

MONTEREY NEWS

May 2025 Est. 1970
Vol. LV · Number 5

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



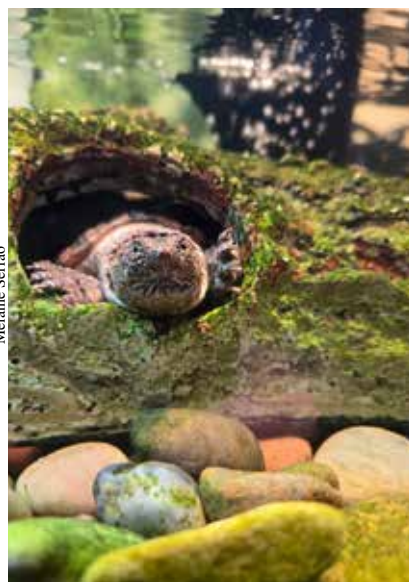
Steve Gilbert



Lin Saberski



Shannon Amidon Castille



Melanie Serrao

It is sometimes messy, but when people can sit together with their fellow citizens at Town Meeting, they can hash out issues for the good of the community.Bedrock of Democracy, p. 5.

Need more plants? You can purchase up to two sets of plants and perhaps even more if there are extras at the end of the sale.....Native Plant Sale, p. 7.

With spurred petals that are hooked like an eagle's talons, this plant took a botanical name derived from the Latin word "aquila" or "eagle.".....May Bloomer, p. 7.

Photos: Top left, Susan Gilbert's My Kitschy World, opens May 2; top right, Fog, by Lin Saberski; bottom left, annual library egg hunt; bottom right, growing baby turtle.

Save the Date
Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, May 3, at 9:30 a.m.

Save the Date
Town Elections
Tuesday, May 6

Save the Date
Memorial Day Festivities
Monday, May 26, info p. 27



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Contributing Writers & Artists

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Maggie Barkin
Susan Cooper
Chris Gannon
Wendy Germain
Steve Gilbert
Rob Hoogs
Hanna Jensen
Nancy Kleban
Heather Kowalski
Roger MacDonald
Mark Makuc
Bonner McAllester
Stephen Moore
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Steve Pullen
Kathryn Roberts
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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 or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates, contact the editor at the email above.

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Turtle Rescue Update



Snapping turtle eggs being cared for by Monterey police officer Melanie Serrao.

The first picture (above) is what they looked like when they were inside the egg. The black dots are their eyes.

The one with the purple glove (below) is how small they were compared to a single egg. They were four grams when



they arrived to me. Now, one of them is two hundred and two grams, just eight months later. In the wild, they probably would not have made it because they are so small and predators eat them before they even hatch. I believe the turtle rescuer told me that only two percent hatch. The turtle laid fifty plus eggs. The turtles that were hatched and released last year are still around the size mine were at Christmas, roughly 30 grams.

— Melanie Serrao

Town Meeting, Saturday May 3, 9: 30 a.m.

The annual town meeting warrant for Saturday, May 3, at 9:30 a.m., at the Monterey firehouse. We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to review some of the articles on the warrant prior to meeting.

This year there will be discussions about cost-of-living adjustment, fire department compensation, community center pavilion construction, grant match, a historic district consultant, additional debt service payments, and more.

Please visit the town website for detailed explanations at: <https://www.montereyma.gov/home/news/annual-town-meeting-cover-letter-and-warrant>.

This year there are important changes we all need to address, and we hope to see everyone on Saturday to participate. Your participation is part what makes Monterey work so well as a municipality.

Thank you for your time and attention.



DESIGN AND PLANNING

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my Social Security

Social Security, Newest Changes

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is implementing stronger identity verification procedures to prevent fraud. Effective April 14, 2025, individuals applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Retirement or Survivors benefits can complete their claim entirely over the telephone without the need to come into an office. General questions or questions about existing benefits can also be handled over the phone.

However, for all other services, individuals who cannot use their personal my Social Security account will need to prove their identity in person at a Social Security office. The phone numbers and addresses for our closest offices are:

Pittsfield: (866) 446-7111,
78 Center Street

Springfield: (866) 964-5061,
70 Bond Street

People who do not already have a my Social Security account can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. If you are having trouble, I recommend you email our wonderful digital navigator, Cole Rosseter, at digitalnavigatormonterey@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Cole is now available at the library to advise on all things digital on Monday, from 7 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, from 4 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. While walk-ins are allowed, scheduling in advance will guarantee availability on the day and time you want.

I have heard it recommended that everyone should print a copy of their Social Security benefit history and current benefit amount—just to be on the safe side. But I want to emphasize that I have not heard or read anything about benefit amounts changing or offices closing.

If all else fails and you have difficulty because you have not received an expected check, or cannot reach Social Security, I recommend calling our US senators and

representative for assistance:

Elizabeth Warren (202) 224-4543
Ed Markey (202) 224-2742
Richard Neal (202) 225-5601

Finally, if you have new information about Social Security benefits or other benefits, I would really appreciate you letting me know—my contact information is below.

—Lin Saberski, Chair
Monterey Council on Aging
(347) 839-0745
lbcpw@yahoo.com

Town Tag Sale Call for Donations

Montereyans! Who remembers our town tag sales of a decade ago organized to raise money for the renovation and completion of the Monterey Community Center (MCC)? What fun we had! And how successful they were. We raised close to \$5,000 which went towards, among other things, the cabinets for the center's kitchen.



Loyal devotees of MCC ping-pong.

And now the community center is thriving. Classes are being organized in so many categories that everyone is bound to find something of interest. Ping-pong

hour, a personal favorite, began with a few eager devotees and two very heavy boards laid over bridge tables, with a net spread across. One really had to love the game to put up with that setup.

When the MCC's board found room for a regulation-size table, one was donated and the number of players doubled, and then quadrupled. With the growing recognition of the health benefits of racquet sports, no wonder there is so much interest. So how can we accommodate all the people eager to play? We can get another table... an outdoor, all-weather table, available to everyone always. That's how!

Another joyful option is the MCC Jam organized by Mark Andrews. With lyrics enlarged on a TV, and attendees bringing their own instruments, anyone who wants to sing or play, or just watch, is invited to attend. The keyboard in use is on loan, and it's time the center had one to call its own, not only for the jam session, but for Vikki True, and her Tuesday morning singing group as well.

So, you can see why it's time for you to gather your trinkets and treasures that you have been meaning to part with, and contribute them to our tag sale, scheduled to be held Saturday, July 12, at the MCC.

Everything is acceptable (clothing, jewelry, paintings, furnishings, etc.). Accommodations can be made for pick-ups. Storage may be available for those needing to unload prior to the sale.

If your favorite class can use some new equipment, let us know. Be a part of this wonderful town event by donating, and then come by and pick up someone else's treasures.

—Myrna
Rosen

(917) 446-9904

Any day after 10 a.m. please.

What is an Override Vote? Why does Monterey need one?

In 1980, due to Massachusetts having among the highest property taxes in the US, the legislature created Proposition 2 ½. This law effectively capped the annual increase in municipal property taxes, called the levy, to 2.5 percent. This law has been effective because now our state ranks only average in property taxes. There are three modifiers to raise taxes above this restriction; an increase is allowed for new construction due to assumed added burdens on town services, and payments of debt service (example, the library bond) can be excluded from the calculation. The third way is for voters to agree to voluntarily *override* the 2.5 percent limit.

There must be a good explanation for the need to override, and voters must agree by a majority on the annual ballot. A major disadvantage of this law is it ignores important increases in the cost of government services such as fuel, health insurance, etc. as well as *new services*. Over the past forty-five years, our town worked with this limit well. We only had to vote for three overrides: 1990, 2006, and 2016.

The select board and finance committee ask for an override to expand our partially paid volunteer fire department staff to include full-time professionals on duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This plan still requires keeping our volunteers. There are several informational

meetings planned for before the town meeting on Saturday, May 3, and election on Tuesday, May 6, to explain how this expansion is needed and how it will be fully implemented over the next few years.

For FY 2025 the state certified maximum allowable levy (a property tax) was \$5,161,735. The levy required to fund the voter-approved FY 2025 budget was \$4,650,962. This left a capacity to carry forward to future years of \$510,773. This amount is insufficient to pay for a fully staffed professional department with volunteer support needed as well. Because this objective will require several years to implement, the Select board is asking for a permanent override of \$1.1 million to be added to that maximum allowable levy. Raising this amount would ultimately require increasing our tax rate by approximately \$1.50 but for the coming year, FY 2026, only part of that will be needed. Remember that this plan is for a new level of service to ensure a rapid response to medical and fire emergencies.

The select board must ensure the critical services that town citizens need are available. *The select board and the finance committee are asking for your approval of the upcoming override vote at the town election May 6.*

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue has an excellent informative webpage here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/proposition-2-12-and-tax-rate-process>

—Steve Pullen

Breakfast with Officer Jen

The Monterey Police Department would like to invite town residents to breakfast on the second Wednesday of every month starting May 14.



Officer Jennifer Brown.

The police department, council on aging, and coffee club are collaborating to make this event a success. Please join us at the town hall 8:30-10 a.m. for bagels and schmear, coffee, tea, and great conversation. All are welcome.

—Officer Jennifer Brown



Town Meeting 2016, when an override vote was discussed. Photo by Maureen Banner.



