

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



*...we offered a prompt -- From Dr. Seuss: "You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's no limit to what you can do."* Holiday Show p. 7

*...the question of what will become of our meetinghouse once we dissolve has been a pressing one for me.* From the Meetinghouse p. 8

*What is the sound of thunder on a clear day?*  
Fifth Annual Chestnut Roast p. 10

*If it's possible, welcome everyone to the table to sit down and feast. Just let your heart open*  
Thanksgiving Pantoum p. 14

Cover photos (clockwise): *Harvest Moon* by Rob Hoogs, *Pet Parade* by Lin Saberski, *Halloween at the Library* by Rosemary McAlister.

## Town Meeting Announcement

There will be a special town meeting  
Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 1:30  
p.m. in the fire house at 411 Main Road.

## Standard Time "Falls Behind"

Sunday, November 3, at 2 a.m.



# MONTEREY NEWS

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The *Monterey News* is an independent non-profit 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](mailto:montereynews9@gmail.com) or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates, or other information, contact the editor at the email above.

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## Fire Fighting Public Service: Fire Fighters are in Demand

Observing fire fighters we often see the physical side of their work. We hear the siren from off in the distance, we hear the truck roar by, watch them put out fires, or save people from disasters of all shapes and sizes. An intangible, something you can't see on the outside, but might be an important piece that makes them, is dedication. Pure and simple dedication to a job that fewer and fewer people across Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and the county as a whole are doing. That fewer and fewer people are becoming firemen in Monterey as the work of can take a toll. This is something I've noticed and talked with others over the past months since I've been at this job, and on Monday, October 21, I got to see a tiny piece.



Shawn Tryon

*Firefighters at a recent brush fire.*

I was in a meeting with select board member Susan Cooper, Fire Chief Shawn Tryon, and Deputy Chief Chris Tryon.

We were talking about the fire department and how things are going and what they saw for the future of the Monterey Fire Department. Much of the conversation had, and has, dealt with the few fire fighters in Monterey and their ability to answer calls. More and more of the calls that come in are being answered by the same six to seven fire personnel. These are not full-time fire fighters but all have jobs in or close to Monterey that allow them to drop what they are doing and head to the fire station. The interesting part about the six or seven fire fighters is that some of them are reaching a point in their fire career where they will have to stop. In this instance, as we were meeting around the table in the fire station, a call came over dispatch for New Marlborough Fire. Like I've seen at other times, both the Tryons tweaked their heads to listen, noticed it was for New Marlborough Fire, and continued on in our conversation. About 10 minutes later dispatch came on again requesting Monterey fire department head to the same call that came in for New Marlborough, not because of the severity of the call, but because New Marlborough Fire could not put enough of their fire fighters on the call. In a heartbeat Shawn and Chris were away from the table and heading to the fire truck bay. As they were going out the door Chris shouted if I wanted to ride along and who could say no to that. So up into the fire truck I went. While I was getting myself settled Chris was searching an app

# Monterey Lights the Holidays

## Community Lighting

# Saturday November 30

## 7 pm

## Outdoors at the Monterey Library

[montereylightsholidays@gmail.com](mailto:montereylightsholidays@gmail.com)

Monterey Cultural Council  
Monterey Community Center



on his phone to see if any other on-call fire personnel were available and I could hear Chris saying name after name of fire personnel that weren't available when all of sudden Del Martin came running up to the truck with his gear and hopped in. Off we went with Shawn Tryon already on his way in the Command Car and me, Del, and Chris at the wheel right behind.

Shawn Tryon



*MFD mid-operation in Monterey.*

I wish I could tell you about heroism in the face of danger, or the humanity of helping someone in desperate need, saving someone in a treacherous situation, or even reaching the destination and saving the proverbial cat in the tree. Instead we

got six or seven minutes down the road and dispatch radioed and said that we should head back to the fire station. That New Marlborough Fire eventually ended up sending fire personnel to the scene and so back to the station we went. So here we had three people, dedicated to something that is inherently dangerous but without hesitation will move towards that danger, back at the fire station and getting back to whatever they were doing before. The real story here is that some of the people that make up the Monterey Fire Department are not going to be here doing this for much longer. Those people are the six or seven who consistently, call after call, without hesitation, dedicated to the safety of the citizens of Monterey are no longer doing what they do. Someday dispatch might be calling another town's fire department to come to Monterey because we don't have enough fire fighters to answer the call. How we deal with this is a big question, and the answer, I'm sure, won't be quick and easy.

—Roger McDonald  
Town Administrator

## Veterans Day in Monterey

Veterans Day is Monday, November 11, and the Monterey events begin at 10 a.m. at the library with coffee and pastries provided by the council on aging. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. The town is invited.



*Veterans Pat Solomon and Julio Rodriguez at the 2023 festivities.*

## Town Meeting Announcement

There will be a special town meeting Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the fire house at 411 Main Road.

### A Friendly Reminder

Since the start of this year when the Pantry reorganized itself as a Massachusetts not-for-profit corporation, the pantry has been independent of the Monterey Church—although, thanks to the church, the pantry continues to operate from the church's basement.

Financial contributions directly to the pantry are welcome and may be made either by check mailed to Monterey Pantry PickUp Inc., P.O. Box 363, Monterey, MA 01245, or visit our website at [www.montereypantrypickup.org](http://www.montereypantrypickup.org) and hit the "donate" button. As a Massachusetts not-for-profit, the pantry is now recognized by the IRS as eligible for tax-deductible donations under Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3).

—For the Monterey Pantry PickUp Team and its 40 volunteers,  
*Thank you!*



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## A Modest Proposal



Peter Murkett

HESP Solar, a company based in New Jersey, has responded to a Request for Proposal (RFP) written by the Renewal Energy Working Group (REWG). HESP submitted plans to build a

Community Shared Solar (CSS) array on the parcel of town-owned land at the corner of Gould and Curtis Roads, where the town's closed landfill is located. This is a pivotal development in the years-long effort of the REWG to have our town do its small part in transforming the vast, outdated, environmentally harmful US energy infrastructure.

The task is replete with technical, bureaucratic, and legal details. This excerpt from an article on the warrant for the imminent November 2 Town Meeting will give you a taste: Voters will be asked "to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Power Purchase/Net Metering Credit Purchase Agreement and Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement [PILOT] with the owner and operator of a Community Shared Solar PV System and Battery Energy Storage System selected to lease a portion of the parcel of land owned by the Town of Monterey located at 40 Gould Road..." etc. etc.

I will do my best to tell the story without going too deep into the weeds.

HESP is the only company to submit a bid among thirty or so who reviewed our RFP. By commercial standards the project is small, only half a megawatt. But building a solar array on a former landfill is a particular niche in the industry, and HESP currently has a landfill project under way in Lincoln, Massachusetts. This provides valuable experience with state requirements.

Voters may consult two documents (in addition to the warrant article) available in print at the town offices, as well as on the town website. One is a summary of progress following the RFP issued last July, with headings such as Background,

Conceptual Design (including a map locating solar panels on the site), Conceptual Design Details (including capacity in kilowatts), and Pricing Metrics (money). It was prepared with the help of Beacon Integrated Solutions (our professional consultant, paid thanks to a successful REWG grant application to the Massachusetts Dept. of Energy Resources, acronym DOER, awarded in 2023). Beacon prepared this summary to facilitate a Zoom meeting with HESP principals. Topics include "synergies and timing for collaboration with Gould Farm...National Grid Active Resource Integration Pilot Program...Community Solar Program Opportunity."

The second (and inevitably redundant) document is a memo dated October 10, offering background and next steps, and seeking approval of the select board to "conditionally award the project to HESP Solar." The select board approved, and the warrant article quoted above was likewise drafted and approved. With voter approval on November 2, "the REWG... will "[c]ommence strategy and planning discussions with HESP Solar and National Grid for distribution system requirements and participation in an electric distribution pilot program."

