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



Winter is finally here. To see how our cold winter weather is trending due to climate change, look on page 12.

What is compelling right now is that this legal case will either go forward, or not, depending on the vote at the special town meeting in January.

Letters-Hume Appeal page 3

A New England lighthouse had a close call, with lasting drama, that was not about a ship but about an airplane and its pilot playing Santa.

Flying Santa page 17

Snow has come at last, maybe not for long, and we get to see the tracks of our wild neighbors.

December Wildlife page 24

This was apparently the first such Christmas celebration in Monterey.

Historical Society page 22

There are other counter-balancing forms of activism as well: kindness, care, and hospitality being a few.

Gould Farm Yarn page 25

So, is cursive writing going the way of the dodo? It may be. Does anyone under retirement age care?

Backward is Forward page 20

The day alone brought in over \$2000. The online silent auction concluded a week later and raised over \$10,000. Wow!

PTA Holiday Fair page 5

We look forward to continuing our work to make Monterey a more pollinator-friendly town, and we invite everyone to join us in this journey.

Native Plants Working Group page 11

The select board is preparing to call a special town meeting for Saturday, January 21, at 1:30 p.m., in the Monterey Firehouse. While the warrant is not yet approved, these are possible article topics.

Special Town Meeting page 2

Marie Ryan is willing to work as an interim town clerk for limited hours each week while the town decides on next steps.

Town Clerk's Office page 5

Climate change is expected to increase temperatures in every season, but we expect to see this change most drastically during the winter.

Climate Change and Winter page 12

Your donations and adherence to these guidelines are sincerely appreciated. We thank you for another joyful and successful book sale and look forward to seeing you at this coming summer's sale. Library Book Donations page 6

What: Four-on-four adult hockey tournament. When: Saturday, January 28.
Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic page 8

What about the simple consideration of your neighbors and how these changes affect them?

Letters-Lake Garfield Skyscapers page 4

Our traditional wintertime community group show, *Common Threads*, does not disappoint.

Knox Gallery page 16

What we really want is no varmints nibbling the cornflakes boxes and pooping in the cupboards.

A Mouse for All Seasons page 18

Special Town Meeting January 21

The select board is preparing to call a special town meeting for Saturday, January 21, at 1:30 p.m., in the Monterey Firehouse, 411 Main Road.

The articles, which will request transfers for unexpected budget shortfalls and funding for unanticipated expenses, have not been finalized in time for publishing in the *Monterey News*. The board is planning to sign the meeting warrant at its Wednesday, January 4 meeting, after which it will be posted around town, mailed to every voter household, and available for viewing on the town website, montereyma.gov, under the "About Monterey" tab.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the board via email with any questions about the warrant, or ask any related questions at the board's Wednesday meetings on January 11 or January 18.

> —Justin Makuc Chair, Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: The text above was not approved by the full select board as time was limited.

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Possible Town Meeting Articles

As of publication, the warrant articles have not yet been defined and approved. However, the select board agenda from December 21 lists items under consideration.

- Fuel: Due to the dramatic increase for the cost of diesel fuel, the highway department's fuel budget has been depleted.
- Fire Department Equipment & Maintenance: Annual fire equipment inspections take place in the fall, well into the current fiscal year. This year a number of expensive repairs are now required.
- Assessors Expenses: Software upgrade expense.
- Town Hall Feasibility Study: The town hall has a range of needs that should be assessed and cost estimates developed.
- Building Inspector wages
- Rescind library unissued loan balance:
 This is a technical matter declaring that the unused balance of the library's approved loan limit for the reconstruction is no longer needed as the project is finished. This helps the town's credit standing.
- Conservation Commission Agent (revolving account)
- Outstanding bill of a prior year

-Stephen Moore

Monterey Softball Open Call

All softball players
Join a 50+ year tradition of pick-up slow pitch softball.

Ages 10 to 80.
Summer Sunday mornings
Greene Park, Monterey
Batting practice at 10
Games begin at 10:30

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

Special Town Meeting Funding the Hume Lawsuit Appeal

At the October 2022 special town meeting there was lengthy discussion about voting money to pay legal expenses for two lawsuits. Former town clerk Terry Walker's lawsuit expense includes a \$2,500 deductible, which was the town's legal budget. But the town was also contending with the expenses for defending the town's zoning bylaws against a lawsuit brought by Hume New England. The town voted an article that included \$6,237.31 for the Hume lawsuit.

As readers might recall from the November issue of the *Monterey News* (page 3), Hume applied for a permit to install twelve RV sites to serve three distinct purposes for the camp, with a long range plan for up to forty-four sites. Monterey zoning bylaws do not permit permanent RV camping sites anywhere in town. Hume claimed its uses were covered by the Dover amendment, which protects religious organizations from a range of municipal rules and obligations.

The case was tried in land court, and the decision decided one of the three uses was protected, and so permitted, but the two other uses were not religious in nature. The town filed a cross appeal to the appeals court for what was found to be the protected use; Hume filed a cross appeal for the two uses that were found to be not protected by the Dover amendment.

However, the state's Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) elevated these appeals from the appeals court to the SJC, which asked for briefs and arguments on two questions: "whether (1) the organization is a "religious sect or denomination" as contemplated by the Dover Amendment, G. L. c. 40A, § 3; and whether (2) the addition is a "use... for religious purposes" as contemplated by the Dover Amendment, G. L. c. 40A, § 3, such that it is exempt from the municipal zoning bylaws which would otherwise prohibit the addition."