New England Town Meetings – the Bedrock of Democracy

The New England Town Meeting is considered to be a pure form of democracy. All the voters in the town are eligible to come, listen, express their opinions, and vote on the governance and finances of the town. And, as voters, they elect the town's leadership as well as representatives to the state and federal government. This is the basis of a democratic republic. It is sometimes messy, but when people can sit together with their fellow citizens at town meeting, they can hash out issues for the good of the community.

In the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, one of the worst abuses by the king and parliament that inflamed the citizens was an act passed in 1775. This fundamentally took away their rights as citizens. Townspeople were forbidden to hold their own town meetings without the approval of the royal governor, or to decide on the agendas of their meetings; or to elect

their representatives to the general court (legislature); or to elect the local judges who would decide on civil laws but also on fiscal matters such as foreclosures on mortgages. This "intolerable act" resulted in Massachusetts forming its own provincial legislature separate from the royal government. Other states in the colonies followed suit, and the die was cast for independence.

The founding generation of Monterey (Tyringham) took their rights and responsibilities very seriously. Town meeting was usually held in March (when it was still too cold to plow for spring planting), and the voters debated and decided on everything: Should the town let the farmers' hogs roam freely? The rate for owners to work off their taxes by repairing the road in front of their property? Who were the leaders of the town militia and how were they regulated? How much of a stockpile of ammunition and gunpowder should they acquire, and where should it be stored for the militia's use? Should they allow new pews to be built in the meeting house? How

much should they raise for teaching in the schools? The town meeting records are full of interesting and poignant examples.

Town meeting was – and remains – a critical part of the civic and social fabric of the town. And even when there are strong opinions of opposite sides of an issue, in the end, the decision is made by the voice of the people. This is one of our greatest strengths.

— Rob Hoogs,
Monterey Historical Society



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Spring in the Garden: tiny tadpoles



Bonner McAllester

We have a small pool in our vegetable garden. It is about four feet long and three feet across, and not so deep. I can reach the bottom and the water does not come up to my shoulder.

This is especially true since I put a lot of rocks in the bottom, to keep the residents happy.

This pool was once a small stock water tank for our goats, down the hill in the barnyard. We kept it filled up from our gravity-feed water system, careful not to leave the tap open and go off forgetting about it. Our well is sufficient for household, garden and barn, but it is only about five feet deep and can get sucked dry. Then we have trouble: air in the line which blocks the gravity-feed. It has been decades since this happened to us. We are careful.

The little garden pool was once a kids' plastic wading pool, bright blue with pictures of mermaids or something, maybe even octopuses. We got it to keep the little girls entertained while we worked in our big garden. Every fall we cleaned it out and put it away somewhere. Eventually the kids got older and so did the little K-Mart pool. It cracked and leaked. But we liked it as a handy place to rinse off the carrots and potatoes.

With the girls growing up we didn't have such interest in goat milk: no more baby bottles. For years we made a lot of goat cheese for the freezer and gave it away when we got invited over for supper, like taking a bottle of wine. Our friends would smile and put it away in the very back of the fridge. It had herbs in it and we thought it was pretty good. Anyway, then half of our family went vegan and we gave away the goats and took the barnyard water tank up to the garden. There it still is, holding up much better than that cute blue wading pool. It is sunk in the ground and stays out all the year round. You can

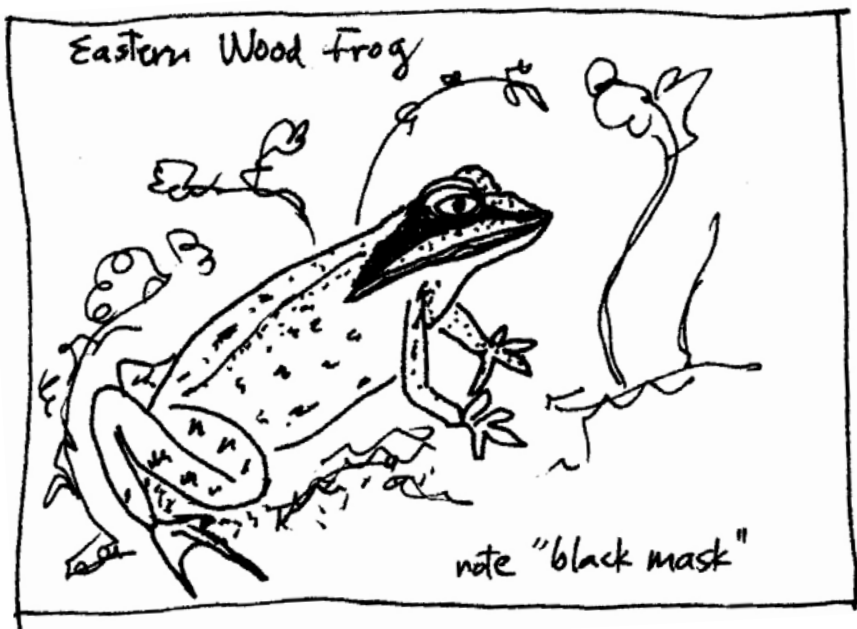
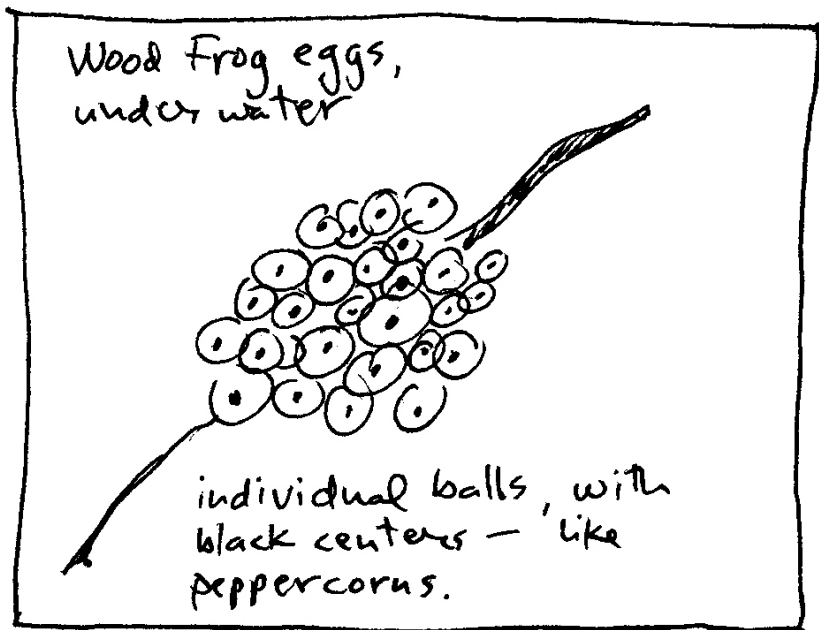
still rinse vegetables, wash the mud off your hands, splash water on your face. Every year about this time I hook up the garden water line so I can keep the level up in that pool. Every spring it becomes a nursery for frogs and other small creatures.

Right now, we have hundreds of newly hatched wood frogs, looking like little black commas with waggly tails. They like to soak up the sun. There are oak leaves floating near the surface, perfect for supporting tiny tadpoles up where it's warm. Some years we would have big toads in that pool, trilling their mating songs. The male would climb aboard the female and as she gave out her long clear strings of eggs the male let out his sperm. External

fertilization, it is called, and it works fine.

Spotted salamanders have a different system. They do not come to our pool, but every year folks may get to see them on a warm rainy night. They leave their secluded terrestrial place, under leaves or maybe a fallen log, and head back to the pool where they were once aquatic babies. These are referred to as their "natal pools," and somehow (we are told) they know just which was their own and head for that one. This journey, undertaken at night, may take them across a road. Salamander protectors get out on such nights to slow the traffic and to help the salamanders get safely across the road.

You will know the spotted salamander-



ders have had their breeding run if you see little white cones in shallow water, attached to some leaf or muddy substrate. The male has left these, and the white tip contains his sperm. The female will come and position herself so that little package gets into her cloaca, for fertilization. These salamanders do have a mating dance under water, which gets them in the mood. Or maybe the mood gets them dancing. Anyway, like the toads' system, and that of all the other spring mating time critters, it has developed over time and works just fine. And we top up the water in the pond during dry spells, pleased to play a small part.

—Bonner McAllister

Native Plant Sale

I'm sure by now you have all heard about the benefits of adding native plants to our gardens to support those crucial pollinators. Maybe you've toyed with the idea of starting a native plant garden but are unsure of what to plant. Well, the Monterey Native Plant Group is here to solve that problem by having a sale of plants that are native to the area and well loved by pollinators.

The sale will take place at the Monterey Community Center on Saturday, June 7, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. You will be able to purchase sets of five different native plants that will include one two-inch plug each of purple coneflower, wild bergamot, foxglove beard tongue, blue wood aster, and lance leaved coreopsis. These plants all like a sunny location.

Need more plants? You can purchase up to two sets of plants and perhaps even more if there are extras at the end of the sale. We would appreciate a minimum donation of \$15 per set of plants and anything more than that would be gratefully received. We suggest you pre-order your plants by emailing pollinators01245@gmail.com, and requesting an order form. Your plants will be set aside and waiting for pick up.

As if that weren't enough, we are excited to announce that Jamie Nadler from Dancing Greens Farm right here in Monterey will also be at this event.