Parties to negotiations are the Town of Monterey, HESP, and National Grid (our local utility). The "electric distribution pilot program" is a condition required by the utility due to the near-saturation of the Rising Substation circuit which supplies power to Monterey. There is already so much locally generated solar power on the circuit upstream of Monterey that the utility can't handle any more without restricting future large-scale developments. The estimated cost of necessary improvements to the Rising Substation circuit is \$50 million, a prohibitive cost for any solar project to bear alone. The National Grid "electric distribution pilot program" is an innovative endeavor whereby a new array may be added to the crowded circuit provided the developer agrees to restrictions on its sale of electricity under certain conditions related to power supply and demand.

(Note that this pilot program is distinct from the PILOT—Payment in Lieu Of Taxes—which the town must negotiate

with HESP to account for the developer's lease of untaxed municipal land.)

What happens next? With voter approval of the warrant article, HESP and the Town, with Beacon's assistance, will negotiate terms of a lease and PILOT agreement. This will set the stage for negotiations with National Grid, leading to terms of an agreement whereby electrical power generated by the solar array (owned and built by HESP) on the former landfill will be permitted to flow on National Grid's transmission lines. Some of that power, as well as its clean energy benefits, will go to the "community" as defined by DOER. With those details resolved, parties can address siting the panels precisely, for approval by the state Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Then, if all goes well, HESP can begin its installation, and National Grid can string the necessary new three-phase lines from Route 23 to the corner of Gould and Curtis Roads. It will all take years, as it has taken years to get this far.

There is also a prospect that Gould Farm may decide to install their own solar array adjacent to the town's CSS on the closed landfill. Voters recently approved a zoning bylaw that allows the ZBA to waive setback requirements along a property line where a large-scale solar array is proposed on adjacent lands separately owned. Any increase in overall generating capacity near the landfill increases efficiency and revenue for a developer, which, in turn, improves the economics for the Town.

Got all that? Bring your comments and questions to Town Meeting Saturday, November 2, at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. Voter support will, in time, lead to financial and clean energy benefits to the Town of Monterey, as we plan for a municipal solar array on the closed town landfill.

—Peter Murkett, Chairperson  
Renewable Energy Working Group

## Monterey Village Historic Buildings

### Potential Historic District Public Informational Meeting

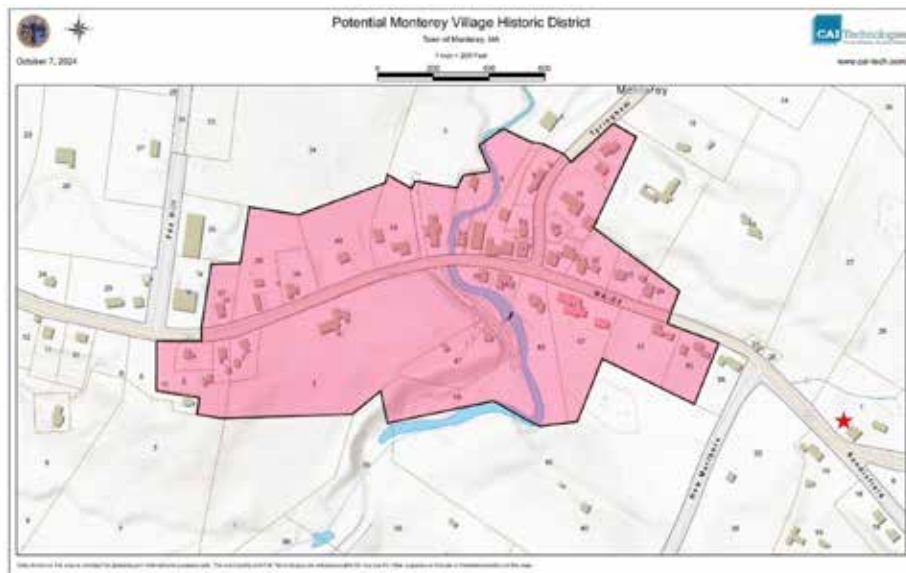
The Monterey Historical Commission hosted an informational meeting to inform district property owners and other town residents about the potential for Monterey Village to be listed on the National Register as a Historic District (see map). The October 24 meeting at the Monterey Library was attended by over thirty people, including a number of property owners in the potential district. Rob Hoogs summarized the process the commission is following, accompanied by historic slides of many of the buildings in the village.

Ben Haley, Mass. Historical Commission Director of the National Register program, presented detailed information about National Register Historic Districts, and showed examples of buildings and districts throughout Massachusetts and Berkshire County. Historic Districts recognize how the area is important to the history of the community based on several criteria. For private property owners, it would simply be an honorary designation and would not limit how they use or maintain their building. It would not create any new regulatory authority. Only if the private property owner used state or federal funds (such as a Preservation Project

Grant) or needed a state or federal permit would Mass. Historical Commission have any authority to review or comment on the owner's plans. Listing would not require a property owner to "preserve" their building nor regulate its appearance.

Meeting House.

Private commercial owners (such as the general store) would become eligible to apply for investment tax credits for preservation projects. This could apply to rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of



On the plus side, Ben explained that listing would make town-owned buildings eligible to apply for matching grants for preservation work. This would apply to the Town Hall, Library, and Schoolhouse. (Note: the Community Center building is not located within the potential historic district.)

Non-profit owners would also be eligible for preservation grants. This could apply to future ownership of the

buildings for affordable housing or other income producing uses.

After the presentations, the Monterey Historical Commission and Ben Haley answered questions from the audience. Among these: according to the assessors, listing in the Historic District would not affect the assessed valuation or property tax of buildings in the district. We also (continued from p. 11) clarified that this would not create a "Local Historic Dis- ➤

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trict” which could impose design review standards on buildings.

Going forward, the Historical Commission will engage the services of a historical consultant to prepare detailed documentation. One of the first tasks for the consultant would be another public meeting to describe in more detail Historic District nomination process, the effects and benefits of listing, and to answer more questions by the property owners in the district. After that, we plan to send a letter to each district property owner asking them to vote in writing whether they favor it, oppose it, or don’t care either way. We will not proceed into the detailed Phase 2 nomination process if a majority of district property owners submit written opposition.

The consultant would be paid primarily from ARPA funds allocated by the select board, supplemented by a grant from Housatonic Heritage and \$4,000 we are requesting be appropriated by the town at the upcoming Special Town Meeting on November 2.

The attendees at the informational meeting seemed supportive at this point. At least one more public meeting will be held to gather additional input in advance of the poll of the district property owners.

Information about the potential historic district will be posted for your reference on the town website under Monterey Historical Commission. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you.

—Monterey Historical Commission:

Rob Hoogs, John Higgins,

Barbara Swann, Bob Rausch

P.S. The commission is looking for two or three more members; let us know if you’re interested.

*NOTE: the Monterey Historical Commission is a town committee appointed by the select board for the preservation, promotion, and development of the historical assets of the Town of Monterey. The commission is distinct from the Monterey Historical Society, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a related but separate mission and membership.*

## Knox Gallery

Pat Badt’s upcoming exhibit, rechristened *Reading Between the Lines: artist books and paintings with text*, opened on Friday, October 25, and will be on view through December 7. The artist will host a reception on Friday, November 29, the day after Thanksgiving, which will include an interview of the artist led by Monterey resident, Sarah Varney. Please take a break from your holiday festivities and see what the artist shares about her work! Bring your out-of-town guests and show them the stimulating art scene we have in Monterey.



*Rose by its Cover*

Thanks to the Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Council for supporting our artist talks and discussions, and to the Friends of the Monterey Library for supporting the Knox Gallery.

Badt makes artist books and is a painter. The artist asserts that her work is “inspired by location, filtered through experience and sensibility.” She was born in Santa Monica, CA, attended High School in NYC, received a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz (where she studied along with Knox Gallery co-director Julie Shapiro). She was graduated from

the University of Pennsylvania with an MFA. She is Professor Emeritus, Cedar Crest College, and has held additional faculty positions at other colleges.



