODY / OF CApT. JOHИ / BREWER WHO / DESCEASED DEC$^{R}$ / 31$^{ST}$ 1736 IИ THE / 59 YEAR OF HIS AGE / ИOW BEHOLD AS YOU / pAS BY AS YOU ARE / ИOW SO WOИOC WAS I / AИD AS I AM SO / AMUST YOU BE SO / ИOW pREpAER / FOR AETAERИITY

grist mill." Brewer signed the agreement and took the grant to build the saw mill within six months. He further promised "to keep it in good repair and to saw as cheap for 20 years," and also "to build a grist mill within two and one-half years." In 1739 he moved to Township No. 1 and the next year he carried a pair of millstones from the east at his own expense and built a grist mill as well as the saw mill on the outflow of Twelve Mile Pond, later called Brewers Pond (now Lake Garfield). The foundations of the mills and an old stone dam at the site of Brewer's upper mill dam survive behind the Monterey General Store and library in the village.

Captain Brewer's name appears in the proprietors records as being employed to obtain lumber for the first meeting house. He was appointed collector for the proprietors. In March 1750, he was selected as part of a committee to lay out a burial ground, today the Woods Cemetery on Beartown Road. (His tombstone [above], erected six years later, marks one of the earliest burials in this cemetery.

About 1750, he built a much larger house on the north side of the main road and began operating it as an Inn. The Captain John Brewer house remains today and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (The house on the corner with Eaton Road was formerly owned by the Makuc family, and currently by Kevin West.)

Captain John Brewer and his son, Lt. John Brewer, provided much of the sawn lumber for colonial period houses constructed in Tyringham and Monterey. Brewer's first dwelling was located on the hill in the center of the Y of the Sandisfield-Monterey Road. During the French and Indian War, the proprietors at a meeting held August 2, 1744, voted £67 to fortify said township, and the money was used to build three forts (stockades) around the dwelling houses of Mr. John Brewer, Mr. Thomas Slaton, and Mr. Josiah Watkins. The timbers from the old "Brewer's Fort" were reportedly taken down about 1820 and used in the construction of part of the James M. Fargo farmhouse (now the Thorn house to the east).

That much of the story is true, but fails to really tell us much about Capt. Brewer and his family. It's an interesting story, and we'll tell a little of it below, and more in later installments.

Capt. John Brewer was born in 1697 in what is now Weston (then part of Watertown), near Boston; Watertown is where many of the original proprietors of Township No. 1 lived. John was the third child and first son of seven children of Lt. John Brewer (1669-1709) and Mary Jones (1672-1729). Young John was only twelve years old when his father died at age thirty-nine.

The inventory of his father's real estate described "his homestaff in Sd. Watertown containing .. both Land &

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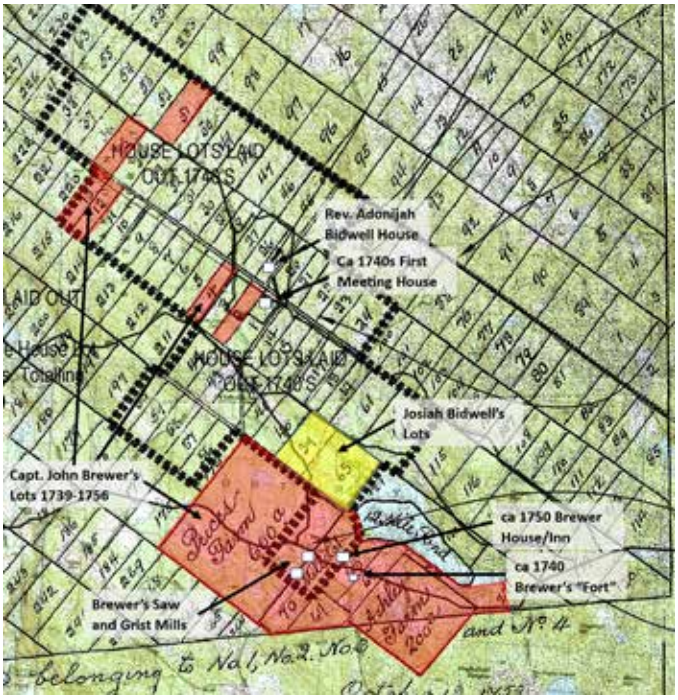
Medow, one Hundred & sixteen acres .. with ye Mansion house, & One Barne. One Grist Mill, Half a Sawmill, with ye streams, fences, privileges & appurtenances." The real estate was appraisedatawhopping £300. The total of his estate amounted to £533:05.00. One third of this was distributed to his widow; the other two thirds was divided among the sons, including Capt. John.