The appeals case was to cost a fixed \$2,700. With the appeal having been elevated to the SJC, requiring extensive filings and oral arguments, the anticipated cost for representation by the town counsel (outside of the town's annual contract ser-

vices) is estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000 (on top of the \$6,237 already spent). Town counsel is already undertaking some of the preparation requirements, taking the risk that the town might not agree to fund the work. If the funds are not voted, then the town would drop its cross appeal.

At the December 21 select board meeting there was considerable discussion about this situation. To be clear, town counsel pointed out that the case involves the Monterey Planning Board, not the select board, but it is the select board's decision whether to request the money from the special town meeting.

The Future

Both Tom Sawyer, co-chair of the planning board, and Jon Levin, chair of the zoning board of appeals, spoke at the December 21 meeting about the need to defend the zoning bylaws. They felt that to not fund the appeal would set a precedent that individuals or organizations could potentially outlast the town in legal proceedings.

While the matter at hand is the application for twelve RV sites, a decision permitting them would likely give a green light to as many sites as Hume would like.

However, there is also a future consideration that was not part of the present discussion. Should the Hume NE property at some point in the future be sold to a non-religious organization, those RV sites would still be there. Would the town be able to compel a new secular owner to restore the sites to a natural state, and remove all the supporting infrastructure? Indeed, Hume NE has built a substantial campus of buildings with current uses largely protected by the Dover amendment. Any secular organization might be free to do what they would like with the physical plant now that it is there.

Saturday, January 21, at 1:30 p.m. If you favor Hume NE's ability to go forward with these RV sites, or if you feel the town should defend its zoning bylaws, please attend the special town meeting at the firehouse and make your views heard.

—Stephen Moore

Letters Hume's Expensive Appeal

On December 21, I attended the select board meeting online. When it came to hearing from our town lawyer about the Hume lawsuit, it appears that Hume, with its large financial resources, continues to sue Monterey for the rights to have an RV park on its property. It is our taxes paying legal bills that might go over \$30,000.

I thought back years ago to the two times that I was in the room when the Hume lawyers presented proposals to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

Prior to those meetings, several of us Monterey residents went online to the Hume website to gather information.

In its appeal for a variance on the scenic mountain act and the flood mitigation plan, Hume stated that they would only have a few hundred people on summer weekends attending retreats. Yet, on its website it stated that it would be holding retreats year round with the plan for 500 people per weekend as well as week-long retreats.

Since Hume has a religious exemption, when asked about whether or not Hume would agree to the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes), I do not remember their lawyers answering. The PILOT program is meant to have nonprofits that use town resources such as roads, fire, and police, pay something.

At the time, Hume stated they are a religious organization that helps children and families and "implied" that they existed only on small donations. But when viewing their financials at that time, it appeared that Hume Christian Camps had \$22 million cash in a bank in California. (Hume is incorporated in CA.) As of a report from the end of 2021, Hume showed \$5,441,976 excess (revenues exceeding expenses)*. It has assets of over \$50 million*. Hume New England promotional material states that it has done over \$16 million in new buildings and upgrades.

The suit is out of land court and headed to the supreme judicial court of Massachusetts IF the town doesn't drop the appeal. I am most concerned about our zoning bylaws. Hume is asking to be allowed to have twelve RV sites, but there was some question of it wanting up to forty-four. Without adhering to our zoning bylaws, allowing Hume to have an RV park opens the door to uses the town has restricted and sets a precedent that individuals or organizations with deep pockets can outlast the town's financial resources.

What is compelling right now is that this legal case will either go forward, or not, depending on the vote at the special town meeting in January. I hope Monterey residents will attend the town meeting.

—Wendy Germain

* Source: Enhancing Trust in Ministries, ecfa.org, search "Hume Lake Christian Camp."

Letters

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

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

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Letters Skyscrapers Appear Along Lake Garfield

Even the most casual observation along the shores and hills around Lake Garfield reveals a disturbing trend of building "bigger and better" homes or extending existing structures towards the sky.

The pandemic has brought many more people to the area and while individual tastes may vary (not necessarily protected by the 1st amendment), there are still conservation laws and scenic act laws.

What about the simple consideration of your neighbors and how these changes affect them?

Who is responsible for informing people coming to the area about environmental, conservation, and scenic act rules and laws? The select board? Conservation board? Real estate brokers who sell the properties in the first place? Contractors?

We purchased our home more than twenty years ago. I should have kept the list of the number of people, official and otherwise, that reminded us of what we could or couldn't do in and around our property and home. This is not a complaint. Their knowledge of the human and natural history of the area gave us an appreciation of the town we lived in. There are guidelines for construction, safety, and environmental concerns.

Attitudes of people come into play here. "I have a vision, a design, and the cash." That being said, what about the effect this has on your neighbors, the environment, and everyone's appreciation of the beauty we all should be able to share now and in the future?

-Marc Gordon



8 Town District Planning Board Efficiency & Regionalization Grant

The 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB), in partnership with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, has received a \$125,000 Efficiency and Regionalization grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Compact program, one of seventeen grants awarded throughout the state. Administered by the state's Division of Local Services, the grant program provides financial support for municipalities and school districts that are exploring regionalization and other efficiency initiatives that allow for longterm sustainability.