*Pat Badt, featured artist*

Her impressive resume includes many artists’ residencies, solo and group exhibits in both America and Europe, and inclusion in museum collections on both continents.

From her statement:

“Painting filters experience through sensibility. The daily routine and the act of painting is my way of being here, by marking and remembering. I make visual the quiet and overlooked.” She adds that to pay attention to color and texture is a worthwhile activity.

—MaryPaul Yates

### Weblinks:

[www.patbadt.com](http://www.patbadt.com)

[www.thethirdbarn.org](http://www.thethirdbarn.org)

## November 20 Deadline for Holiday Group Show

Our traditional holiday group show will open on December 13, and be on view through January 25, 2025. This year instead of a show title, we offered a prompt -- From Dr. Seuss: "You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's no limit to what you can do." We hope you'll think about something new for you, and we are eager to see your results.

If you'd like to submit work for this show, please complete an INTENT TO ORDER FORM, which will be on the library website shortly. Please print it out, fill in the information, and return it to the library by November 20. Alternatively, you can scan the completed form and email it to me at [mpy@yatesdesign.net](mailto:mpy@yatesdesign.net).

Each artist may submit a piece of 2- or 3- dimensional work, which should be not more than 24"x18" or 430 square inches, including the frame. We cannot accept larger pieces.

Work will need to be dropped off to the gallery either Monday, December 9, between 7-9 p.m. or Tuesday, December 10, between 10 a.m. and noon. We don't have space to store artwork, so your work must be submitted and retrieved during the designated hours.

We hope the topic will inspire you, and we look forward to seeing your results!

Also, we would much appreciate help from any of you who could assist with the intake of the artwork on December 9 and 10. If you are interested, and even if you are not exhibiting, please email Julie Shapiro at [julieshapiro2@gmail.com](mailto:julieshapiro2@gmail.com). Thank you all!

—MaryPaul Yates

*NOTE: All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; [MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery](http://MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery); [Facebook.com/Knox](https://Facebook.com/Knox).*

## Library Notes What's a Digital Navigator?

We've been discussing the Digital Divide, and we know the Massachusetts Broadband Institute has given Monterey a grant to help bridge that gap between those who are technologically adept, and those who are not. Technology waits for no one. Just when we think we are on top of it, there's a new piece of hardware, software, or an operating system that changes. What we found in the charette, and through library experience, is that we all could use help in keeping up with this. Whether it is trying out a new device, problem solving with an app, or simply navigating through a website to renew your vehicle registration, we've helped in the library.

We also have a grant from AARP to

help senior citizens and veterans; no one age will be turned away. Some money will go towards purchasing more hotspots and devices for those who need basic internet access. The rest of the money is budgeted towards having a Digital Navigator position where patrons and residents can speak face to face, or perhaps via Zoom or like apps, about challenges with technology.

Would you consider applying for the position of Digital Navigator? No one has all the answers, but someone who is comfortable in discussing technology with people of all ages and abilities, and enjoys looking into issues and finding answers, will be capable of the job. There is no age requirement, no degree required, and hours are flexible. An ability to communicate effectively is needed. The catch is that this will be short-term but should start as soon as possible. Pay has yet to be determined. Look for a job description on the library website. Send a letter of intent to [montereylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:montereylibrary@gmail.com). Position is open until filled. If you are interested, please let us know. Send that letter of intent, and we can discuss the concept, and how we can make this work best for all involved.

—Mark Makuc



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## From the Meetinghouse

It's been a long time since I've written the column that was called "From the Meetinghouse," an on-again, off-again piece that's come from the pastor of the church since the earliest days of the *Monterey News*. The *News* was itself a spin-off from the church newsletter, become now a fully formed, nonprofit local news monthly, a wonderful development.

Covid had my attention utterly elsewhere, as it did for most people. And, like a lot of habits that fell away during those two years, the one of writing something "from the meetinghouse" is one I've never fully returned to.

Now the church faces not only the likelihood that those operating "from the meetinghouse" will be an entity other than the church, but we also face the likelihood that we'll close as a church altogether.

You'll notice I'm using familiar words in a particular way. The church, whose Greek original is *ekklesia*, is the body of Christ, a gathering of living witnesses to the good news of resurrection to new life amidst death and of salvation for all things, gathered up into a new creation of thanks and praise. The meetinghouse is the place of the church's gathering and, in the New England tradition, a place of gathering for all sorts of things that create beloved community. In our recent past, the church has been happy never to have turned down a request to fill our meetinghouse with good purpose—and most often free of charge. That said, a local church doesn't necessarily have a meetinghouse, and meetinghouse doesn't necessarily house a local church.

Which will likely be the case for Monterey's church and meetinghouse going forward, that there will be a meetinghouse, but it won't house a local church.

It has been heartbreaking to me to come to understand that we, as a gathered body of witnesses, will likely dissolve as such within the next two to five years. I've been the pastor here since 2001. This is a place where, and a people among whom, I've practiced my faith for longer than anywhere else. My children were baptized here. I officiated the wedding here of one my closest friends, and of my own mother, now happy with her second husband. I've

memorialized people here whom I miss terribly to this day.

Meanwhile, the question of what will become of our meetinghouse once we dissolve has been a pressing one for me, for the different iterations of the parish council, and for the whole membership. Church buildings can become zombie-buildings all too easily, and I desperately wanted not to saddle the town with one of these.

It was with an eye on that distinct possibility that we, the church members,



*Rev. Liz Goodman marrying her friends Sheela and Jim Clary.*

put the building on the market, and with a respect for what tremendous effort, costly in time and money, it would be for anyone deciding to take this on. When a private buyer stepped forward to do so, I was relieved—thrilled!—to imagine the building would continue in its beauty and public-spiritedness without laying a burden on a small population with so many good causes already worthy of support and participation.

I know the Parish Council's acceptance of this offer upset some people. I know it enraged a few, which lay a pall of dread on my summer, darkening evermore a situation that had already broken my heart.

But now that sale has fallen through due to regulatory questions that were too expensive in time and money for a private buyer to embark on asking. The community group, which Rob Hoogs has taken to leading, has reconstituted itself and is asking bold questions about a building too well constructed to easily take down, too beautiful to give up on, but also not one

whose purpose and importance are clear. Monterey has, over the course of its history, taken down two meetinghouses because they were deemed in the wrong place or too small. It's not unheard of that a thing built might later be taken down. Trees are always good to plant. A small parking lot wouldn't be so very bad.

Open to any future possibility, I bless the effort of the community group to take this challenge on, and I don't take it for granted that they'll decide to move forward. I know they'll need the dedication of many, in time and moreover in treasure. Maintaining and making accessible, staffing and insuring this will be costly, but it might also be to great benefit. The community center had its nay-sayers back in the day. That said, a town this size doesn't necessarily need two of anything, and already it benefits from a lovely library, a busy art gallery, an historic museum, and a now thriving community center.

Many, many unanswered questions.

So, please, reader and community member of Monterey, search your hearts for where you are in all this. I sense my work here is nearly done. What I offer now is my continued good will and happiness to share thoughts as might be helpful.

In heartbreak and hope,  
Liz

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## From the Meetinghouse – Redux?

Liz Goodman's companion article "From the Meetinghouse" eloquently sets forth the challenges the congregation has been dealing with which led to their decision to offer the Meetinghouse for sale. She also outlines the many challenges our ad hoc group is facing as we seek to create a Monterey Meeting House for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The exploratory "steering committee" formed in February to begin discussing possibilities and challenges. Among these: *How to preserve the Meeting House as the architectural keystone of Monterey Village? What community uses and/or private uses could it be put to? Would the uses complement and expand those offered elsewhere in the village? What kind of an entity could own and operate it? What would it cost? Would the community support these efforts? What are the alternatives?*

Our group reconvened in September after the previous offer was withdrawn and is again working to answer the questions. We have been meeting collaboratively with Rev. Liz Goodman and several members of the Parish Council. So far, we are encouraged by the opportunities, but we certainly do not have all the answers.