So he got off to a good start in the family business of saw mills, grist mills… and real estate. He married in 1718 in Lexington to Hannah Merriam. (Hannah's father Robert Merriam later became a land owner in Township No. 1.)




*Proprietor's Map of Township No. 1 showing Extent of Land Holdings by Capt. John Brewer and his brother, Josiah Brewer. This map only shows the "Home Lots" and not their holdings in the "After Division Lots."*

Capt. John and Hannah had three children in Weston/Watertown, then moved to Hopkinton about 1724, where they had at least eight more children. (A few of these died young.) The last of their thirteen children was Col. Josiah Brewer, born in Township No. 1 in 1744, presumably in the "Brewer Fort." Col. Josiah lived in Tyringham for the rest of his life, dying here in 1830, age eighty-six.

Capt. John Brewer died here Dec. 31, 1756, aged fifty-nine. During the seventeen years he lived in "No. 1" he bought several thousand acres of land in the Township, in addition to the original approximately seventy-five-acre mill lot. He owned virtually all the land south of the lake and from the Konkapot River north to Beartown Road. John's younger brother, Josiah Brewer, was a Proprietor and owned several other lots in town.

The attached map is highlighted to show the land the Brewers accumulated by the mid-1750s.

Capt. John also bought land in New Marlborough, Pittsfield, and Lanesborough, apparently as investments.

Upon his death, the land was inherited by his wife and eight surviving children. Three of his daughters married some of the other first generation settlers: Abigail Brewer, married John Chadwick, Mary married Isaac Garfield, Hannah married William Hale. Among others, his grandson Eliab Brewer married Theodosia Bidwell, daughter of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell.

The Brewer family tree that grew here in Monterey has spread far and wide!

We'll have more of this story and other founding families in upcoming issues. Let us know if you have family history stories you'd like to share.

## Join the Historical Society

We have received many new and renewed memberships; if you haven't already joined, we hope you will. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An Individual Membership is only $15, Family Membership is $25.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support.

—Rob Hoogs, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

ॐ

## Remembrance

### Carol Stalker

Carol Stalker of Monterey passed away peacefully on February 27, in the Sharon Hospital in Connecticut. Her heartbroken best friend of forty years, Maureen, was holding her hand as she took her last breath.

Carol lived in West Stockbridge as a very young child. But after living in Great Barrington, then New Marlborough, she settled here in Monterey, her forever home. She loved Lake Garfield, especially when paddling in a kayak.

She loved walking the dogs. She loved all animals. She loved gardening. She met and loved some really nice people. She was genuinely happy.

Carol leaves behind a sister in Great Barrington, a daughter in Oregon, and her ex-husband of New Marlborough.

She also leaves behind her best friend and companion, Maureen Regan, who deeply, deeply mourns her passing.

—Maureen Regan

# Wildlife Report, the Wilds of March

March was a month of birds and mammals of all sizes. Bonsai Cox has been hosting mourning doves, including some on the ground enjoying birdseed and one just outside a rainy window. She got a lovely photo of this one (below).

Tim Spitzer spotted a bald eagle soaring above the place where Sylvan Road comes out near the town beach and took a handsome photograph (below).

After that big snow we got, he and Beth (Hoffman) were visited near their house by a barred owl, sitting in the sun against a big pine trunk, and took a photograph (right above).

Earlier in the month Janice Madden-Coon sent a lovely picture (at right) of a cottontail rabbit in snowy foliage, and writes that this is "Spot" who "knows his name and comes when called." Down on New Marlborough Road, a mink visited

Rocky Greenberg and Susan Popper and they got a good picture, also of its very clear tracks in a little skift of snow on their porch. Like other members of the weasel clan, mink have five toes. Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen saw a larger member of this family and think it must have been a fisher, also along New Marlborough Road. This must be the place to go walking to see wildlife. Rocky and Susan saw a glorious bobcat in the same neighborhood and took some good photographs (at right).

The otters were up on the ice east of here, day after day, more weasel family members. (See page 18 for an account of these.) At the same pond two broad-winged hawks were carrying on vocally just before joining up on a good branch of a dead pine. There will be eggs and little hawklets pretty soon.

*The mink and its tracks.*

The wild turkeys are crossing the roads and foraging wherever there is bare ground. Wendy Jensen saw fourteen of them recently. And here on Hupi Road Annabel Edelman watched an interspecies birdseed picnic, attended by Pogo the possum and Pepe the skunk, perfectly happy to be lunching right next to each other. She took a photograph (at left, bottom).