The grant will support crucial next steps, including the drafting of an 8 Town Regional School District agreement and working with community members to create a shared educational vision for the two school districts. The funds will be also used for ongoing project management, additional financial analysis, and legal support.

"This grant will provide the resources needed to allow our volunteer board to finish the study we began close to three years ago—which is to determine whether the districts can do better together than they do apart," said Lucy Prashker, Chair of the RSDPB. "It's a question simple to ask, but complicated to answer. We are targeting February for a board vote on a proposed 8 Town Regional School District agreement. If approved by the board, the question will then be put to the voters of the 8 towns in the spring of 2023."

The RSDPB's website at 8towns. org contains copies of all reports and presentations made by the research team and other consultants, a detailed set of FAQs regarding the recommended merger model, and information about upcoming meetings and educational visioning sessions. Recordings of RSDPB meetings are available through the education channel of Community Television for the Southern Berkshires, ctsbtv.org. For more information, contact Jake Eberwein, Project Manager, at jakeeberwein@gmail.com.

—Lucy Prashker, RSDPB Chair

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Local References



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Central School Holiday Fair

The New Marlborough Central School Holiday Fair 2022—held at the school on December 10 and sponsored by the New Marlborough Monterey PTA—was a wonderful success! Thank you to all the local folks who came out, enjoyed the beautiful day, purchased food and gifts and crafts, and bid in our silent auction. The day alone brought in over \$2000. The online silent auction, which had over 110 items and concluded a week later on December 17, raised over \$10,000. Wow! The PTA, on behalf of the students, teachers, and families, are excited to put these important funds to good use. We are already busy planning a few field trips and educational programs for this winter.

Many local businesses and residents supported this endeavor and we are so grateful for the community support. And many thanks to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for a generous \$400 donation.

The PTA and school community worked tirelessly to bring back this beloved tradition. And while we may not have had Christmas trees for sale, our secondhand shop, our festive photo booth, the hot cocoa bar, the kids craft room, and the retail area that featured handmade crafts and vintage Christmas ornaments, were labors of love and enjoyed by all.

We were fortunate to feature Bub's & Beans hotdogs, Farm Country Soup, Mead & Mead maple syrup, Momma Lo's mac & cheese, along with a generous donation from Creature Bread, and a bake sale.

And we continue to raise funds by selling limited edition holiday fair posters, designed by local artist/illustrator and NMC parent Brett Parson, and grade A robust maple syrup in beautiful 250 ml glass bottles. \$15 for each. Limited quantities remain: Please email nmmpta01244@gmail.com if interested.



We were also able to appreciate and celebrate our wonderful school staff with a festive holiday lunch before school break, and we will take this great momentum into 2023 as we support our beloved school and plan more community events.

On behalf of NMMPTA President Arla Downing (organizer extraordinaire), and treasurer Kevin Fish (auction master), and the entire PTA, we say *Thank you, thank you!* Your support means the world to us.

Look for more updates in the coming months as I continue to update the Monterey community. Please reach out if you're interested in supporting, donating to, or connecting with the New Marlborough Monterey PTA. It's always a great time to support education in the Berkshires!

> —Elizabeth Evans, NMMPTA Secretary (and Crafternoon/Culinary Curator)

Town Clerk's Office

Monterey Town Clerk Terry Walker resigned at the end of November. A quick search found Marie Ryan who is willing to work as an interim town clerk for limited hours each week while the town decides on next steps.

Ms. Ryan is currently the Stockbridge Town Administrator, and previously served as town clerk for Great Barrington. She is a Master Municipal Clerk, as well as a state-certified town clerk, having attended the New England Municipal Clerk Academy. She is also the serving president of the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association.

Ms. Ryan said that as late December and early January are usually slow times in the clerk's office, she is planning on five hours a week. The select board has approved a ten-hour-per-week salary to be on the safe side. She prefers not to have an office assistant for the time being while she makes an assessment of the condition of the town records. Ms. Ryan is not interested in a permanent position but will support the board with writing a job description.

The select board hopes to have at least five posted office hours beginning in early January. These hours may be adjusted as needed based on services requested and the clerk's availability. The hours will be posted on the town clerk page of the town website, montereyma.gov, under "Departments/Town Clerk."

If a resident requires the services of the town clerk's office, they may email the office at clerk@montereyma.gov, or call the clerk's office at (413) 528-1443, ext. 113, and leave a voice mail.

—Stephen Moore

Susan M. Smith Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1 Great Barrington Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080 Facsimile: (413) 229-7085



Library Book Donations

A big thank you for all of the generous donations that we received, and continue to receive, in response to our annual appeal and throughout the year. Your financial contributions are vital to the work that we do.

We are so grateful to everyone for coming out to support the book and plant sale this summer in late July. For all those who made donations, lent supplies, and/ or volunteered in a variety of ways, we really appreciate it. It was wonderful to see so many members of the community come together to make the sale a success.

The library accepts book donations year round. Although donations are appreciated, the Monterey Board of Library Trustees has of necessity developed a set of guidelines for donations (in the sidebar).

So we may process your donation prior to setting up for the book sale, we would appreciate not receiving donations during the week before the sale date. The earlier donations are received the easier it will be for our volunteers.

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

Your donations and adherence to these guidelines are sincerely appreciated. We thank you for another joyful and successful book sale and look forward to seeing you at this coming summer's sale.