Some of the possible future uses of the Meeting House seem pretty obvious,

continuing uses that are already there: Food Pantry, Coffee Club, Supper Club, Potluck Suppers, meetings, concerts, dances, music lessons. While the present congregation may be dwindling, the sanctuary space could be available for religious services of various denominations. The upper floor has space for seating over 100 people, great natural lighting, and fabulous acoustics. It could be used for performances, dancing, choruses, and other performing arts that the community center and library are not suitable for or large enough. A good example is the concert by Peter Poirier and band on May 9, with dancers swingin' to the music



(photo above). The event was sponsored by the Monterey Council on Aging.

Rev. Goodman's article also lays out some less-positive scenarios: "[unused] Church buildings can become zombie-buildings...It's not unheard of that a thing built might later be taken down ... A small parking lot wouldn't be so very

bad." We hope those outcomes can be avoided through a positive community effort. Our goal is that the 21<sup>st</sup> century Monterey Meeting House can continue to be a beautiful building where people gather and enjoy. Many other area communities have successfully converted former places of worship into performing arts centers, exhibit spaces, museums, offices, and other compatible uses. We hope to learn from and build on their experiences.

As we move forward, we are seeking input from all stakeholders and will be holding public forums. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact one of the members of the steering committee (listed below). We'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, questions, criticisms, support, and solutions. We have a long way to go but we are optimistic that we can succeed with your help.

Thank you.

Monterey Meeting House Steering Committee: Maggie Barkin, Don Barkin, Wayne Burkhart, Linnea Grealish, Rob Hoogs, Linda Neilson, Hutch Neilson, Kyle Pierce, Steve Pullen, Mort Salomon, Kathy Tryon, Roger Tryon



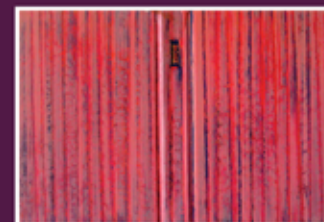
Carly Detterman, Sunset.

### **Reading Between the Lines** **Pat Badt**

artist books and paintings with text

**October 25 - December 7**

**Friday, November 29, 5-6:30pm**  
**Artist Conversation, Pat Badt & Sarah Varney with Reception following**



**KNOX GALLERY**

**Monterey Library**

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

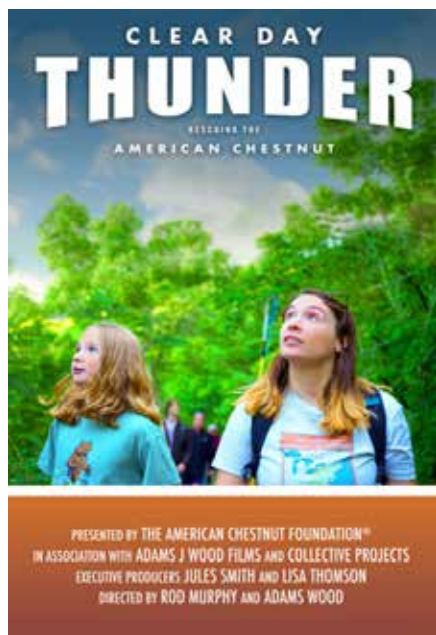
## Fifth Annual Chestnut Roast: Award-winning film and much more

What is the sound of thunder on a clear day?

A century ago, throughout the Eastern woodlands from Georgia to Maine, the reverberating boom was the sound of mighty American Chestnut trees being felled for their extraordinary wood. Landowners were advised to cut their Chestnut trees to salvage the wood before they died from the chestnut blight.

Literally billions of American Chestnuts, once a keystone species of the Eastern forests, were killed by a pathogenic fungus that was imported from Asia around the turn of the century. The loss of the species, which generously supported humans, wildlife and pollinators alike, was an environmental catastrophe.

But for more than four decades, scientists, farmers, volunteers and luminaries have been trying to restore the tree to its native habitat. The award-winning documentary *Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut* (poster below) features interviews with Barbara Kingsolver, country music legend Dolly Parton, and former President Jimmy Carter. These are just a



few of the well-known figures committed to this historic conservation effort.

The documentary is the centerpiece of the Fifth Annual Chestnut Roast, now

a Monterey tradition for the day after Thanksgiving (also known as Indigenous Heritage Day). The film will be presented Friday, November 29, at 1:30 p.m. at the community center.

"We are thrilled to share this film with the world," said Lisa Thompson, former President of The American Chestnut Foundation, which has released the film. "It tells the story of the American Chestnut and the people who are working hard to bring it back to our forests. We hope that it will inspire others to join us in our mission to restore this iconic tree species."



*American chestnut sprouting on Art School Road. Photo by Kevin West.*

A number of Montereyans are already part of this effort. Last spring, 24 local people signed up to each steward three germinated chestnuts with some degree of blight resistance. The nuts were offered to our community by the chestnut research orchard in Granville. Gould Farm also stepped up to start a small chestnut orchard on that property with seeds from that orchard. Our local chestnut champions are, in essence, extension agents of the Granville orchard, according to John Meiklejohn, who manages it and who has worked closely with the Monterey Native Plants Working Group on this project.

After the film, we hope to hear from Gould Farm and several "chestnut champions" to find out how their seedlings are doing. We know that the three that were planted at the community center are almost waist high, and we have reports that many others have made it through their vulnerable first year.

After the film, you'll be able to sign up for seeds for another round of planting. Next April, John Meiklejohn will be bringing germinated fourth-generation

backcross hybrid nuts for Monterey. He will bring some ready-to-plant pure American and Chinese chestnuts.

At any point, people can make their way over to Eaton Road, where Kevin West's pair of chestnut trees has had a bumper crop this year. Kevin will be roasting and passing out the roasted morsels while the chestnut chatter continues.

Please register soon at [Pollinators01245@gmail.com](mailto:Pollinators01245@gmail.com) so we may schedule accordingly. And if you're a chestnut champion, we'd love to receive photographs and reports on your seedlings to track how they are doing.

—Janet Jensen on behalf of the Monterey Native Plants Working Group

## Join Us as Monterey Lights the Holidays

Taking the time to see and appreciate the beautiful fall foliage is an annual quest for many friends and neighbors in the Northeast and in particular in Berkshire County. Sharing the fun of apple picking, walking in the colorful woods, driving the scenic roads and enjoying the closeness of family and friends also enhances the appreciation of our Monterey community.

As fall wanes and we celebrate Thanksgiving with the hint of winter not far behind, consider joining again with your families, friends and neighbors as **Monterey Lights the Holidays** outside the Monterey library on Saturday, November 30, at 7 p.m. Enjoy the music, singing, poetry reading, warm cider, delicious donuts, and seasonal lighting of Monterey town center.

—Dennis Lynch



*Attendees of last year's light ceremony.*



## Supper Club

Ahhhhh, to be part of a club. Ahhhhh, to sup. Our Club Per Supping last month was dedicated to the parade of *courgettes* that is symbolic of the season we're in the throes of. To my knowledge, **Don't Squish the Squash** could not have had a more lovely combination of different dishes. Butternut was the most used, which is more than fair (in my opinion), but how it was used covered quite the expanse: there was curried butternut soup, butternut and swiss chard lasagna, roasted butternut & brussels, Spiced lentil salad with roasted butternut, a butternut noodle kugel, and a green salad tossed with roasted butternut to tie it all together. WOW did my hands just start having "please don't type that word again" anxiety. Although \*that\* orange-fleshed queen monopolized as squash du jour at our buffet, there was also roasted acorn squash, a roasted vegetable medley (which arrived late, but better than than never!), and two zucchini dishes: a gratin and a stuffed zucchini (below).