Dancing Greens is a mini-farm selling non-certified organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers using sustainable, no-till practices. For the sale Jamie will sell vegetable and herb starts including tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, summer squash, kale, Swiss chard, chives, sage, thyme, sweet marjoram, rosemary, lavender, and basil. Prices will range from \$3 to \$5. This is one-stop shopping to get your flower and vegetable gardens started. It doesn't get more local than that.

Finally, during the plant sale, we will have information available about Monterey's participation in Home Grown National Park, a movement that is endeavoring to "rebuild the ecosystems that support all life and restore the vital connections between plants and animals for a healthier, thriving planet," according to Doug Tallamy, the movement organizer. This is an exciting opportunity to literally put Monterey on the map about helping pollinators, and we hope you will come see what it's all about.

So, mark your calendars for June 7, and let's go native in Monterey.

—Laurie Shaw

Jerrold N. Raab, DDS PC

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May Bloomer: *Aquilegia canadensis*



Aquilegia canadensis

Native to the woodlands and rocky slopes of North America, the wild red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) serves nectar to hummingbirds, bumblebees, hawk moths, and butterflies just as they appear here in Spring. With spurred petals that are hooked like an eagle's talons, this plant took a botanical name derived from the Latin word *aquila* or "eagle." However, you may come across garden lovers who prefer to call the fancy blossoms "Granny's bonnets."

Many nurseries offer hybrids of the columbine that are larger and more colorful but, sadly, these flashier types, while pretty, offer nothing in the way of support to local wildlife. For eco-friendly gardens, the Monterey Native Plants Working Group finds the wild columbine ideal.

—Colta Ives



*Glowing in her bonnet-
Glowing in her cheek-
Glowing is her Kirtle-
Yet she cannot speak.*

—Emily Dickinson
(first stanza of 72. 1914.)

Celebrate Arbor Day on May 4: Let's Grow!



Janet Jensen

Arbor Day is officially designated in Massachusetts as the last Friday in April, but it will be celebrated in Monterey on May 4 at the Community Center with opportunities to learn and to grow

your own trees. At great prices – \$5 or free!

Tree Warden Kevin West will be offering small native seedlings (about one-foot tall) – of redbud, one of the earliest and most glorious spring bloomers, and swamp white oak, a keystone species that can live up to 300 years and supports some 500 different species of caterpillar. He was able to procure bundles of 100 through the

Massachusetts Association of Tree Wardens and Foresters and is offering them to townsfolk at the great price of \$5 apiece.

At 11:30 a.m., Kevin will talk briefly about the benefits of planting trees in general, his plans for planting around town, and the details of these species and how to nurture them. (Kevin is also the write-in candidate for tree warden on May 6.)

At noon, John Meiklejohn will discuss efforts to restore the American Chestnut, and will distribute germinated seeds of various species of chestnut trees. Several people have already signed up for seeds, but more of several varieties may be available on a first-come, first-served basis. These will include seeds that have been hybridized and carefully selected for resistance to the blight that wiped out what was once the keystone giant of forests up and down the Eastern United States, as well as more commercial varieties. Meiklejohn, a volunteer manager of the Granville research seedling orchard, will also talk about best ways to care for these trees. The price of these future trees – Free to those who commit to caring for them appropriately!

Register to attend at Pollinators01245@gmail.com. Or just show up for this Backyard Ecologist program sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Group. And please put June 7 on your calendar for our upcoming native plants sale.

—Janet Jensen,
for the Monterey
Native Plants Group



Pictured, left to right, Michael Banner, Roger Tryon, Bradley Tryon, Kevin West and David Brown.

Earth Day Gift

Monterey received a lovely Earth Day gift: forty-two native tree saplings



Kevin West, tree warden, inspects some of the saplings planned for town planting.

arrived at the pavilion on April 22. They will be planted around town — nineteen on town property, including eight for the cemetery commission, and about two dozen by local residents. Learn more about tree warden Kevin West's plans for introducing new varieties of trees around town at the May 4 Arbor Day event at the community center. (See article this page.)

—Janet Jensen

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Knox Gallery News



MaryPaul Yates

“The wonderful light” in the Knox Gallery that the currently exhibiting artists cited in their proposals for their show did seem to “bring their paintings to life!” Numerous viewers enthusiastically reviewed *Radiant Light*, paintings by Carla Rogozinski and Eva Schuster, which closed on April 26, and we had several sales. We appreciate all support for the Knox Gallery and the library.

Monterey resident Susan Gilbert’s *My Kitschy World* opens on May 2, and the artist’s reception will be that evening – May 2, 5:30–7 p.m. Please join us to see



Gilbert’s detailed and colorful paintings, and talk with her about her work.

With Gilbert’s detailed depictions and fine craftsmanship, her work captures worlds that seem to be make-believe, but, upon closer inspection the viewer sees that these scenes reference iconic activities, events, American traditions and culture, and aspects of everyday life. Within the images are stories, which can reflect anything from a visit to a coffee shop or her father’s love for the Red Sox. She characterizes her style as “cartoony-figurative.” This allows for “the use of lots of color, exaggerated activity between the characters and my

own sense of humor” she adds.

Gilbert paints in acrylic and gouache on many different grounds — most recently Masonite, plywood, and roofing aluminum. She enjoys assembling these canvases to add dimension, and shaping them to relate to the imagery of the piece. She cites such artists as Red Grooms, Roy DeForest, Chicago’s Hairy Who, Florence Stetheimer, and Frida Kahlo as inspiration. I am reminded, too, of Pieter Bruegel the Elder and Hieronymus Bosch, who painted vast, elaborate, detailed scenes of daily and imaged life of the 16th century in the Netherlands.

The artist graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and right away began showing her work in venues such as Massachusetts College of Art, Clark University, and the University of Massachusetts. With exhibiting success under her belt, she took time away from

art-making for family time. While raising two daughters she began a baking business as a self-taught pastry chef and cake decorator. However, making art is her first love, and she returned to her studio as soon as life permitted, and has been working there full-time for fifteen years.

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; Facebook.com/Knox

—MaryPaul Yates

Gallerie 271

The Place to Be on Route 23

Gallerie 271 is thrilled to announce our upcoming line-up of exhibitions featuring local artists, Karen Dolmanisth (below), Jaye Alison, and Peter Charlap.



First up is Karen’s “Sanctuary,” a painting, sculpture and print immersion that explores sacred spaces—both internal and external—with art that embodies beauty and grace. Please join us for our opening artist reception on Saturday, May 24, from 3 to 7 p.m. to meet Karen, view the art, connect with friends, and enjoy a nibble.

Gallerie 271 is honored to have been voted “The Readers’ Choice” in Art Galleries by *Rural Intelligence*, an online culture and lifestyle magazine.

We are located at 271 Main Road, next door to the Roadside Cafe and are open Fridays, Saturdays, and by appointment.

—Dave Hattem
Gallerie 271

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local
References



Sliding
Scale

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Monterey

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Stanley Irwin Ross

Mar. 20, 1929–Feb. 25, 2025



Stanley Irwin Ross (nee Perman) was born on March 20, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York and passed away on February 25, 2025 in Oakland, California. In between, he lived on Long Island and New York City before he finally settled in Monterey, his adopted home. While he spent his last 5 years in Oakland to be closer to his family, he never ceased to call Monterey his home. Stan was raised in Brooklyn, NY as a young child, and later in Queens, NY. His father, Louis Perman – a Brooklyn doctor – passed away in 1935. His mother, Clara, was remarried in 1938 to David Ross, who adopted him. Stan was a 1948 graduate of Far Rockaway High School, earned a BS from Syracuse University in physics in 1951, and a masters degree in accounting from New York University.

Stan and his wife Edie were married in 1957 and were happily married for 61 years. Together, they had three children and 6 grandchildren. Their first great-grandchild was born the day of Stan's funeral. He was a true friend, a good neighbor, as well as a trusted mentor, advisor, confidante, and colleague to many.

After a rewarding 50-year career in accounting and finance, Stan and Edie retired to the Berkshires. While he could have traveled the world, Stan instead spent his retirement serving the Monterey community close to full-time as a member of the town's finance committee, the board of assessors, and the zoning board of ap-

peals, and at Gould Farm as a member of its board and in various other leadership roles. He was especially proud to have been a founding member of the legendary Monterey Coffee Club and to have helped lead the charge to rebuild the Roadside Store which opened in 2024.

Stan brought his keen humor and wit, fierce intellect, deep curiosity, kindness, loyalty, and generosity to everything he did, and was universally adored by everyone who knew him.

He was predeceased by Edith Renee Ross, his wife of 61 years, and his eldest daughter, Linda Beth Ross, and is survived by his children, Beth Ann Ross and Richard Stewart Ross, his grandchildren, David Danza, Melissa Dillon Danza, Alex Danza, Maia Ross Trupin, Elias Ross Trupin, Clara Ross, and Frances Ross, his great grandchild Owen Ross Danza, his nephew Jay Nadelson and niece Carol Schwartz, and his companion Carol Keyser.

Karl Finger Memorial Celebration

A memorial gathering will be held on Sunday, June 15, at the library,



for our dear friend Karl Finger, who passed away peacefully at the age of 85 in Great Barrington, on January 1.

We know how much this celebration would mean to Karl, and we hope you come to share your memories.

It will be held in person at the library, on Zoom, and live streaming on YouTube. If you would like to attend or help plan, please email Jacqui Horwitz at jacquihorwitz@gmail.com.

Annual Egg Hunt



Help plan the future of
The Monterey Meeting House



Take the 2-3 minute survey

An historic landmark in Monterey Village, a vibrant space for cultural educational and community gatherings.