Thank you,

 Carey Vella, for the Executive Board of the Friends of the Monterey Library

Recent Events

Monterey Lights the Holidays

On Saturday, November 28, a group of seventy or so folks showed up for the third annual "lighting up" of the Monterey village and welcoming the holiday season. Maggie Barkin introduced Mark Makuc welcoming everyone to the library, Laurie Shaw for comments, Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester to lead some songs, and Don Barkin to read a poem written for that purpose. (See page 15 for "Neighborliness of Light.")

Chief Backhaus Retirement

On December 22 a small gathering was held at the community center to celebrate Gareth Backhaus's long service to the town. Current town employees and former select board members were invited, along with Smitty Pignatelli.



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Conservation Commission Seeking New Members

The Monterey Conservation Commission is looking for individuals who would like to be appointed to the commission to help carry out our unfunded mandate of protecting our local rivers, streams, mountainsides, coldwater fisheries, and general habitat from harm or destruction. We meet once a month. Great if you have some technical skill such as reading site plans, identifying plants, or implementing environmental regulations.

Training is available and recommended. Please send a letter of interest to Conservation Commission, Attn: New Member, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA, 01245, or contact me by email, nwinwicke43@gmail.com. Thank you!

-Noël Wicke, chair, Monterey Conservation Commission



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Event Notices and Reporting

Monterey is a town with lots of events being organized and happening. Having these events reported in the *Monterey News* adds vitality to the feeling of the town.

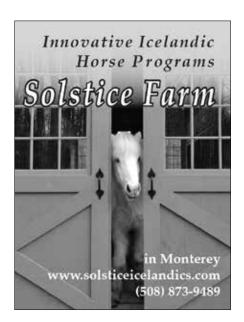
But it doesn't just happen miraculously. If you're planning an event with food and drinks, someone needs to be responsible to bring them. If there's a special guest, an invitation has to be sent and confirmed. Similarly, if an event is to be promoted beforehand, and reported on afterwards, someone needs to be responsible for this being done.

I occasionally have people say, "You should have the *News* cover this!" To which I typically respond, "I hope someone will." The *Monterey News* does not have reporters, and relies on people involved, or attending, to provide the write-ups and photos.

So, next time you're putting an event together, when you go around the table and say, "Who's going to bring the cookies?" and "Who's going to set up the tables and chairs?" be sure to also ask, "Who is going to be in touch with the paper?"

It's easy... write to Monterey-News9@gmail.com(this can also be found inside the last page, top right corner) and we'll get your copy into the next paper. It's best to receive content by around the 20th of each month. "Use the *News*." It's a community resource.

—Stephen Moore, editor



Monterey Community Center

Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly activities

Mondays: Simple Meditation—all are welcome. Bring a cushion for comfortable sitting, 3:30 to 4:40 p.m.

Tuesdays: Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. **Tuesdays:** Mahjong and scrabble, 7 to

Tuesdays and Fridays: Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 4: Renewable energy working group, 6 p.m., first Wednesday of the month.

Thursday, January 5: Darn yarners, at 10 a.m., first Thursday of the month.

Thursday, January 17: Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m., with Jill Sweet, Tritown health nurse, third Thursday of the month. Checkups include blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. Flu and Covid vaccines available.

Alternate Thursdays: Chorus, 4:15 p.m., January 12 and 26.

Fridays: Super gentle yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email jamesboneparth76@gmail.com.

Friday, January 6: Support group for people with diabetes, 11:15 a.m., first Friday of the month.

Saturdays: Coffee Club, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Alternate Saturdays: Art sessions for painting and drawing with Margaret Buchte. January 14 and 28, 1 to 2:15 p.m. See the MCC website for more information, and please register by emailing calendar@ccmnterey.org, or phoning (413) 528-3600.

Saturdays: Ping pong, 2:30 p.m. **Sundays:** Al Anon family group meeting,





Connie Wilson during a "chair" yoga session, which apparently includes "hula hoop" yoga!

Coming up:

Saturday, February 11: Backyard Ecology Talk, at 11 a.m.

Sunday, February 19: Winterfest! Good food, music, crafts, and more! 1 to 3 p.m. Poetry group with Don Barkin. Calligraphy.

You can find more information on events at comonterey.org, or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator and Nancy Kleban



South Berkshire Kids Playgroup Monterey Library

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.

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





Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic January 28 on Lake Buel

What: First annual Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic (four-on-four adult hockey tournament).

Where: On Lake Buel, near the state boat ramp, off Pixley Road, Route 183.

When: Saturday, January 28, starting at 8:30 a.m. Championship game at 3:30 p.m. (ending by 4 p.m.).

Who: Sixteen mostly local adult teams, co-ed, with six skaters per team, ninety-six skaters total. Three rinks will be set up to play three games at the same time.

This event is free and open to the public. Snow date is Sunday, January 29.

The Backstory

Last winter, I walked down to meet my new neighbor James C. Burns, an actor who lives in LA and whose partner Liz just bought a cabin down by Lake Buel, where my family has had a cabin since 1981.

As we looked out at the frozen lake I mentioned that I played hockey, and he had too. He played at Union College and then in the American Hockey League with the Hartford Whalers organization.

I mentioned how cool it would be to do a tournament on the lake and James mentioned that he used to run tournaments and helped form the youth program at Chelsea Piers in NYC, where I happened to play hockey after learning how to skate on this very lake as a six-year-old.