Now, I don't like to toot my own horn (even though I don't own a horn), especially when I'm writing for supper club, but sometimes the universe works in ways that leave my ego with little choice.

Over the summer, as a result of my consistently chaotic and scattered nature, I was discombobulated enough that I neglected to get over to my garden bed



at my mom's house for about a week. Needless to say (I may not need to, but I WANT to) my feet weren't even around to squish the squash. When I did finally show back up I found an overgrown zucchini—no surprise there. I was pretty impressed at its size and chuckled to myself, thinking "Hey, more bang for my buck!" I continued to part the squash leaves, gathering what I saw and looking for any others that might be hiding. I was just about to conclude I had gotten every one of them when I saw what was one hundred percent the biggest zucchini I have seen in my entire life. My jaw dropped. The thing was HUGE. It was at least two feet long, and after I held it in my arms as I would a baby, I went home and weighed it. It topped the charts at six pounds, five ounces. I could see my overgrown baby's future in an instant; its final hours of life being spent getting grilled, stuffed, baked and served. What

a quick transition!

Speaking of transitions, we're in the depths of a few big changes in our lives—the presidential election and the switch from the season of unsalted cars and multi-layer-free attire to...well, the opposite. Since our houses get heated just like politics—the former perhaps having a little less effect on blood pressure—in an effort to at least save on heating costs: Ladies and gentlemen (and everyone in between and/or on either side): stock the spice rack, pull out the Scoville Scale, and crank your crockpots: we are going to "Turn Up the Heat" on Monday, November 11 (circa 6 p.m.) and warm ourselves from our bellies outward. Keep in mind "heat" in the culinary walks isn't exclusive to spicy—soup is hot too! Please send your (required) RSVP to [supperclubmonterey@gmail.com](mailto:supperclubmonterey@gmail.com) by the end of Sunday, November 10.

—Hanna Jensen



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## Wildlife Report

Near the end of September, Tracey Brennan wrote of a break-in at her house. She said a bear had “smashed a fairly low and good-sized window” one evening. A box of crackers “was left outside the scene of the crime.” And there was a damp paw print on the stone windowsill.

Early in October, Steve Moore reported there were eleven red-backed salamanders under a piece of lumber at his place (below), snug as bugs in a rug.” He sent in a charming photograph of the group.



A week later, a bright green katydid visited Michael and Maureen Banner’s house (below). These creatures look much like grasshoppers, but they sound different. They go, “katy-did, katy-did.” Their call is rapid in warm weather, slows down as the days get cooler.



Marc Holzer sent a photograph of some shaggy mane mushrooms (below)



from Sylvan Road. These are close relatives of the familiar “inky caps,” so named because they turn black as they “deliquesce.” So do the shaggy manes, as is starting to happen in Marc’s photograph. Both species melt away to puddles of black that look like ink.



The Banners were visited by a cute baby bear (bottom, right) and took a photograph. Maureen writes that this one is “no bigger than my poodle.”

And Bonsai Cox, of Stevens Pond, has sent another of her lovely photographs looking out over the water, with clouds, trees, water, and this time geese, including one flapping its wings (above).

Thank you, everyone.

Send me your observations, with or without photographs.

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



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**Sun., Oct. 6, 4 pm • BILL TAYLOR AND FRIENDS**

Creative ensemble playing original and classical contemporary music with Bill on piano accompanied by woodwinds and voice. \$20



**Oct. 13 – Nov. 10 • WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Opening reception 4-5:30. Slideshow / talk by **Amy Arbus**, world renowned award-winning photographer. Free.

**Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am • TRANSFORMING CARE DURING SERIOUS ILLNESS**

Talk by **Diane Meier, MD**, Director Emerita & Strategic Advisor of the Center to Advance Palliative Care. \$10

**Sat., Oct. 19, 7 pm • BOBBY SWEET IN THE CABARET**

Singer/songwriter Bobby Sweet returns with his unique mixture of folk and jazz. \$20

For details, reservations, and upcoming events, check our website:  
**SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG**



## Local Tigers and Bears

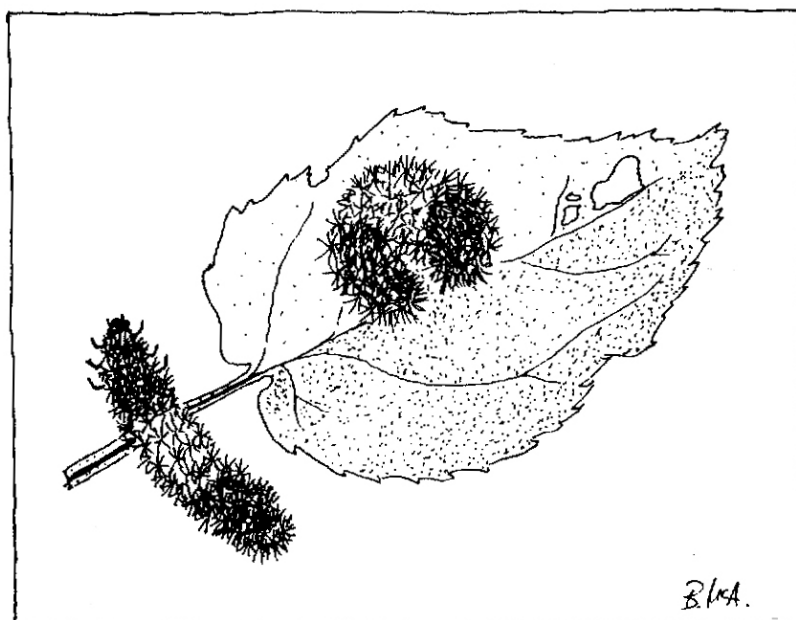
They are native, they are our neighbors, just not as big and glamorous as some. They are colorful, exciting, active, adapted to life in the Berkshires. These are our very own tiger moths and woolly bears. We can get close to them. They don't bite, don't run away. But they have it all over the large, more popularly known tigers and bears. Ours can fly.

Only the grown-ups fly, the ones with wings. They are called "tiger moths." The youngsters, every bit as amazing as their parents, are the ones we call "woolly bears," and they are on the move right now.

Some people wonder why the woolly bear crosses the road, or the path up to the garden, or out to the car. It's simple. The woolly bear has a job to do, and this time of year is the time, the only time, to do it. The job is finding a hibernaculum. Like all of us, they must survive winter here. For them, this means finding a safe place where no one will step on you or eat you. You are looking under dead wood, leaves, or loose bark. You need to hole up and wait until spring, then come out to nibble green grass or leaves. We folks may see them briefly at this time of emergence, but these bears need to move it along, make a cocoon, and go through some amazing changes. They will emerge as tigers.

Tiger moths are dressed for camouflage, but they are insects, have two pairs of wings, and can flash colorful underwings to warn of chemical secretions, disagreeable to most predators.

If instead you are a willing female, the smell inspires, tells you there is a male tiger nearby. You will be attracted, and your body which is heavy with eggs will soon be ready to lay them to make the second generation of woolly bears. They will hatch in a few days and the little caterpillars nibble eagerly on leaves and grass. When they are about 2 and 1/8 inches long, these little bears are full-size, and gorgeous with shiny black heads. Their bodies sport gleaming black bristles near the head and the tail, with orange bristles in the middle. These are known as Banded Woolly Bears, and some human folks will perpetuate the myth that bigger bands of black, fore and aft, signal a hard winter coming. Sometimes



the bears are completely black, and what are we to make of that? Nothing, I think. Not 'til we know otherwise.

Woolly bears, like a lot of us, have many relatives. For instance, there are Yellow Woolly Bears. This species has a similar life to that of our familiar Banded Woolly Bears, but the moths that emerge are completely white! They are cleaner than any snow, with long plume-like antennae that are white also but with black fringes. The caterpillars are tufty with yellow legs, so we get to keep an eye out for them. This is diversity, this is art. Twenty years ago I put a couple of these yellow bears in a jar to see what would happen. They were in the guest room. They emerged before winter was over!