<https://montereymeetinghouse.org/>



Library Notes



Mark Makuc

We are done scheduling our summer programming for our children and are still looking for an intern! We have programs lined up and our state spon-

sored reading program. It's looking to be a fun summer at the library for the children.

Don't forget our museum passes. We're pleased to add another museum to our list. The American Museum of Tort Law in Winsted, Connecticut. That is in addition to our list of other sites which can be found on our web page. The passes offer discounts, and in some cases, free admission. Passes must be picked up and returned at the library itself. Call ahead during open hours to check availability.

As Aleesha teaches the Tech Goes Home series to our patrons, we would like to remind you that Cole Rosseter is available during open library hours, Monday 7-9 p.m., Thursday 4-8 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Email him at digitalnavigatormonterey@gmail.com. He's often got someone that he's helping, but he's usually just a short wait. And of course, while we wait for the digital equity grant to kick in, the Friends of the Monterey Library are currently funding this position. As soon as the grant kicks in we will be obtaining new technology and hope you will stop in to try it out. In the meantime, we have hotspots, Chromebooks with wireless

data plans, and even iPads to lend out. Try one out, or simply use one while you are waiting for your device to be repaired or your new one to arrive.

—Mark Makuc

Friends of the Monterey Library Update

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community. The response to our annual appeal, as well as the call for volunteers and donation of books, all help tremendously. Thank you.

We are currently looking for someone to **join us on the board** and help with communications efforts. If you have an

interest in writing, social media, and communications please reach out to us at monterey-libraryfriends@gmail.com to find out more about how you can help. We look forward to hearing from you!



The **Annual Book and Plant Sale** will be held on Saturday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library. We are currently accepting donations of books for the sale. Please see the box (top, right) for the guidelines on book donations. We ask that you please bring your book donations to the library early, and no later than July 15. We need time to organize all the

donations. Thank you.

If you aren't already a library Friend, email us at montereylibraryfriends@gmail.com to get on our email list to receive Book and Plant Sale updates.

— Friends of the Monterey Library Board

Books must be in good condition:

- No moldy, mildewed, or water-stained books
- No torn or dirty books
- No rodent-chewed or otherwise damaged books

If you wouldn't want it in your home, it probably shouldn't be passed on for the book sale.

In addition, we do not accept:

- Foreign language books
- Technical or text books
- Videocassettes
- Magazines or puzzles

Actors, Musicians, Costume Makers, and Stagehands

Would you like to take part in a one-hour version of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream on Saturday, Aug. 16?

We are holding an informational meeting from 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, in the sanctuary of the United Church of Christ, 449 Main Road in Monterey.

Questions? Write: maggieroberts-barkin@gmail.com.

—Maggie Barkin



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ARBOR DAY SPECIALS!

May 4, 11 to 12:30

Community Center

Supper Club



Hanna Jensen

When I was in my early twenties my brother, who was doing work training in Switzerland,

bought me a plane ticket for a ten-day trip to go visit. I got there on a Friday morning, and my brother, a master planner (thankfully—if it were up to me, I'd likely still be wandering around Europe), had suggested we go to Italy for the weekend. Yes folks, I am cool enough to nonchalantly say “We ran to Italy for the weekend—” I am just so traveled.

We took the train from Switzerland into Milan. After a hot, hot day filled with more people in one day than I'd probably seen in a year here in the Berkshires, (maybe) too much gelato—it wasn't our fault there were gelato shops every three storefronts, nor was it our doing that free samples exist—and a super jet-lagged self,



I wasn't all that happy. I felt very out of place in one of the world's top shopping cities of the world, and although there were restaurants everywhere, the food was

of the caliber eaten by those who could afford the shirt in the shop next door that cost €200. By the end of the day, I was feeling extremely homesick.

That night in our hotel room, I bleakly told my brother I wanted to go home. My brother and I didn't have the “express our vulnerabilities” kind of relationship, so it was hard to tell him this while fighting back tears. What he said next is one of the most heartwarming things that has ever been said to me, and thinking of it makes me feel the love all over again.

He said “I know today wasn't as great as we had hoped, I didn't have the best time either. We'll have a better day tomorrow.” He proceeded to talk about the details of the upcoming day and reminded me it would be okay.

He was right—we went to Lake Como, and it was GLORIOUS. The cobblestone streets bordered with olive trees and the multitude of smaller, mom-and-pop eateries and shops gave the village a warming, down-to-earth vibe. It was glorious.

Supper Club last month was no Lake Como, but with our “Olive Garden” theme and the pleasant intimacy our community dinners foster, we partook in the “Italian” cuisine way of things. There was no shortage on pasta dishes: we had penne with pesto, baked rigatoni, ramp, olive & cheese casserole (made by Kit Patten, an avid “ramper—” Kit, I thought it was awesome), chicken tetrazzini, beef and sausage lasagna, another penne dish... and we topped these off with sausage and peppers, stuffed mushrooms, tomato, basil, and mozzarella towers, and of course, garlic bread. For a sweet note at the end of our meal: *tiramisu* cupcakes for all!

The sweet notes as we move into May are not those of chocolate-y goodness but something far more floral: April showers bring May flowers! The word on the street is that the Mayflower brought pilgrims, and back in the day, we learned the pilgrims were welcomed by the natives, who generously shared their abundance.

We're going to pretend everything happened that way for our supper this month with the theme of “May I Please?”—Whether it be a favorite recipe or something new you've been wanting to try, please come with something for the



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food pantry that is an ingredient from your dish (unopened, shelf-stable, and within its “best by” or expiration date). Making potato salad? Bring a jar of mayo. Cookies? How about a bag of flour?

We will gather on Monday, May 19, at 6 p.m., and unite in supporting our community, and dig into our buffet at 6:15 p.m. This will likely be our last supper in the meeting house basement (the former church), moving back to the community center for our June supper (and for Supper Club’s second birthday!). RSVP required, please email supperclubmonterey@gmail.com if you’d like to attend.

—Hanna Jensen

Photo by Hanna Jensen

Letters

Thoughts About the Fire Department Proposal



Stephen Moore

The Monterey library hosted a gathering on Saturday morning, March 29, to hear select board member Susan Cooper present an explanation for the settled plan to

provide functional fire protection service for the town going into the balance of 2025 and beyond.

This has certainly not been an easy puzzle to put together. Cooper, along with select board member Frank Abbott,

have spent untold hours considering all the alternatives. This has involved close cooperation with fire chief Shawn Tryon and assistant chief Chris Tryon, discussions with the finance committee (whose members Ilene Marcus, Jeff Zimmerman, and Steve Pullen were in attendance) and many folks from the other towns around south county. Many plans were considered, all of which have daunting price tags.

Cooper presented the current situation. It is primarily one of a lack of human resources, and not just overall numbers, but of those people actually available to answer the calls that come in. To say that it fall disproportionately on just two or three people hardly begins to point to their dedication.

As the presentation and discussion progressed I made a comment. I preceded my comment by saying, “This won’t be any help at all, but...” and went on to point out that this issue has been heading towards Monterey for years and as it has become more dire we’ve avoided the impact on our taxes. The cost is now coming due.

But I was shortchanging some of the earlier preparations that were already made. Unlike all the other small south county town, our fire house is the only one with provision for overnight firefighters. And not just one or two... but for four, and with facilities to support their being there. The fire company had the foresight to see the need and built that into their remodeling years ago. The town helped with financing it, so this is a cost that we’ve already paid.

Also, beginning in January 2020 the town began to have overnight shifts of

firefighters, so this an expense already in our budget since then.

The town has also maintained a strong capital plan for vehicles and equipment for the fire company. The select board and finance committee, anticipating this fiscal demand, have worked to reduce the town’s debt load to free up funds.

The proposed increase in our budget of \$437,000 to implement this new plan is a lot of money. But we need to realize that due to the steps already taken this increase would have been far larger if we had to create the capacity for overnight shift fire fighters (which none of the other towns have, making 24-hour protection unachievable), and if we were just introducing the expense of overnight staff. And our fire company is stronger for having these additional folks helping to keep Monterey safe.

It may be a big jump in our taxes, and I know the select board and finance committee have struggled with the impact this will have on some peoples’ ability to pay the increased taxes. And everyone should know this is only the first of a three-year plan to get us to a well-staffed department. But it is now unavoidable. (If we don’t pass a plan we could easily find ourselves with no one available for daytime responses.)

The clear, longer-range intent is to find ways, using the strength of Monterey’s commitment, to begin solid cooperation with nearby towns, some of which are still not fully facing up to the needs. But Monterey can lead, and thus have a strong hand in shaping how further cooperation can work.

—Stephen Moore

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Fire Company Annual Calls

At the March 29 meeting Susan Cooper pointed to 186 calls in the past calendar year. Asked how these break out into medical versus fire calls, Chief Tryon said, "About 50-50."

The rise in just medical calls tracks the aging of the town population. Other sources of increased calls maybe installation of smoke alarms, older folks with "fall alarms," increasing needs for ambulance transportation, perhaps less reliance on neighbors in emergency situations, etc.

Ten years ago, Felix Carroll published a detailed list of calls for the fiscal year July 2014 through June 2015. There were 115 calls representing substantial increases in the years just prior. (Keep in mind that ten years ago there were many more active firefighters who were able to respond to calls.) See below for partial article by Carroll.