Encouraged by the synergies, I went down to the Monterey Town Hall and asked how one would go about starting a hockey tournament on Lake Buel.

The clerk wrote parks@montereyma. gov on a piece of paper and wished me luck. I contacted the parks commission, and Tom Mensi responded. It just so happened that Tom was the former dentist for the Hartford Whalers. That initial conversation with Tom really paved the way to this tournament becoming a reality.

Tom introduced me to Monterey's insurance carrier so this can be sponsored as a town event covered under the town policy. He also referred me to Mark Makuc as a resource and Mark said I should speak with Jim Thomas. Jim's mom lives on Lake Buel, and he helped establish the rink at the firehouse pavilion thirty years ago, and also ran a hockey tournament signed on as the tournament commissioner. A true hockey fan, one of his daughters will be playing in the upcoming tournament.

Flash forward a year to the day, and the germ of an idea—starting a pond hockey tournament on Lake Buel has turned into a flourishing reality! The event will be free to watch, and all of the teams are playing free of charge thanks to our incredible nine sponsors!

The Sponsors

Bob, the owner of Great Barrington Bagel Company, is a skater and is sponsoring the bagel breakfast for all of the skaters, bringing a team, as well as contributing \$500.

The Pass Dispensary is our presenting/ title sponsor, giving \$3,500 to help pay for the free jerseys all of the players receive.

Berkshire Bank awarded a \$1,000 grant from their foundation. Their tagline is "America's Most Exciting Bank" and I certainly believe helping to support a local hockey tournament is bringing that adage to life!

Roberto's Pizza in Sheffield will be bringing their Wood Fired Pizza Oven to the boat ramp for a pop-up.



Classical Tents will be sponsoring the enclosed tent for spectators to enjoy Roberto's amazing pizza under cover from the wind.

DripCoffeeNYC will be coming from Brooklyn and serving up strong and delicious cups of coffee.

ExtraSpecialTeas.org is sponsoring free tea for all of the skaters.

Berkshire Magazine is our media sponsor and they are promoting this to their e-newsletter.

Great Barrington parking: Barrington Brewery donated \$500 and is also sponsoring carpooling at the brewery on Stockbridge Road for skaters to free up parking at the boat ramp for spectators. We will be doing an open event for awards at the Barrington Brewery after the event.

I'm grateful to Angela Cardinali from The Pass who has helped immensely in the marketing of this event. Thanks to two skaters who I skate with at the firehouse pavilion. Andreas Engel is the new Executive Director of the Center for Peace through Culture in Housatonic. He helped to name/brand this tournament and create the website for free. John Grogan from the Great Barrington Housing Authority made the introduction to Berkshire Bank.

The Monterey police department will be on hand for traffic safety.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that the inspiration for this tournament goes to my dad, Bruce Regenstreich, who passed away five years ago. Dad loved Monterey and loved hockey. He shoveled off a rink on Lake Buel when I was six years old to teach me and my brother to skate; he instilled a love of the game that continues to this day.

If you're still reading this, we'd love to see you on January 28 for the first annual Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic, presented by The Pass. Visit berkshirepondhockeyclassic.com for updates and a contact form for any questions.

> —Alex Regen Founder, BPHC

>>>>>>>> Doodling

Do you like to doodle, make little sketches, small designs? Send them to the *Monterey News* to fill small spaces § like this one. Send them to PO Box 9, \S or email montereynews9@gmail.com.



There was a wonderful scent in the air of pines and other conifers. Everyone was busy making their wreathes. Carey Vella brought cookies. I brought tea. Very heartwarming. It was a joyful gathering on the Second Advent. -Catherine Hurst



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Council on Aging Ring in the New - And a Return to the Familiar (1973-2023)

The council on aging wishes everyone a happy new year! It's always fun to refresh and look forward to the year ahead, and reflect on all the eggnog, latkes, and cookies we enjoyed over the holidays.

On a proud note for the year ahead, the CoA is now celebrating our fiftieth year as part of Monterey life. More to come looking back on our fifty special years.

We are looking forward to bringing you more and new events in 2023. This month we are starting a new documentary film series in the community center. We are also looking at the possibility of a cell phone class, and help on getting access to the internet. And definitely more lunches and opportunities to spend time together. Stay tuned.

Barrington Brewery Lunch

For starters, after a long hiatus, we are returning to our Barrington Brewery lunch. A favorite of seniors in Monterey, the event has been absent during the last couple of years due to Covid. We have scheduled its return for Wednesday, January 18, at noon. We have all enjoyed our previous gatherings and look forward to a fun, festive lunch. Come join us for good company and lots of laughter. Please contact me

in the CoA office to reserve your spot (contact information below). Everyone is welcome. (The Barrington Brewery sometimes has oysters available for lunch on Wednesdays. Also they are kind enough to give us all separate checks.)

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

—Kathryn Roberts CoA Outreach Coordinator/ Administrative Assistant

January Events

Monday, January 9: Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website under "Boards & Commissions," Council on Aging tab.

Wednesday, January 11: Movie night in the Monterey Library at 7 p.m. with a second chance to see *To Sir With Love*. Note the change from Tuesday to Wednesday. This is permanent. Going forward, movie night will be the second Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday, January 18: Barrington Brewery Lunch at noon. Call Kathryn at the number above to reserve your spot.