What to do. There was nothing for them to eat. I had killed them with my curiosity, with my intervening. Let this be a lesson to us scientists.

Better to keep an observant eye on the world around us. Also to take out the encyclopedia to see what interfering scientists may have learned. Or think they have learned. We must learn from each other. No need for all of us to be killing off the local bears and tigers. Better we should read the journals with more than a little healthy skepticism and then be outside with our jackets on, noticing what happens outdoors and taking notes. This is how we can be good neighbors.

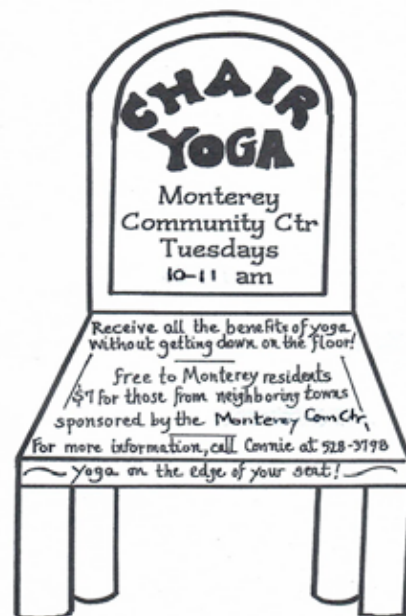
—Bonner McAllester



### Fifth Annual Chestnut Roast Clear Day Thunder

Monterey Community Center  
November 29, 1:30

Space is limited!  
RSVP: Pollinators01245@gmail.com



## Bidwell House Museum News



Heather Kowalski

While it may be colder and darker these days, the museum will be filling the house with candlelight to welcome you to two programs this month. On Thursday, November 14, at 4 p.m., join us for a candlelight tour and reception with local antiques expert Sam Herrup. This special tour will give you a glimpse of the interior of the house at a time of day we are normally closed and focus on the porcelain and redware in the museum's collection. Then, on Thursday, November 21 at 4 p.m., Lorraine German will be here to share the history of the Christmas tree. Using vintage and antique ornaments she has collected over the years, she will dress a tree and discuss the history of adorning greens in the winter. Both programs will be followed by a small wine and cheese reception and space is very limited, so tickets must be purchased in advance on the museum website.

Also this month, on Saturday, November 9 at 6 p.m., the museum is thrilled to be working with the Stockbridge Library to present the film "The Creation of the Daniel Nimham Sculpture." In 2020, sculptor Michael Keropian was commissioned by the Town of Fishkill, New York to create an eight-foot-tall bronze monument to Nimham, the last official sachem of the Wappinger People in the Hudson Valley Region of New York. In the film, Keropian narrates the life of

Daniel Nimham as he takes the viewer on an informative journey through the complicated and eye-opening process of creating a larger-than-life representational sculpture. This screening will take place at the Stockbridge Library and Keropian, along with filmmaker Jeff Hodges, will be onsite to introduce the film and answer questions. The program is free and tickets are not required. For information about all of these programs, head to the Museum events page at [bidwellhousemuseum.org/events/](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org/events/).

The house is now closed for regular tours until May 2025, but as many of you know, the grounds and gardens are open year-round for your enjoyment. Spending some time outside each day is incredibly important for your physical and mental health, especially when the days get colder and darker! The Bidwell House Museum has six miles of trails on 194 acres that are open every day, free of charge, from dawn until dusk. You can walk from one end of the property to the other for an exhilarating multi-hour hike or simply stop by for a quick stroll with your dog. With the snow visitors can still enjoy the trails on snowshoes and cross-country skis. You can also walk the Native American Interpretive Trail or take the Outside the House tour to learn more about Mohican history and Bidwell family history. Maps for all the museum's trails can be found on the front porch of the museum, but also may be downloaded on the museum website at <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/the-museum/guided-tours/>.

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

—Heather Kowalski  
Executive Director

## Thanksgiving Pantoum, Especially This Year

Gratitude.

All of us praise it on this day.  
Families, friends send cards.  
Grocery stores sell turkeys;

some people raise them. They're  
nearly / indispensable.  
Groceries become turnkeys  
to welcome and feast.

If it's possible,  
welcome everyone to the table  
to sit down and feast.  
Just let your heart open:

"Welcome to my table, everyone,  
family, friends, and more!"  
Just let your heart flow with  
gratitude.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Mary Kate  
Jordan

*A note on the pantoum poem form:* I adapted this from clarity offered by Berkshire poet and teacher Jan Hutchinson.

Pantoums have stanzas of four lines. The second and fourth lines of the first stanza become the first and the third lines of the following stanza. Such as 1,2,3,4, then 2,5,4,6, then 5,7,6,8, etc. This progression continues somewhat repetitively through any number of stanzas until the final stanza.

The final stanza uses the third line of the initial stanza as line two, and the first line of the initial stanza as the final line of the poem. It's a full circle: the poem's first and final lines are the same. With the mindset you might bring to putting a jigsaw puzzle together, it's fun, and challenging, to find joy in seeing how the lines become their new neighbors. Or, in the spirit of the season, according to who shows up at the table. —Mary Kate Jordan



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## Poetry & Art



### A Good Coat

I've got a brand-new coat  
from the thrift store.  
I don't say this to gloat  
or cry poor.

But it seems wrong somehow  
to benefit  
from the sweat of the plumber's  
brow  
who'd saved for it.

And I can't believe this coat  
was given away  
with the owner's vote  
worn only a day.

He would have banked on years  
of elegance.  
Or glimpsed her widow's  
tears and scorned expense.

### The American Wilderness

Lift your eyes to see  
to the crow's nest of a tree  
where the deep sky is the ache  
that some men feel in fall,  
and crows like shipmates make  
their stand against the All.

And the diner's silver man  
in tailored slacks and tan  
on his stool all afternoon  
with a notebook of his bets,  
his smile in his spoon,  
tea, and cigarettes.

Plus, doesn't it abash  
the way a spray of trash  
is gladdening the weeds  
behind that factory,  
as though a breeze blew seeds  
where no bright thing should be?

### From an Upstairs Window

The snow showed where I'd been in boots  
as maps show old explorers' routes.  
I'd dragged a heavy limb out back  
which left a pleasant peasant track.  
I'd thrown the dog a tennis ball,  
and walked to where he let it fall.  
And then with wandering steps and slow  
I'd dropped my eyes in thought as though  
to give my nodding boots their head  
while mine went where my musing led --  
which if Magellan's maps were good  
would bring me back to where I stood.  
And like those sailors had to think it's  
likely I'd come home with trinkets.

—Three poems by Don Barkin

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## Worried About a Neighbor?

If you've been worried about a neighbor but don't know what to do, please call the Council on Aging. We are working with Monterey Police Officer Jen Brown to ensure the safety of Montereyans who may need help but aren't reaching out. Officer Brown will investigate in person, and she and the COA will make appropriate referrals, and keep you posted. While the COA is focused on seniors, please call with concerns you have about anyone, regardless of age. The number to call is (413) 528-1443 Ext 112 or email Kathryn Roberts at [coaoutreach@montereyma.gov](mailto:coaoutreach@montereyma.gov)



**Medicare Open Enrollment**  
**October 15 - December 7**  
Explore alternatives to  
your current health insurance.  
Counselors are available at no cost.  
Elder Services (413) 499-0524  
- Ask for SHINE counselor  
CHP Comm Health (413) 854-2816  
- Ask for Health Insurance

## Catching up with the COA

Important information: The Medicare Open Enrollment period is now open, and continues until December 7. During this time, you can review your current medical insurance and change plans if you choose to. It is worth taking the time to investigate this, as you may find you can save a significant amount of money with a different health plan. There are counselors available to help you navigate this complicated maze - without cost - at two local agencies:

Elder Services (413) 499-0524 Ask for SHINE counselor Gail or Lisa

CHP Berkshires (413) 854-2816 Ask for Insurance Assistance

To learn more, you are welcome to join our Parkinson's Support Group presentation on this subject on Thursday, November 7, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Monterey library.