—Stephen Moore

(From June 2015 *Monterey News*)

Fire Company Calls Continue to Rise

The Monterey Fire Company's emergency responses continue to rise. With the closing of the fiscal year in June, the fire company's emergency responses tallied 133 (as of June 25). That's an increase of 30 calls from the previous year and 40

calls over two years. This is nearly a 30% increase in just one year and a 43% rise over two years, in requests for the company to turn out in response.

The breakdown is as follows:

- 58 emergency medical service calls, including motor vehicle accidents, residential, and search-and-rescue calls;
- 50 fire alarms, also including carbon monoxide alarms;
- 21 fire calls, which include structure fires and brush fires.
- 4 service calls, which include state of emergency responses, trees on wires, and hazardous material containment.

—Felix Carroll

Monterey Fire Company

Letters

Too Bright at Night

We've all been blinded by the bright lights pointed at us as we drive along, or wondered why our weekend neighbors flood the zone around them even when they are not in residence. Even some of our public spaces invade the eye with lights on when there's no reason for it.

People equate bright lights with safety, and we do like to see where we set our feet but in fact our eyes naturally adapt well to the dark. There is evidence that the damage to wildlife, mating and migration



accelerates changes to the environment.

I've attached a link to the Dark Sky website which offers lots of useful information on siting and lighting. Let's appreciate the dark.

<https://darksky.org/resources/guides-and-how-tos/lighting-principles>

—Michele Miller

Monterey Recall Election Legislation

The recall election bill (H.3908 - An Act to establish a recall procedure for elective town offices in the town of Monterey, sponsored by Representative Leigh Davis) has been scheduled for a hearing by the Joint Committee on Election Laws on Tuesday, May 6, from 1-4 p.m. Click for the Mass. legislature hearing page (<https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/5151>) with instructions for providing testimony.

Online sign up to testify orally will be available until Friday, May 2 at 5 p.m.



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To sign up to testify you need to first create an account for MyLegislature (<https://malegislature.gov>) and follow these instructions (<https://malegislature.gov/assets/documents/how-to-sign-up-to-testify.pdf>).

Online testimony will be accepted until Tuesday, May 13, at 5 p.m. To submit testimony online you need to first create an account for MyLegislature (<https://malegislature.gov>) and follow these instructions (<https://malegislature.gov/assets/documents/how-to-sign-up-to-testify.pdf>).

—Roger MacDonald

May Contributions

David Anelli
Bola, Inc. and Michelle Miller
Evelyn Solomon
Robert and Cynthia Hoogs
Mort and Teri Salomon
Stella Bodnar
Delight and Paul Dodyk
Sharon and Steven Singer
Carol A. Landess
Peter J. Poirier
Gary Rosenberg &
Linda Waxman
Ira and Robyn Transport
John and Susan Schmerler
Peter and Karen Schulze
Frank Gurtman
Amy Husten and James Haskin
Garry and Colta Ives
E. Belvin Williams and
Bella August
Paula and Joseph McNay
Jesse J. Tepper
Natalie Manzano
Mary McGoff and Mariela Salas
Evelyn Semaya
Leslie B. Roth
Frank and Arlene Tolopko
Steven and Sally Pullen
Philip and Sue Knoll
Suzanne Hoppenstedt
Barbara S. Adams
Charles and Jane Johnson
Charleen and
Herbert Greenhalgh
Glenn A. Wall

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.

Fire Chief's Daughter

It's pretty cool,
being the fire chief's daughter.
People light up when they hear it.
They think of fires, cool trucks, bravery,
and they're right: my dad is all that.
He's the calm person when others turn frantic,
the one trusted when everything is burning.
He doesn't just fight fires, he teaches me
bravery in a world that sometimes burns.

Monday through Wednesday I wake
and he's already gone,
not rushing to a call, just on a shift
doing his job before the sun rises,
his chair empty in the living room

Some mornings the dog is left
without a lap. The gentle "good morning"
which I have learned not to answer
with a moody snap back
is not there some mornings.

It's hard when the pager goes off
before a birthday cake, or when the seat next
to me is empty during a big moment,
or when I'm missing him, but I know someone
needs him more. When I was little
I just missed him when he was at a call.
Now I see how much he gives.

He's always there, no matter how far.
He'll be there if you accidentally hit
the wrong button and shatter the glass
on the garage door, if you can't find what you need.
He'll even be there when he's in Florida, the cape,
or maybe even the Dominican. My dad answers calls,
tells you exactly how to do the job, step by step.
When I was younger I only saw the leaving
during others' time of need. Now I see differently:
I've learned what it means to love someone
who gives so much to strangers.

He's not just the fire chief.
He's my dad.
—Phoebe Tryon



Grace, age 3.



Owen, age 6.



Shawn Tryon, fire chief, and Mike Banner. All photos above taken at the fire company's breakfast.

Here's a Thought...

"It's May! It's May, the lusty month of May!

... It's here! It's here! that shocking time of year when tons of wicked little thoughts merrily appear!"



Mary Kate Jordan

When I first heard those words, Julie Andrews was singing them in *Camelot* on Broadway. With her impeccable presentation, it was completely clear what kinds of delightfully wicked thoughts were merrily appearing to Queen Guinevere. Delicious as her on-stage flirting with impropriety was, that merriment did co-generate enough change in *Camelot* to devastate Arthur and bring down his kingdom by the end of the play.

But this year musicals are out of style and I'm watching a drama with a would-be-king in a sort of starring role. One whose wicked little thoughts aren't as earthy as Guinevere's. Hers ran hot, spring leaping toward summer. The little thoughts on center stage now run cold, slip-slide back into a winter that may be enough to bring down democracy. Not so merrily for most of the world, even those on the tops of the mountains or living in the beautiful green woods.

I feel like the last few months have been an extended 24/7 episode of *Dragnet* with Jack Webb cast as the star but now villain instead of as Sargeant Joe Friday. Just a few facts: Jack Webb died in 1982, during the first Reagan administration. But Sargeant Friday and even Sargeant Pepper are still alive. So are the democracy, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. So far.

I wonder what the signers of the Declaration would say to government leaders who insist that speaking their truth to power is anti-American. Those signers knew that the document they signed meant their lives were under threat from the minions of then-in-power King George.

Mary Kate Jordan



Here and now, living democratic ideals are revolutionary again. Each July we still celebrate those ideals, even the wild idea that equality was once seen as self-evident. The 1776 original vision was culture-bound. So is ours. Today, most of us believe that women, people of color, the gender-fluid, immigrants, and even criminals are also people.

The Founders' idea of democratic equality was revolutionary then. Bringing it into its fuller expression still is.

If there's anything to history repeating itself, our current idealistic divisions may be tied up with unfinished business from America's Colonial and Revolutionary past. When John Hancock and the others

put their signatures where their hearts were, they took a risk that paid off so well in so many ways, for them and for us. But they never acknowledged, at least as far as history records, the anguish of the defeated Loyalists.

Neither have we. History, as they say, is written by the victors. From our point of view 250 years later, why not take a moment to extend compassion to the wounded souls of those who lost everything because of their loyalty to King George? Could it be their unacknowledged and unforgiven wounds still fester?

Sounds wild, but maybe a bit of understanding will start to clear the air, maybe even the water and the earth. Worst case scenario, it certainly can't hurt.

Some of you are nodding in agreement with that. Others of you find this scoff-worthy stuff. But being free to stand on a soapbox whistling to the wind — as well as being free to listen or not — are parts of what democracies are all about. Messy, sometimes irritating, often inconvenient, elusive, dangerous, but nevertheless still the best game in town.

So, how are you helping keep democracy alive?

—Mary Kate Jordan



30 years!

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GRAND OPENING WEEKEND

Celebrating our 30th anniversary and long-anticipated renovations of the Arts Center. We're cool, with climate-friendly AC and a spiffed-up gallery!

GALLERY

FRI., MAY 30: The Landscape We Live
Group show celebrating the beauty of the land around us. **Opening reception 5-7 pm.** Free

SAT., MAY 31, 10 AM: From Church to Synagogue to Arts Center: Celebrating 185 Years of Community and Culture
Slide show and talk by **Ron Bernard**. \$15 (includes \$5 toward purchase of one book)

SAT., MAY 31, 2 PM: Sandisfield in Poetry
Local poets **Hannah Fries** and **Hilde Weisert** read poems inspired by our landscape. Free

SAT., MAY 31 4 PM: Singing Sandisfield's Unsung Heroes
A tribute to some local community stalwarts. Free

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

Monterey Proud

Beth Reiter



Ben Reiter at the Mass. State House.

The Reiter-Kreider family of Monterey traveled to the Massachusetts State House in February. We were dismayed to discover that Monterey's town flag was not on display in the Great Hall of Flags. Luckily, Ben was wearing his Monterey t-shirt, so we took this photo. We hope that soon Monterey's flag will join the others.

—Beth Reiter

Mardi Gras Dreams



Diane Austin and Aaron Nurick

Diane Austin, Bidwell House Museum board president and part-time Becket resident since 1983, and her husband Aaron Nurick, were part of the Mardi Gras festivities earlier this year in New Orleans. In fact, they have been involved for years.

A dear friend encouraged their participation, and in 2019 Aaron rode a float for the Krewe of Bacchus for the first time by

invitation. (Krewe members can nominate substitutes to ride in the place of a member who won't be riding.) Aaron was invited to join the krewe in 2022.