Thursday, January 19: Wellness check returns at the community center, 2 to 3 p.m. Tritown Health nurses will check blood pressure, pulse, blood oxygen levels, and administer flu and Covid vaccines.

Wednesday, January 25: Documentary film at 2 p.m. in the community center showing *The Biggest Little Farm*. The CoA will serve light refreshments.

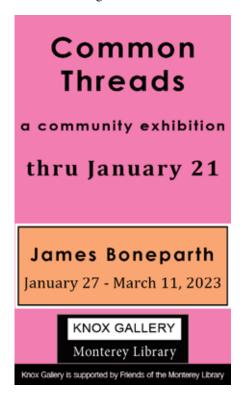
Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, January 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Richard Pargament began our official APDA-approved, well-attended support group over one year ago. Richard, along with Roberta Weiss, create a kind, compassionate, and informative two hours. Caregivers encouraged to attend. Call the CoA at the number above if you'd like more information about the program.

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

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

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers.







Monterey Native Plants Working Group Year in Review

Just as 2022 was winding down, the Monterey Native Plants Working Group settled on a logo (above) to brand its activities moving forward. You may soon be seeing the design, developed by Maureen Banner working with Colta Ives, on t-shirts, our flyers, and other materials. We also launched a Google group, so we can more easily share useful information about the multiple benefits and beauty that native plants can provide. Joining is easy, simply send a request to join to: pollinators01245@gmail.com.

These activities capped off a year of significant accomplishments for the group, which officially started just two years ago. In its first year, with seed money from the Monterey Cultural Council, we established a bed of native plants at the community garden. Throughout 2022, the group continued to push for greater



Judy Kaminstein, Libby Wolf, Janet Jensen, and Carol Clarin "freeing the tree" at the community center this summer.

environmental awareness and ecological resilience in our corner of the Berkshires. Toward that end, we circulated a petition that resulted in Monterey declaring itself a "pollinator-friendly community" at its May special town meeting.

We also worked with the Monterey Parks Commission to establish a raised bed of native plants along the fence in the grassy area of Lake Garfield beach park. Perennial beds, as the saying goes, sleep the first year, creep in the second year, and then leap forth in the third year. We expect that the display will be more vibrant next summer and even more so the following year. So stay tuned, and watch for our new signage identifying the specific plants. We plan to provide some educational context to explain their seasonal cycles, the species they support, and their role in our local ecosystem.

In May, the group worked with Devan Arnold, owner of Sassafras Land Care, on a "Free the Tree" event to remove the tangle of invasives thwarting the growth of a stately maple and cherry sidekick just opposite from the community center entrance. After subsequent sessions to keep the invasives at bay, we underplanted the area with three Aronia shrubs (chokeberry) and ten species of early spring ephemerals—so we look forward to seeing the area in a few months.

Last year we also created the "Backyard Ecologists" series of monthly talks, workshops, and presentations. This was inaugurated with a video showing of "The Little Things that Run the World" by the entomologist Doug Tallamy, who shined a spotlight on the close relationships between specific native plants and the insects and birds who depend on them. Subsequent talks addressed monarch butterflies; restorative gardening practices for fall; and local efforts to bring back the American chestnut tree, in a new blight-resistant version.

A mid-summer community tag sale, expertly organized by Myrna Rosen, filled our coffers enough to consider many future activities. We are grateful to all who contributed to that effort.

Upcoming programs include two talks from the Berkshire Botanical Garden's recent Rooted in Place Ecological Symposium. In February, the video presentation of Annie White's session "Ecosystem Approaches to Landscape Design" will be particularly valuable to those with property on the water. And for our March offering, the renowned gardener and writer Page Dickey will come to Monterey to teach us how beautiful meadows—however small—and meadow plants can be incorporated into restorative landscaping.

We look forward to continuing our work to make Monterey a more pollinatorfriendly town, and we invite everyone to join us in this journey.

—Janet Jensen



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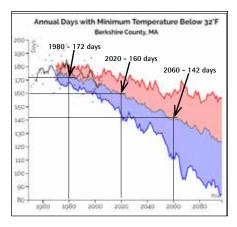
Climate Change and New England Winter

Wintertime in New England. Some of us love the crisp air and possibilities of fresh snow. Others would rather stay indoors and escape the hassle of shoveling driveways and slippery roads. However you feel about winter, we've all noticed some changes. You may have already noticed it's not as consistently cold as it used to be. Temperatures during the cold months are more likely to fluctuate than in winters of yore—now it's cold and snowy one day, raining the next, then back to freezing ice. Our dirt roads aren't staying permanently frozen all winter long, instead we're starting to see multiple "mud seasons" due to the freeze-thaw cycles.

Climate change is expected to increase temperatures in every season, but we expect to see this change most drastically during the winter. Climate modeling available through resilientma.org (resilientma.mass. gov/datagrapher) estimates that Berkshire County will lose about twenty-three freezing days by 2050. This increases to thirty-two by 2070, forty by 2080, forty-seven by 2090. Between 1960–2000, we have had five-year averages of eight to twenty-two days below 0°. Under a high emissions scenario, these very cold days are expected to be very rare to nonexistent by 2060.