Two more items of note:

We are bringing back our Wednesday afternoon movie, this time showing both documentaries and other movies as well. This will be the third Wednesday of the month - this month November 20.

Don't forget our Veterans Day celebration, Monday, November 11.

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](mailto:coaoutreach@montereyma.gov). Phone messages are picked up once daily Monday through Friday.

- Kathryn Roberts  
COA Outreach Coordinator/  
Administrative Assistant

## Coming Events

**Monday, November 4:** COA Board Meeting at Town Hall 10:30 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town website. All are welcome.

**Wednesday, November 6:** Lunch at The Roadside, Monterey at 11:30 am. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.

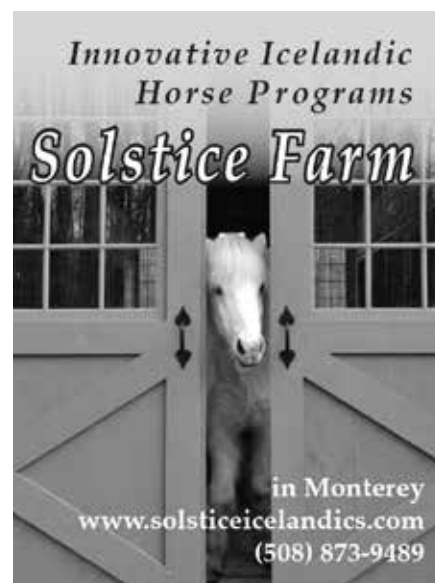
**Thursday, November 7:** Presentation on Health Insurance options, Monterey Library, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. with a counselor from Elder Services. (Parkinson's Support Group event.)

**Monday, November 11:** Veteran's Day Observance at the Library. 10 a.m. - noon. Refreshments will be served in the library.

**Wednesday, November 13:** Movie Night at the library, 7 p.m. Our October movie is *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, starring Tom Hanks as Fred (aka Mr.) Rogers. An investigative journalist, assigned to write a story about Mr. Rogers, finds it hard to believe anyone can have such a good nature. Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

**Thursday, November 19:** Tritown Wellness Clinic at the Monterey Library, 10 a.m. - noon. Covid and Flu vaccines available - but only by reservation. Call the COA at the number above to arrange for vaccination.

**Wednesday, November 20:** The afternoon movie at the library 2 p.m. will be *Sideways*, a "charming, thoughtful and funny road trip comedy," per Rotten Tomatoes. Starring Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church as they take a road trip to





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California wine country. Giamatti plays a struggling writer and wine enthusiast and Church, his engaged friend seeking a last fling before his wedding. Enter Sanda Oh. What could go wrong? Refreshments will be served.

**Thursday, November 21:** Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman. 10 a.m. to noon at the Monterey community center. A still life will provide inspiration or draw from your own imagination. Anything goes! Bring your own supplies. Coffee and a snack will be provided. Call Beth with any questions: (201) 463-9543.

Monday December 2: COA Board Meeting at Town Hall 10:30 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website. All are welcome.

**December Lunch:** date to be determined. Likely will be Mt. Everett High School Luncheon.

## Ongoing Services

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

**Transportation:** Transportation is available to all Monterey residents for trips between the following towns: Monterey, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Egremont, Sheffield, and Canaan, Ct. Call (413) 591-3826 to reserve your ride - advance notice preferred. Hours are Monday - Thursday, 6:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.,

Friday 6:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Rides to New Marlborough are available Monday - Friday only, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. only, and limited to seniors and people with disabilities. Pittsfield is limited to Monday and Wednesday only, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., for medical visits only, and for seniors and people with disabilities only.

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

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

## November Contributions

Ruth Rosenblatt  
Matthew Tannenbaum  
Arthur Somers

**Thank you** for your generous contributions. For fifty years, the *Monterey News* has been free to the community because of donors like you.

Thank you for helping us continue this tradition.



## Comet Over Monterey

The Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS has an 80,000 year orbit, and though it is becoming more difficult to see you have a chance through November 9.

This photo glimpse was captured by Rob Hoogs from his home in Monterey.

## Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local  
References



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## Community Center Calendar

Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly activities:

### **Mondays:**

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

Simple meditation, all are welcome, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. **Note new time beginning November 4.**

November 25: Cook book club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com.

November 25: Book club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month.

### **Tuesdays:**

Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

Vikki True, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bridge and pitch, 1 to 4 p.m.

Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

### **Wednesdays:**

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

Ping-pong, 2:30 to 4 p.m. for advanced, 4 to 6 p.m. for beginners. **Third Wednesday of the month, only 4 to 6 p.m., all play.**

November 20: Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Third Wednesday of the month. Please send an email if you are interested to Lindarneilson@gmail.com.

### **Thursdays:**

Mahjong, 2 to 4 p.m., except first

### **Thursday**

November 7, Darn Yarners, 1:00 p.m. first Thursday of the month.

November 21: Open Studio with Beth Hoffman, last two Thursdays of the month, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. November 7 and 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments, and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

### **Fridays:**

Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. Please register by emailing james-boneparth76@gmail.com.

Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

### **Saturdays:**

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

Ping-pong, 1 to 2:30 p.m. for advanced, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for beginners.

### **Sundays:**

Al Anon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

Monterey Marijuana Anonymous, 7 to 8 p.m.

### **Special Events**

Light Bath \* Breathwork \* Reiki. Friday, November 29 and Monday, December 30, at 6 p.m. \$30 (sliding scale available).

Chestnut Roast, Friday, November 29, at 2 p.m.

Monterey Lights the Holidays. Saturday, November 30, at 7 p.m. in front of the library.

At the Library on Tuesday, November 19, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Southern

Berkshire Public Health Collaborative COVID clinic. Preregistration is required: go to <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown> and choose your desired clinic. If you need assistance registering, call SBPHC Public Nursing program at 413 243 5540 x109. More information, including The Fall 2024 Vaccination Clinic Schedule, can be found at [www.southernberkshire-health.com](http://www.southernberkshire-health.com).

This listing is based on information we had as of October 20. You can find updated information on events on our website, [ccmonterey.org](http://ccmonterey.org), or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing [monterey-communitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:monterey-communitycenter@gmail.com).

—RJ Supa, MCC director,  
and Nancy Kleban




**FLUTE CIRCLE**

Monterey Community Center  
Sunday, November 3, 1PM

JEFF ZIMMERMAN AND VIRGIL STUCKER  
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 D Clementine  
 C The Titanic  
 D When I'm Dead & Buried  
 C The Fox  
 C Freight Train  
 C Frozen Logger  
 C (Shenandoah)  
 C (This Land is...)  
 C (Old Bill Jones  
 & Redd old Paint)  
 C Same Day Son  
 C B Passing Through  
 C Four Story Wind  
 D Little Black Bull  
 D Cockles & Muscels  
 C Takes a Wounded Man  
 G Dark as a Dungeon  
 A Storms are O'er the Ocean



On October 14, Bonner McAllister led a sing-a-long of classic campfire songs, sea shanties and Hopi lullabies. More than a dozen people came out despite the cold temperatures and light drizzle and sang around the campfire while roasting marshmallows.

—Photos and text by RJ Supa

Photos: Bonner leading the group in song, top left. Bonner's handwritten songlist, top right. Singers, right.



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## First Annual Pet Parade

On Sunday, October 2, a lot of animals showed up at the Monterey Community Center for the First Annual Monterey Halloween Pet Parade.

Hosted by Maggie BARKin, more than fifty humans attended the inaugural event, where animals competed in four categories: Dynamic Duo, Best Trick, Best PAWticipant Ever and Judges Choice.