Julie Johnston, with a positive approach to that plentiful, heavy, wet snow we got in March made a smiling snowman up on Cronk Road and watched as a group of turkeys went strolling nearby. She says this snowman is not a scare-turkey, obviously. (See the photo on the front page.)

Kit Patten tells of a group of seven white-tailed deer, more at one time than he has been seeing lately. These were crossing Route 23 up-slope from the Stevens Pond neighborhood.

Here on East Hupi, we are still feeding the birds, with no bears honing in just yet. There have been more nuthatches than usual, both the larger white-breasted ones and the small red-breasted variety with the fancy eye-stripes.

Drive carefully on wet nights. This is the time the salamanders will be traveling, risking all to get back to their natal ponds for courtship and egg-laying. Then these adults will become terrestrial again until next spring, and the little "tadpole" or larval salamanders will hatch out in the water and enjoy their juvenile lives for a short time until they must grow up and crawl ashore.

Thanks, folks, and happy spring to all.

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

*Two last minute photos: An otter with a fish on Lake Garfield, and an eagle eyeing that fish.* *Photos by Marc Holzer*

## Remembrance
### Richard Nault

Richard E. Nault, 92, of Great Barrington, died Monday, March 20, at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. Richard was born on February 8, 1931 in Great Barrington, the only child of Medric and Catherine Nault. He attended local schools, graduating from Searles High School in 1948. He then attended the University of Notre Dame, played trumpet in the various school bands, and obtained an engineering degree in 1953.

Following graduation, Richard was employed by Hamilton Standard in Connecticut and Dallas, TX. In 1960, he moved to Honeywell's Aerospace and Defense marketing unit in Los Angeles, CA, and subsequently, to Clearwater, FL and Washington, DC. After a temporary assignment in Tehran, Iran, he transferred in 1980 to Honeywell International at their headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, where he was charged with locating, interviewing, and signing local business agents to assist in pursuing and conducting aerospace business interests in Western Europe, Scandinavia, the Middle East, and Israel.

In 1980, he and Pauline Faucher, also of Great Barrington, were married. He retired in 1987 and returned to the Berkshires, where he had "never found a better place to live." He had retained the family summer cottage on Lake Buel in Monterey and shared seasons with a winter home in Dunnellon, FL, where the dispersed family gathered for vacations. In 2013, he settled full-time back in Great Barrington, completing a full circle.

Richard enjoyed classical music and individual outdoor sports of skiing, sailing, golf, tennis, fishing, and hiking. He was particularly proud of having successfully conquered Mt. Damavand, an 18,600-foot extinct volcano in northeastern Iran without oxygen. He was dedicated to his daily single martini cocktail at 6 p.m.

Mr. Nault had four children with a previous marriage to Marilyn Middendorf of Quincy, IL. He is survived by his second wife, Pauline, as well as three children: Kathryn Nault Pendley and Andy Pendley of Eagle, ID; Michael Nault of Pinellas Park, FL; and Thomas

and Vickie Nault of Southport, NC. There are seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren presently dispersed throughout six different states and Morocco. A daughter, Peggy Guillory of Boise, Idaho, succumbed to cancer in 2002 at age forty-three.

A funeral mass was held on March 28 at Saint Peter's Church in Great Barrington. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Richard's memory may be made to Fairview Hospital in honor of the Emergency Department, in care of the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Condolences may be made through the funeral home's website.

—From *The Berkshire Edge*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Town Seal by Edith Wilson

## Select Board Corner

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

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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Scott Jenssen
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(scott@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us."

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

## Microphone Handlers Needed

Volunteers needed to carry microphones to speakers at our annual town meeting. If you are interested in volunteering and are able to move around on your feet for a few hours, please notify the town administrator or the select board. (Contacts listed inside back page.) Monterey Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 9:30 a.m., May 6.

—Justin Makuc
Chair, Monterey Select Board

## Maintaining Private Ways

Dear Residents,

It has come to the attention of the Monterey Select Board that some private ways (roads) in Monterey are suffering from inadequate maintenance. This neglect of private ways is causing occasional damage to public ways, but perhaps more importantly may pose significant hazards to residents along those roads.

The select board feels it is important to remind residents of private ways that the poor condition of some private ways may seriously jeopardize life and property in the event of an emergency. Poor maintenance of the road may bar access to or significantly slow response time of emergency vehicles and personnel in the event of an emergency, including fire, EMS, police, and ambulance services. This delay, or in some cases complete lack of access, could result in both loss of property and loss of life.