While we are not easily able to stop warmer winters, we can start to prepare for the impacts of a warmer winter both as a community and as individuals. Over the





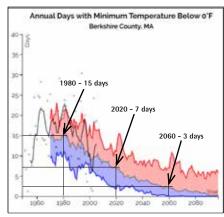


next few months, I'll present on a variety of adaptive strategies that can be taken to get ready for the impacts of climate change. This month's adaptive strategy is permeable pavement.

Permeable Pavement

By and large, our roads are impervious surfaces, meaning that water hits a hard surface and runs off. There is very little to no infiltration. Infiltration is one of the best ways to combat the impacts of stormwater. When rain or snow is absorbed into the ground it is filtered, pollutants are removed, and it recharges our groundwater. This is especially important as we expect to see less snowmelt slowly refilling our aquifers, resulting in drier springs. Permeable pavement lets your driveways, roads, patio, etc. act like a yard, allowing water to infiltrate without losing any of the function of a hard surface. Check out this quick demonstration by the City of Burnsville in Minnesota. (tiny.cc/ permeablepavementdemo)

Permeable pavement requires less deicing and drains more snow and ice than conventional pavement which is nice not



Source: Union of Concerned Scientists

only for safety and maintenance but also for our water quality. Chloride (like the road salt treatments) is the only pollutant that isn't effectively treated by infiltration. As a result, too much chloride can contaminate our groundwater. Permeable pavement can reduce the need for chloride overall and reduce risk to drinking water.

Somethings to note if you're considering permeable pavement. In our New England climate, porous asphalt or interlocking pavers are better than permeable concrete since salt can break down the alkali silica, which is a major component of concrete, thereby resulting in spalling or cracks within three years. A darker asphalt will melt snow and ice faster. Finally, permeable pavement requires maintenance roughly twice a year, once in late fall to clean off the leaves and debris and another in the spring to clean off salts, sands, etc. deposited over the winter. Ideally this is done with an outdoor vacuum, but can also be effective with a leaf blower.

For more on adaptation methods, stay tuned and/or contact me. We are looking for households willing to have a buffer or rain garden installed on properties in Monterey. If this is you, please get in touch.

—Courteny Morehouse cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org

For additional information, go to:

- On YouTube, search "Practical Engineering How Does Permeable Pavement Work?"
- Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook at https://megamanual.geosyntec.com/ npsmanual/porouspavement.aspx
- For how permeable pavement works in cold weather, go to: https://stormwater. wef.org/2012/01/porous-pavement-performance-in-cold-climates/

The Bidwell House Museum Winter Zoom Series

Winter is here to stay and while the house is closed for tours, we have some fun programs coming up in January, including snowshoe walks and the first lecture in our winter Zoom series.

On Wednesday, January 11, at 10 a.m., join Rob Hoogs for the first of two guided snowshoe walks on the Bidwell grounds. There are six miles of trails at the museum, all of them accessible in the winter. With leaves off the trees and snow on the ground, you will see the trails in a whole new light and might see evidence of the animals that make their home in the Bidwell woods. This walk will last about two hours, traversing one to two miles. Attendees will need to bring their own snowshoes. If there is no snow on the ground the day of the walk, it will be a guided hike instead and go about two to four miles depending on trail conditions. For those who cannot make it on January 11, Rob will also be leading a Bidwell walk on January 28. Pre-registration is required for both walks and you can sign up on the museum website, at bidwellhouse museum.org/events/.

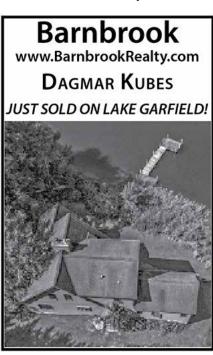


SELL * BUY * RENT



Rob Hoogs's dog Zoey racing to catch up.

If you prefer your January programs indoors, then join the museum on Wednesday, January 18, at 7 p.m. for the first lecture in our series, "Life in Winter." In this talk via Zoom, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans tribal member Misty Cook will discuss Mohican medicine for the winter months and the history of medicine in the tribe. Cook has studied herbal medicines in depth, including plant identification, gathering and drying methods throughout the year, and preservation techniques. She is the author of Medicine Generations: Natural Native American Medicines Traditional to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans Tribe. Registration is required and can be done on the "Events" page of the museum website. The Zoom details for the event will be sent via email a few days in advance.



Finally, in late November the museum began its annual appeal campaign, a fundraising drive done each year to ensure the museum can spend the winter planning for an exciting season. We are so grateful for all of your support so far! To donate, head to the museum's website bidwellhouse museum.org/donate and select "annual appeal" from the dropdown menu at the left. Every dollar donated supports the preservation of the historic 1760s homestead, 194-acre grounds and history education programs.

And don't forget the grounds of the Bidwell House Museum are open all year, free of charge. Take an invigorating hike, go snow-shoeing in the woods, or head out for an afternoon of cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the trails page of the website.

Happy new year from the Bidwell House Museum.

—Heather Kowalski Executive Director

a frozen wild duck spread wings in the river ice winter's casualty

—Laura S. Denman

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Freundlichs Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Mickey and Mike Freundlich, of Bend, Oregon and formerly of Sudury, MA, celebrated their sixtieth anniversary on December 23, 2022. We were married 1962 in Miami Beach, FL at the Eden Roe Hotel.

We have three children and their spouses. Marc Freundlich (Dallas, TX), Mitchell Freundlich and his wife Kristen of Framingham, MA, and daughter Margey Vrbata and her husband Honza of Bend, OR.