The judging took place after the pets and their humans were announced by Andrew Shaw and then proceeded to show off their talents in front the judge and three celebrity judges: Wendy Jensen, John Sellow and Isabel Sellow.

Fourteen four legged friends competed in all categories and despite only having four official categories, the generous judges handed out highlights to recognize all of the furry friend's best qualities.

—RJ Supa  
Director

## Contest Winners

**Dynamic Duo:** French Fry, Lua and Magnolia (RJ Supa and JoAnn Bell, humans)

**Best Trick:** Lola (Willa & Tamera, humans)

**Best PAWticipant Ever:** Moby (Gwen and Evie, humans)

**Judges Choice:** Charlie and Zeus (Officer Jen Brown and Lorinda, humans)

**Perfect Paw Patrol Pup:** Betsy

**Outstanding Citizen Therapy Dog:** Cobby (Robin Wilson)

**PAWsh Pet:** Jersey Girl


**Best Athlete:** Wiley

**Courageous Cat:** Amelia

**Peppiest Pup:** Beauregard


**Patriotic Pet:** Bocce





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## Heartfelt Thanks

This summer marked the first anniversary of my father's passing. On behalf of the Roland family, I would like to extend long overdue thanks to all those who helped us when we needed it, for showing us the true meaning of community. To all of the first responders in Monterey, thank you for showing up time and again - lifting, checking, breaking doors when needed. You were all kind and patient and reassuring in chaotic moments. It was a blessing to know that an emergency call would bring familiar faces and genuine caring. When the last call came, having familiar faces there was a blessing beyond words. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes out to the staff of Hume New England. When the situation wasn't an emergency, but our hands were simply not enough, you lent us yours any time (there were many!) we needed - cheerfully lifting my dad's body and our spirits. Thank you for always being there for him and for us, for truly being good neighbors.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Tika Roland Snyder

Thank you Paul DePreter and Adam chait for your willingness to help me get my Boston whaler on to the trailer and out of the lake at a moment's notice. Backing up a trailer isn't my strong suit...fortunately for me Adam you came by at the right moment.

Gratefully,  
JoAnn Bell

To all who patronized Bracken Brae Farm stand, I wish to thank you all for coming and purchasing my vegetable starts and flowers in May and June, and vegetables all summer through October. I enjoyed talking to you all when I was refilling the stand. I want to give you a little fun fact about this year. You purchased just over 600 pounds of beets, 400 eggplant, and on July 27 that day alone you purchased 40 dozen ears of corn, which translates to 480 ears. See you in May 2025.

Thank you,  
Anna Duryea

(Top, p. 20) Ilene Marcus and Beauregard, (above left) Robin Wilson, Adam and Thalia Chait, and Cobby and Betsy; (top right) MCC Board Member Mike Zerbel with his cat; (right) Judges: John Sellow, Wendy Jensen, Ibbis Bronson, (left p. 20) happy participants and pup; (left bottom) Maggie Barkin and Thalia Chait with Betsy.



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## November in History

On November 30, 1782, representatives of Great Britain and the American colonies signed a preliminary peace treaty in Paris (made final a year later) which acknowledged the colonies' successful war of independence and their new status as 13 independent states.

On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his now iconic Gettysburg Address on the battlefield which we now recognize spelled the death knell of the Confederacy a year and a quarter later in April 1865.

On November 22, 1963, President John Kennedy was murdered in Dallas, Texas.

On a happier note: On November 14, 1889, newspaper reporter Nellie Bly

set out from New York City to try to beat the record of Jules Verne's imaginary hero Phileas Fogg who, in Verne's hugely popular novel, traveled around the world in 80 days. Bly returned a mere 72 days later to a tumultuous welcome in NYC. And on November 14, 1994, the first paying passengers traveled on the new rail service under the English Channel (the "Chunnel") linking England and France for the first time since the end of the last ice age.

But I call your attention to two November battles (a year apart, 1916 and 1917) in World War I. On November 18, 1916, British General Alexander Haig called off the First Battle of the Somme in Northern France after five months. Between both sides, three million men had been engaged in the battle at a cost of 615,000 Allied soldiers (420,000 Brit-

ish; 195,000 French) while German losses were over 650,000 men. The final result: French and British troops had advanced 5 miles into German-occupied territory. You might think that General Haig would have faced a court martial for extraordinary incompetence and failure of judgment. He didn't. A year later, on November 6, 1917, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, again measuring five miles, cost the lives of at least 240,000 soldiers. There were a number of other World War I battles -- on both the Eastern (Russian) and Western (France/Belgium) Fronts -- that each cost the lives of more than 50,000 to 100,000 soldiers without any determinative result. No generals were court-martialed.

But finally French soldiers reacted to repeated orders to charge across a no-man's-land into the maw of German machine gunners ensconced in trenches behind barbed-wire barricades.

Between May 3 and June 7, 1917, nearly half the French infantry divisions stationed on the Western Front refused to obey orders to attack. The term "mutiny" does not precisely describe these events because French soldiers remained in their trenches, did not attack their own officers, were willing to defend against German attacks, but refused their own officers' orders to attack.

The French commanding general was sacked and replaced by General Philippe Pétain who restored morale by talking to the men, promising no more suicidal attacks, providing rest and leave for exhausted units, and moderating discipline. Simultaneously, Pétain held 3,400 courts-martial in which 554 mutineers were sentenced to death and 26 were actually executed.

The catalyst for the mutinies was a combination of the extreme optimism and dashed hopes of the previous offensive -- which had been advertised to the French soldiers as heralding the end of the war -- the collapse of the Eastern Front with the onset of the Russian Revolution, disappointment at the non-arrival of American troops (whom French soldiers had unrealistically been expecting within days of the U.S. declaration of war), and the extreme trauma of witnessing years of

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huge death tolls of their compatriots on the front lines with no end in sight. The most surprising thing, perhaps, is that British and German soldiers subject to the same traumas did not mutiny as well.

The mutinies were kept secret from the Germans; and their full extent was not revealed until decades later. The German failure to detect the mutinies has been described by some military historians as the most serious intelligence failure of the war.

The Allies finally defeated the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires in November 1918 – the armistice coming at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – by a combination of the arrival on the battlefields of American troops, the Allied use of the new battle tanks, the exhaustion of the German Army's reserves of manpower, and the British naval blockade that threatened the German civilian population with incipient starvation. The German High Command decided to surrender before the coming Allied invasion of German territory – an invasion they concluded they could not prevent or overcome.

World War One military deaths totaled between 9 to 11 million men – six million on the Allied side and four million-plus on the German/Austro-Hungarian side – with another 23 million wounded. In effect, a significant portion of European males of that generation were wiped out. (U.S. World War I battle deaths totaled 53,000; U.S. military deaths from the influenza epidemic totaled 63,000.) This European generation of men – notwithstanding F. Scott Fitzgerald's post-war reference to American expatriates living in Parisian cafes – was truly the "lost generation". Yet hardly twenty years later – just enough time for a fresh generation of European men to reach draft age – Europeans were ready and willing to go at it again with the start of W.W. II in 1939.

—Publius

## November Happenings

*This is a very small sampling of the events happening in and near Monterey. If you are interested in helping with a town calendar, please write montereynews9@gmail.com.*

Community center calendar on page 18.  
Council on aging calendar on page 16.

**Saturday, November 2:** Special Town Meeting, 1:30 p.m. in the fire house at 411 Main Road.

**Tuesday, November 5:** Election Day.

**Saturday, November 9:** Last chance to spot Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS with the naked eye for 80,000 years.

**Tuesday, November 11:** Veterans Day. Ceremony at the library at the library.

**Saturday, November 30:** Monterey Lights the Holidays. Library. 7 p.m.

## Police Emergency Contacts

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

**dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**

- Police dispatch service number:

**(413) 236-0925.**

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

**528-3211**

## 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.

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