"The rest is history," said Diane. "Mardi Gras in New Orleans is something that has to be experienced directly; no words do it justice. The feelings of jubilation, and community, and happiness seem to permeate the city - and the people-watching is without equal."

Fire Co. Breakfast



Kathryn Roberts

Roberta Weiss, member of council on aging board, climbs into driver's seat of Monterey's fire truck. Seniors like fire trucks too!

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Wildlife Report

Spring is here at last and Bonsai Cox sent the first report right on March 20: seven little white moths (below) on her window, celebrating the Spring Equinox.



The next emergence was a young bear up by Julie Johnston's place, happy to clamber up a tree a little way to the place where the birdfeeders were hung. Julie ran out with admonishments and the bear skeedaddled. After the feeders were rescued, the bear came back full of hope. Julie sent a photograph (below). Hope sprung eternal.



Peter Schulze on New Marlborough Road saw a handsome, big red-tailed hawk and took a great portrait photograph (above). Later, talking to his neighbor down the road, Roger Tryon, Peter learned that Roger sees this bird often and has named it Rex.

Marc Holzer has been out with his camera by Lake Garfield and saw three geese flying over the lake, also an eagle keeping low to the water. "Fishing," Marc



says, "I believe successfully." Marc sent a photograph (above) of a sweet plover with yellow-orange feet, also a yellow-orange beak with a black tip.

Maureen Banner sent a botanical report, a blessed event of an "acorn giv-

ing birth." There is plenty of red in the meat of the acorn, but the sprout itself is



definitely purple. It will reach out and then turn down, to send the root way down. Around here I have seen this right on the hard-packed dirt of a footpath. There is much power in that acorn (above).

Here we have pollywogs in our garden pool, recently hatched, also trilliums blooming along the path to the garden. In the woods the bloodroots are blooming, also Dutchmen's britches, and then marsh marigolds in the brook. The tree swallows have been swooping about, considering the neighborhood in our orchard, where we have a birdbox, and right down at the house, a gorgeous leopard slug "walked" partway up our log house wall outside the front door. Never even knocked, was gone the next day leaving a shining track.

Thank you, folks, for your reports of the wild doings around town.

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

Local Immigrant Resources:
basicberkshires.org

Get Red Cards (know your constitutional rights) from Immigrant Legal Resource Center
<https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

My Mom is a Cutterman Claire Mielke Davenport's Coastie Kids Children's Book

Claire Mielke Davenport, a native of Monterey, Mass., graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 2007. She served in the Coast Guard for twelve years before transitioning to the Coast Guard Reserve. She was at sea for six years aboard three ships.

She loves the ocean, especially dolphins, octopuses, and horseshoe crabs. Claire currently lives in Chesapeake,

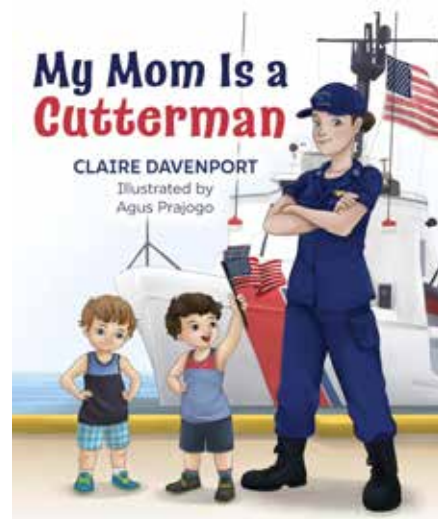


Claire Mielke Davenport grew up in Monterey.

Virginia, with her family. *My Mom Is a Cutterman* is her first book.

United States Coast Guardsmen are hard at work protecting our shores and saving lives 24/7. Flying planes, jumping from helicopters, saving the environment, and high-speed, high-seas chases are all in a day's work for these military moms. At the end of the day, their kids love to hear their sea stories.

This fun story teaches (from Coastie kids perspective) about the Coast Guard and what makes them so proud of what their moms do.



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THE ADVENTURES OF Spirogie

Panel 1: HOLD ON A SECOND HERE. I SEEM TO BE SOMEONE THAT THINGS KEEP HAPPENING TO I NEVER MAKE MY OWN DESTINY... AND HOW DO I MAKE MY OWN DESTINY?




Panel 2: A MESSAGE... *BONK*




Panel 3: SPIROGIE, ENTHRALLED BY A HIGHLY SEDUCTIVE SPECTRE, HAS TOPPED INTO THE DRUNK.

Panel 4: "COME VISIT MORA-MORA, THE PLACE WITH THE MOST OF EVERYTHING, 42.18N, 73.21W"




Panel 5: I'LL GO TO MORA-MORA. I'LL MAKE MY OWN DESTINY.




THE ADVENTURES OF Spirogie


Panel 6: WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE AND NO MORA-MORA.




Panel 7: I'M SO SICK OF THIS SALTY EMPTINESS.



Panel 8: I WISH I COULD JUST TURN THIS OCEAN UPSIDE DOWN AND EMPTY IT OUT.



Panel 9: WHOA! WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Bidwell House Museum News



Heather Kowalski

As I write this article in mid-April, we are on the springtime roller coaster of snow showers on the weekend and 70-degree weather two days later. By the time you read this, things should be much

calmer and quite beautiful in the lush green of May in Monterey. This seasonal renewal also signals to start of the Bidwell House Museum's 2025 season! We have been working all winter long to plan a fun and engaging season, with a focus this year on the traditional trades used to create the architecture and homewares at the Museum. We have so many great programs planned, including the return of our weekend long Revolutionary War reenactment event, and I encourage you to sign up for weekly emails, if you have not already, so that you do not miss a thing.

We will begin the 2025 season on Saturday, May 17, at 2 p.m. with the program *A Personal Conversation in Mrs. Washington's Bedchamber*. Performed by Boston-based historian Sandy Spector, attendees will spend time with Mrs. Washington as she completes dressing for her day in this interactive and informative program. Mrs. Washington will share news of her family, and how the current events that her husband was so deeply involved with impacted both her family and her developing nation. The program will be followed by a short reception with light refreshments. Tickets are free for museum members and \$20 for non-members and seating is limited, so pre-registration will be required.

In the week following the Museum's opening program on May 17, we will host our third annual Member's Week where museum members can take a house tour without an appointment on May 19, 22, 23, and 24 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Then, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, the official house tour season begins. These personal, small group tours take around one hour, and study the history of the

Bidwell family and town of Monterey; the construction of the house; and the amazing collection of 18th and 19th century furnishings and housewares. This year, there will be a small exhibition about traditional trades at the end of the tour. All tours by appointment only, on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. Tours can be booked by calling the Museum at (413) 528-6888 or emailing bidwellhm2@gmail.com. Because we have such a tiny staff, we ask that reservations or cancellations be made at least 24 hours in advance.

In addition to these season opening events and tours, in 2025 the museum is also planning four history talks, a concert, guided hikes, and a Living History Revolutionary War reenactment weekend. The first history talk will take place on June 14, and we will hear from Kirsten E. Wood, associate professor of history at Florida International University, and author of the recent book *Accommodating the Republic: Taverns in the Early United States*. In this talk based on that book, she will discuss the importance of tavern spaces in early American history and how the freedom to use taverns in their pursuits of happiness helped flesh out the evolving meaning of citizenship in the young United States. This talk is at 11 a.m. in person at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road Tyringham, and via Zoom. Pre-registration is required to Zoom, and can be completed on the museum website bidwellhousemuseum.org/events. In-person attendees can buy tickets online or at the door. Information and tickets for all programs can be found on the museum website.

We will share more details in the next issue about June and July programs, but

mark your calendars for two important events this season. On Friday, July 25, from 4-7 p.m., the museum will host our annual summer fundraiser and this year the theme is *Berkshire Roadshow*. Attendees will have the chance to bring an item from their personal collection for evaluation by one of three antiques experts. This is going to be such a fun event. Then, in October, we are so excited for our third Revolutionary War Era Reenactment weekend. Close to 100 reenactors will be on the museum property from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, October 3-5, recreating life in late 18th century New England. We will share more details about this and a full schedule of events over the summer.

Finally, do you enjoy visiting all of the beautiful gardens on the Bidwell property? Do you like being outside in the summer? If so, we are looking for summer garden volunteers to work with the crew from *Gardens of the Goddess* this summer. Even if you only have an hour or two to spare each week, or can only help out a few times this summer, we would love to have you. Email the museum at bidwellhouse@gmail.com for information. And if gardening is not your speed but you like volunteering, just let us know. There are many ways you can help the museum this summer.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road and the museum grounds—194 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The events can be found at bidwellhouse-museum.org/events. We can't wait to see you at the museum this year.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Protect our Predators and Pets: Join the Statewide Movement

Raptors (hawks, owls, and eagles), foxes, coyotes, and other predators keep our ecosystems in balance, but rodent poisons—specifically second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs)—harm thousands of these creatures in Massachusetts each year.

MassAudubon is leading efforts to help concerned citizens across the state to reduce their use of SGARs at home and in their municipalities. Rescue Southern Berkshires Wildlife is part of our local team working to do that in South County.

Please be aware: Rodent-control alternatives exist, using the same bait box model that many companies promote. Responsible pest control companies will offer corn gluten meal for home and municipal settings. Corn gluten meal kills the rodents who directly eat them, but does not bioaccumulate in the food chain and kill other animals who feed on those rodents. Please request this from your pest management companies. Read on for more practical advice:

Shrila Leslie Luppino of Rescue Berkshires Wildlife suggests the following alternatives to SGARs:

Use integrated pest management solutions (IPM) for your property. Rodenticide poisons are the last resort after other, non-toxic measures are taken.