The second issue is that in a number of recent instances, the poor maintenance of a private way has caused damage to and/or obstruction of a public way. The strong storms of recent years with their consequent heavy runoff and tree falls have caused damage to roads all over Monterey, and this trend is likely to continue. The select board urges all residents of private ways to prudently consider how their road is being managed. It is not acceptable for a private way to cause damage to a public way, nor is it acceptable for those responsible for the private way's maintenance to refuse to accept responsibility for the damage caused by their negligence.

We understand that the joint maintenance and ownership of a private way can result in difficulties with its maintenance. Many of Monterey's private ways are very well maintained because the residents of those roads have successfully worked together to ensure that their homes are accessible for themselves, their guests, and emergency personnel. Unfortunately, not all private ways have benefitted from adequate oversight, planning, and investment.

We strongly urge those living on private ways to find productive ways to come together to maintain the private road that serves their dwellings. This is undeniably the best, most prudent, and most cost-effective approach to this problem. We urge all residents who live on private ways to step up their efforts to repair and maintain the condition of the private road that serves their home, themselves and the emergency personnel they may call upon.

Sincerely,

—Monterey Select Board

## Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

**528-3211**

## Town Contact Information

**Emergency! 911**
**Town Administrator:**
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
**Building Department:** 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
**Community Center:** 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
**Fire Department** (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org
**Highway Department:** 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
**Library:** 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
**Police Department** (non-emergency)**:** 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
**Post Office:** 528-4670
**SBRSD** (Schools): (413) 229-8778
**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

## Calendar

Monterey Community Center (MCC) events on pages 10–11.

**Saturday, April 1:** Don Barkin discussing poems of Robert Frost, 10 to 11 a.m., library. See page 13.
**Sunday, April 9:** Egg hunt, 1 p.m. Don't be late! Library. See page 15.
**Wednesday, April 12:** Council on aging movie showing, library, at 7 p.m. *A Man Called Otto*, starring Tom Hanks. See page 9.
**Monday, April 17:** Patriot's Day bag lunch, noon, in the community center. See page 9.
**Thursday, April 20:**
Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m., MCC. See page 9.
History talk, "Montereyans in the Civil War," 7 p.m., library. See page 22.
**Saturday, April 22:**
Earth Day, 11 a.m. Program with Courteny Morehouse, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Bidwell Park buffer plantings. See page 12.
Reiki healing session, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. See page 13.
**Wednesday, April 26:** Documentary film at 2 p.m., MCC. *My Life as a Turkey.* See page 9.
**Saturday, May 6:** Annual town meeting usually beginning at 9:30 a.m. Details to be decided.
**Tuesday, May 9:** Annual town elections. See page 2.

**MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Online worship is available on the Lenox website blog:**
**lenoxucc.org/blog**
**Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor**

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

## Monterey News

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

*The hubcap pancakes will be a little delayed now! Roadside 2.0 being prepped.*
*—Photo taken Monday, March 27, by Maureen Banner.*

PLAY GROUP

**South Berkshire Kids Playgroup**
Monterey Library

**Thursdays,** 10 to 11 a.m.

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

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS
MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education

## Contributions in March

Ann Vetter
Susan Weiner & Chris Aidun
Michael Zisser
Karen Allen
Dennis & Elaine Lynch
John Callahan
Robert Adams
Claire Dosick
Cathy Draper & Michael Clain
Frank Gurtman
Mady & Marc Holzer
Bonner McAllester & Joe Baker
Lee Myers
Jane Lang
Sara & Jim Martin
James Pearson, Jr.
Christa & Ian Lindsay
Ellen Pearson
Loyal Perry
Sheila D'Nodal,MD & Joseph Quagliata
Kari Weil & Michael Roth
Margy Abbott
Rob & Cindy Hoogs
Judy & Bruce Kaminstein
Nancy Kalodner
Delight and Paul Dodyk
Nanette Hucknall
Andrew Somers
Elaine Abrams and Jeffrey Zitsman

Thank you to these early contributions for our annual fund appeal.

**MONTEREY NEWS**
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Monterey, MA 01245-0009

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## Transfer Station
## Fall thru Spring Hours

(Until Memorial Day weekend)

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

## MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 1:30–5 p.m.
Thursday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 4–8 p.m.
Friday..... 4–8 p.m.
Saturday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
..... & 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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corashirerealty@gmail.com

REALTOR®

*Nancy Dinan, founder*

215 State Road, Great Barrington, MA
Call for an appointment to see our Monterey listings
Member of MLS.

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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*George Emmons, p. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 18,*
*Peter Murkett, p.21.*