Rodent Exclusion

- It may take several attempts to find all the entry points. Don't give up!
- Close rodent entrance routes.
- Seal all holes in roofs, basements, crawl-spaces, and walls.
- Use wire mesh extending partially into the ground to block off spaces under porches.
- Seal openings around cables, pipes, and wires where they enter your space.
- Monitor rodent activity.
- Use monitoring bait that makes rodent droppings glow green under black light.
- Try non-toxic rodent repellents.
- Apply botanical repellents, such as mint and cayenne pepper repellent bags..
- Try non-toxic repellents, such as botanical repellents (i.e. mint and cayenne pepper repellent bags), spicy foods like

hot sauce, essential oils, strobe lights, and plug-in ultrasonic rodent repellent devices.

Removal of Food Sources

- Never leave pet food out for prolonged periods.
- If you feed birds, limit how much bird seed is available—only use small amounts of seed at a time, bring in feeders at night, and pick up fallen seed. At bigger establishments, you might consider using a shop-vac to clean animal feed.
- Harvest all food in gardens quickly.
- Keep trash cans securely covered, and garbage securely stowed. This might include using metal trash cans, closing the lids with bungee cords, and having a plan for efficient trash removal.

Targeting Remaining Rodents

- Raptors: create raptor-friendly habitat to support them as free rodent control.
 - Snap traps work by luring rodents with bait and killing them via a spring mechanism. They must be used where they are not accessible by children, pets, or other wild animals. To reduce the labor of checking these traps, you can use traps that hold multiple mice.
 - CO & CO2 Sprayers: immediately and painlessly kill rodents by filling their burrows with gas that suffocates them underground. Care needs to be taken when close to buildings and homes.
 - Dry ice can be placed into burrows after you seal up all the exits.
 - Corn gluten meal products: Products with corn gluten meal (Rat-X & Mouse-X) coat the rodent's stomach lining, blocking the thirst message from the stomach to the brain and they cannot vomit so they stop wanting water, leading to eventual dehydration and death; May need peanut butter to tempt rats due the bait tasting too salty.
 - Last Resort Option: For serious infestations only, i.e. short-term, carefully monitored, and preferably indoors!. Products with cholecalciferol / Vit. D3 (d-CON & Terad3) at high doses causes blood calcium to rise to toxic levels leading to kidney damage, bleeding, heart problems, and death.
- NOTES: Vit. D3 is particularly lethal if ingested directly by other animals – pets or wildlife. So, it should be used*

> p.22



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indoors where pets cannot get into it.

Note: Never use glue traps—they trap rodents without killing them, causing immense suffering, and often capture birds and other animals.

Check out Raptors are the Solution: raptorsarethesolution.org/free-outreach-materials. South Berkshire County just had their kick-off event on April 28 in Sheffield. Join Rescue Southern Berkshires Wildlife Facebook group to learn about efforts to advocate in Southern Berkshire County: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/708203401767540>. Attend a MA Audubon online orientation session on Thursday, May 8: www.massaudubon.org/programs/policy-and-advocacy/97142-rescue-raptors-from-rodenticides.

Stay tuned for updates regarding current legislation to ban the use of SGAR rat poisons in Mass.

— Alyssa Anne Lovell



Historical Society News Lexington, Concord... & Tyringham

It's amazing to realize that 250 years ago – on April 19, 1776 – the “first shots” were fired in the Revolutionary War. And men of the Berkshire militia, including from Tyringham, responded to the call.

I have written over the past year about the events leading up to the erup-

tion of this war. The yeoman farmers of Western Massachusetts strongly supported the petitions to the King and Parliament asking that they repeal their abusive tariffs and the laws that took away many of the colonial citizens' rights and freedoms. Unfortunately, Britain did not relent, and seven years of war followed.

As we “celebrate” the 250th anniversary of these events, it is worth reflecting on our forebears' trials and their firm resolve to fight for their freedom and the principles for which they joined together

to form this new democratic republic.

As part of the Berkshires250 commemorations, the Bidwell House Museum will have a Reenactors' Weekend in October. The historical society is planning several talks, a walk on the Knox Trail in September, and an exhibit and programs in January 2026.

I hope you will renew your membership or become a new member (form below). Thank you.

—Rob Hoogs, President
Monterey Historical Society



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Monterey Meeting Houses through History

This is a continuation of a series about the history of the Monterey United Church of Christ (MUCC) and the three Meeting Houses that the Monterey community has used for civic and religious functions since 1750. Monterey Meeting House, Inc. (MMH) is moving forward with planning for future ownership and stewardship of this keystone building and to arrange programs and community gatherings in the Meeting House. If you're interested in learning more or helping with MMH's efforts, please go to their website: <https://montereymeetinghouse.org>

Part II: In the Beginning ... and People Make a Community.

Earliest settlement (*of Township No. 1) came in April of 1739 in the southern portion, as the northern valley was a periodically flooded marsh. The offer of a mill lot, contingent on building a sawmill, was made to one Samuel Bond, who refused, writing that he could not meet the conditions imposed; it was then offered to Thomas Slaton, who accepted but within days gave it up. The proprietors, anxious that this important industry be established, decided to tax themselves £1.10s to pay for a sawmill. (*The proprietors relocated the offered mill lot from Loom Brook to a much better mill site along the outlet of Twelve Mile Pond). The deal was then offered to John Brewer, who accepted, and who followed Isaac Garfield, Slaton and John Chadwick to Township Number One from his home in Hopkinton, returning the

next year with a pair of stones for a grist mill as well (Myers, p. 5).

Within six months wives and families followed, and with (in all probability) some slaves they began the lengthy process of turning wilderness into farmsteads, meeting house, and mills. Brewer constructed his mills near the outlet of Twelve Mile Pond (now Lake Garfield). The first road (*Hupi Rd-Beartown Mtn Rd-Brett Rd), opened through the Township in 1737, was followed by Royal Hemlock Road to Hop Brook in the northern section in 1743, and a church building was started. The Brewer house, the Chadwick house (*this house is no longer standing), and the Bidwell house all still stand, and portions of the first Road and Royal Hemlock Road still exist. The meeting house, the first of three that would be built, does not. (*The site of the first Meeting House is well marked on the Bidwell House property.)

The settlers voted to build it in 1740, and assessed each property owner ten shillings to buy "boards to be sawed and to be seasoning three months." John Brewer and Thomas Slaton were delegated to get boards for the outside "and sufficient good white pine for the inside work." Construction was delayed due to the threat of war with France, but each proprietor was assessed ten more shillings for the "obtaining of some suitable person" to serve as minister. In 1742, they voted to build again, thirty-five by forty feet with suitable height for a one tier gallery. In 1745, with another threat of war in the air, they sealed up the unfinished building, ordered "waterboring the mortises and underpinning [sic], sticking the boards, securing the window frames and all stuff

provided for use," and instead fortified the Brewer, Slaton, and Watkins houses.

The following year they shingled the roof; itinerant preachers held occasional services. By 1750, the building was complete enough to pay serious attention to a formal covenant and ordination of a minister (Myers, p. 6).

A Centerpiece.

Standing on a hill, and becoming visible from a distance as land was cleared to fields, the meeting house dominated community life as the place for town meetings, worship, and emergencies. It could be used to store munitions and be fortified against attack. Notices were posted on its doors, and proclamations read on its front steps. Political discussion and community decisions took place in the meeting house.

Surviving churches of the period typically had a door centered in the longer side of the single-story building, and windows with closable shutters on all sides. Facing the door was a pulpit, raised for visual prominence and better acoustics. (*See sidebar for images of similar buildings.) The building frame was most likely local oak, with an interior of plaster and pine. Pews might have been enclosed by low doors to preserve heat and cut down drafts. There was surely no heat other than foot warmers, so ministers and parishioners alike wore gloves and outer coats to services most of the year. It was altogether a simple building by practical necessity and by theology (the Calvinist reform of the perceived error of ostentation).

— Kathy Page Wasiuk

(originally printed in the Monterey News, Oct. 1996, pp-6-8)

References: †Marked references are in the collection of the Monterey Library, and may be seen there.

†A Hinterland Settlement, by Eloise Myers

* 2025 footnotes added by Rob Hoogs, Monterey Historical Society

These articles were originally written by Kathy Page Wasiuk and Delight Dodyk and printed in the Monterey News from October 1996 through May 1997 as part of the MUCC congregation's outreach for their capital campaign for restoration and preservation work. The articles are reprinted with the permission of the authors. (See p. 26-27 for more.)



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COA CALENDAR

A few notes of importance:

South County Connector rides to Pittsfield are suspended temporarily due to staff shortages. Effective immediately and through June 30, there are free rides to Pittsfield and other area towns for Monterey residents sixty years and older through a special new program offered by BRTA and Berkshire Elder Services. See separate article in this issue.

Breakfast Club on May 14 will be at town hall, 8:30 - 10 a.m., courtesy of the police department, serving "bagels with a schmear!"

Coming Events

Monday May 5: COA Board Meeting at town hall 10:30 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, May 7: Coffee Club Breakfast at the Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 8: Monthly lunch at noon at The Pizza House, 36 State Road, Great Barrington. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.

Wednesday, May 14: Coffee Club breakfast at town hall, 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m., courtesy of the police department, serving "bagels with a schmear!"

Wednesday, May 14: Movie Night at the library, 7 p.m. *The Blues Brothers*, released in 1980 starring John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd, is an American musical action comedy. Described as a wild ride through 1970s Chicago, this is a fun film to revisit with amazing music to enjoy as

well. The classic comedy has a running time of 133 minutes. Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

Tuesday, May 20: Wellness Check, 11 a.m. - noon at the library. Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (formerly Tritown Health) will be there to check blood pressure, vital signs, and to arrange for vaccines they do not offer. For Covid and flu vaccines, call ahead to arrange with Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209. The informational topic this month is Stroke Awareness.

Wednesday, May 21: Coffee Club Breakfast at the Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 21: Afternoon at the Movies, 2 p.m., library. *Big Night* is a 1996 American comedy-drama film set in the 1950s on the Jersey Shore where two brothers from Italy run an Italian restaurant. Critics describe as a tight smart comedy with a big heart that captures so much of what we love about restaurants. Running time 107 minutes. Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

Thursday, May 22: Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman, 11 a.m. at the community center. A still life will provide inspiration or draw from your own imagination. Anything goes! Bring your own supplies. Coffee and a snack provided. Call Beth with questions: (201) 463-9543

Wednesday, May 28: Coffee Club Breakfast at Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 29: Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman, 11 a.m. at the com-

munity 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, June 2: COA Board Meeting at town hall, 10:30 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town website. All are welcome.

Thursday, June 12: Monthly lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Roadside. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.

Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, May 1, 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 to Great Barrington, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Egremont, and Sheffield. Call (413) 591-3826. 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 suspended for now due to staff shortages.

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.

AND REMEMBER: if you have concerns about the well-being of a senior neighbor or family member - or yourself - call me at the number immediately below. I will discuss the situation with you and then reach out to the PD and/or appropriate provider agencies as needed.

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
Outreach Coordinator/Admin. Assistant



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Community Center

It's a beautiful time of year to stop by the community center—birdsong in the air, and a fresh calendar of events to explore. Whether you're new in town or just haven't been in a while, there's never been a better moment to get involved.

Did you know that ping-pong is one of the best low-impact ways to boost balance, coordination, and brain health? It supports reflexes, sharpens mental agility, lifts your mood—and it's easy on the joints, too. Thanks to growing community enthusiasm, we've added a new Monday session from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. called "Non-Competitive Ping-Pong for Fun"—a relaxed, welcoming time for all ages and abilities. It's an easygoing way to get moving, share some laughs, and connect with neighbors. Paddles and balls are provided—just come as you are!

We've also clarified our other sessions by renaming "All Play" to "Intermediate," to better reflect the skill level and help everyone find the right fit. Now, for those who want more focused competition, we offer two distinct options:

Advanced Ping-Pong: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1–3 p.m.

Intermediate Ping-Pong: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 3–4:30 p.m.

We're also looking ahead to a lively summer season under our beautiful outdoor event tent, which will be up for June,

July, and August. If you're a musician or creative person interested in offering a workshop or performance, please get in touch—we'd love to spotlight local talent.

We're excited to welcome back the Berkshire Bounty Mobile Farmers Market, now on a new day and time that's more accessible for those coming home from work: Fridays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., starting June 20. Interested in volunteering to help set up or break down? Let us know—we'd love to have you involved.

Also coming soon: Mass Audubon's "Birding for Beginners" workshop. Saturday, May 17, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Join us for a workshop led by Mass Audubon's Nicaela Haig at the Monterey Community Center. This early evening program is perfect for all ages and experience levels—come learn the basics of bird identification, explore local habitat, and discover the joy of birdwatching right here in Monterey.

To register for the workshop, visit ccmonterey.org/birding and register via Eventbrite. Or leave a message at (413) 528-3600. Space is limited to eighteen participants to ensure a high-quality birding experience—smaller groups help minimize noise and increase our chances of seeing and hearing more birds up close. Bring your curiosity—and your binoculars if you have them!

And finally, there are still three plots available in the Community Garden. If you're thinking about growing your

own vegetables this season, email us at montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com. Garden plots are \$40 per year and offer a great spot to dig in and grow something great.

Hope to see you soon!

—Chris

Looking Back

This spring has been full of energy and connection at the MCC. From new faces joining weekly activities to the return of beloved programs, it's been a joy to see the community coming together in all kinds of ways. Thank you to everyone who's attended, volunteered, or helped spread the word—your presence and participation are what make this place so special.

Special Events

Coffee House with Lucas Neil, Friday, May 2, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Widely considered the brightest new face in New England Folk Music. Light refreshments will be served. For registration, contact wendygj@gmail.com.

Post-Arbor Day Tree Distribution, Sunday, May 4, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Join Kevin West as he distributes pre-ordered trees and shrubs and shares expert planting tips. Special germinated chestnut seeds will also be available for those who signed up in advance. Thanks to dozens of "Chestnut Champions," Monterey could one day boast a thriving population of blight-resistant American Chestnuts.

Mass Audubon's "Birding for Beginners" workshop, on Saturday, May 17, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the MCC! To register, visit ccmonterey.org/birding or leave a message at (413) 528-3600. Space is limited to 18 participants.

Weekly, Bi-Weekly & Monthly Activities

Mondays:

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

Non-competitive ping-pong for fun, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Simple meditation, all are welcome, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

May 26: Cook book club, 11:45

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a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com.

May 19 (meeting a week early this month): Book club. This month's book is *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Bridge, 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, 1 to 3 p.m. for advanced players, 3 to 4:30 p.m. for intermediate players. (Third Wednesday of the month, 3:30 to 5 p.m. only, all play.)

May 21: 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:

Yantra Yoga, 9 to 10 a.m.

Mahjong, 2 to 4 p.m.

May 1: Darn Yarners, 12 to 1:30 p.m., first Thursday of the month.

May 8 and 22: Folk Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m.

May 22 and 29: Open Studio with Beth Hoffman, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 8 and 22: Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Fridays:

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

Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

May 9: Yoga Nidra, 5 p.m.

Saturdays:

Coffee club, 9 to 10 a.m.

Ping-pong, 1 to 3 p.m. for advanced

players, 3 to 4:30 p.m. for intermediate players.

Sundays:

AlAnon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

Monterey Marijuana Anonymous, 7 to 8 p.m.

Coming Up

Annual Native Plant Sale, Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A great opportunity to find beautiful native plants for your garden while supporting local ecosystems. Stay tuned for details!

The Mobile Farmers Market, Fridays 3:30 – 5:30, beginning June 20. If you're interested in volunteering—especially for setup and breakdown—please reach out to montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com.

Community Input

We want to hear from you! What programs and events would you love to see at the Monterey Community Center? Take our MCC Community Interest Survey and help shape future offerings.

This listing is based on information we had as of April 17. You can find updated information on events on our website, ccmonterey.org, by following the MCC on Facebook and Instagram (@monterey-macc), by calling (413) 528-3600, or by emailing montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com

—Chris Gannon and Nancy Kleban

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Figure 1 1773 Sandown NH Meeting House
(1908 post card)

Township No. 1's first meeting house (1750-1794) was probably similar to these examples. They are about the same size, but ours would have been unpainted and rustic.

Typically, the front door was reserved for the minister and special guests. The congregation entered through the doors on the two ends.

The arched window on the rear, halfway between the upper and lower floors, was the “Pulpit Window” below which the minister preached, usually on a raised platform.

—Rob Hoogs
Monterey Historical Society



Figure 2 1797 Rockingham VT Meeting House
(photo by Rob Hoogs)

Monterey Quilters



From left to right: Marsha Norman, Marcia Doelman, Barbara Piazzo, Anita Diller, Linda Neilson, Maggie Barkin

Memorial Day Schedule: Monday, May 26

Join as Monterey remembers the men and women who served in the military and are no longer with us.

Memorial Day Ceremony - 10:30 a.m.

Veterans Memorial Park, the corner of Blue Hill and Route 23

Marchers Line up – 12:30 at Rt. 23 and Sandisfield Road

We start at 1 p.m. and march from the intersection of Rt. 23 and Sandisfield Road to the firehouse, with a stop at the church steps, a wreath ceremony at the bridge, and a band performance. Pick a spot along the route and cheer on the marchers. Join us after the parade at the firehouse for hotdogs, ices, and friendship.

What Happens if it Rains?

We go forward as if it was not going to rain and make a call last minute for everyone to head to the pavilion if it looks like we will be in a thunderstorm. Otherwise, we march. Either way we have hotdogs at the pavilion. Plan to dress appropriate to the conditions. Join to remember our veterans. Questions? Call or text Ilene at (917) 626-9616 or email: ilene@montereyma.gov.

—Justin Makuc / Ilene Marcus / Tom Sawyer
The Parade Committee

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.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795 montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778


Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117 montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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



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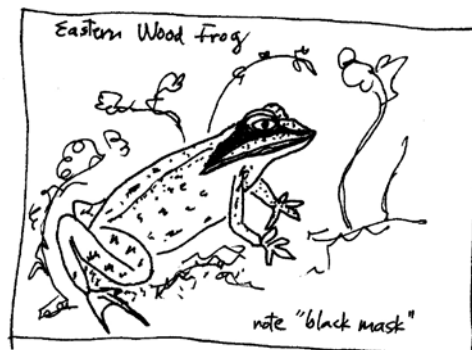
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