Mike has been in the printing and graphic business in Massachusetts since 1980. Mickey has been a real estate broker since 1973.



We retired and moved to Oregon in 2011. We are active in Bend. We volunteer at St. Charles Hospital, and are members of Awbrey Glen Golf course. We also belong to Temple Beth Tikvah, and Mickey belongs to Newcomers Club and the ABC Book Club, also in Bend.

During the summer months we've traveled to Lake Garfield, to the family compound, where all the children and grandchildren gather—especially around July fourth. We volunteer at Tanglewood concerts in Lenox during the entire summer.

We plan a belated celebration of their sixtieth anniversary here in Monterey sometime this summer.

-Mickey and Mike Freundlich





Rawson Brook Farm Last Milking Day

We had a lunch party to celebrate the last milking of the goats (as well as my 73rd birthday) and in the storytelling and reminiscing, someone mentioned the "cup costume" I had made years ago. (I think Tarsi wore it in a Monterey Day Parade.) I found it in the attic and we headed for the stand and a photoshoot...everyone insisting Inotcovermy colorful long johns. In January I will write an article about the closing of the farm and more.

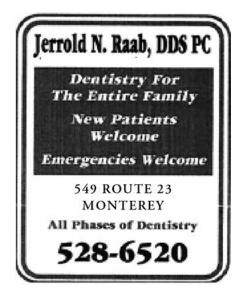
—Susan Sellew





From Hannah Bracken's Detour sign in 2015 when the New Marlboro Road bridge was closed.





A Trip to the Cemetery

A trip to the cemetery Always brings with it Deep thought.

A current relationship Takes nothing away from previous marriages, Which, combined, were well over 100 years.

Why is that difficult for others to understand When it's perfectly clear to us?

—Stephanie Sloane

The Neighborliness of Light

God said, "Let there be the moon and stars," but it was Edison working nights who dreamt of trapping fireflies in jars, and falling stars caught up in trees like kites.

Now in our village, fairy-lights festoon the huddled houses, church, and shuttered store, too thickly-settled to expect the moon to silver every sash and eave and door.

And when a big jet on a moonless flight from L.A. to New York drops blindly down, the twinkling beacons on the runway might be the porch lights of a friendly little town.

On the day God rested from His labors, moons rose on the porches of our neighbors.

— Don Barkin

(Written for the third Monterey Lights the Holidays)

Monterey Sunday Morning

Standing atop the steep steps of the church, immediately in view, are random clumps of daffodils and two red tulips.

Brett and Nathan cross the road to brunch at the General Store.

Dick Tryon climbs in his old pickup truck, waves to Barbara walking over the bridge to the last space in front of town hall where she had parked just as the bell was ringing.

He must have gone out early; Barbara met him in the vestry; her mended shoulder's working well, I muse.

(It's a small village.)

Inside I hear the voice of Pastor Liz and wait; I want to thank her, to thank someone. Standing here, I feel more gratitude than I know what to do with.

I watch three cars go by, consider the bench facing the river by the library. Wayne might not think to look for me there.

I cross to get the mail and glance back. From the post office I see three sitting on the sun-drenched steps, and finally,

Wayne
makes his slow way down along
the center rail, he talks to each
while my heart sings
this (sort of)
prayer.

— Donna Burkhart August 2013

Knox Gallery in January

Our traditional wintertime community group show, *Common Threads*, does not disappoint. Monterey artist Kit Patten summed it up: "This winter's annual Monterey Community Show is characterized by its usual joyful eclecticism." Michael Banner, consummate artist (and expert installer/art handler for the Knox Gallery) calls it the "best community show we've ever had." We love the variety of media and interpretations of our theme that make this show diverse and interesting.

Of note, the artists seem to be from a wider geographic range than have participated in earlier community shows. Many Montereyans, along with artists from nearby communities, are exhibitors, and *Common Threads* additionally includes work from artists working geographically farther afield. The exhibition opened on December 10, and the weather helped us out enough that we managed to feature a reception with food and drink outdoors, since masks are still required in the library.

As the new year starts, we'd like to send out a big shout-out to everyone who keeps Knox Gallery going. First and foremost, Mark Makuc makes the gallery possible! Julie Shapiro, Michael Banner, all the participating artists through the year, and the volunteers who help are all much appreciated. The Friends of the Library sponsor our receptions and the trustees encourage us with enthusiasm. At the moment, however, we need to send a super big shout-out of thanks to Therese Lee, who set up a webpage that saved us a ton of time and work, and to Paul DePreter, who corralled Therese into this project and helped out for various tasks, and pretty much anytime we asked!

Common Threads will be on view through January 21. Please come and see it! Then, come back shortly thereafter to see James Boneparth's painting exhibition, *GOTTA BE KIDDING!!! An Ode to the Sometimes-Farcical Nature of Modern Art*, which will open on Friday, January 27. The artist plans to offer light refreshments—on the opening night, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Since masks are mandatory inside both the library and gallery, Tate's cookies and apple cider will be served outside. Wear your winter gear!)



Above: work by Linda Stillman and Julie Shapiro.

Below: Ed Olshansky and Maureen Banner.



Boneparthe will be available for a Q&A session inside the gallery at 7 p.m.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check



current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/ Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

-MaryPaul Yates



The Flying Santa

A New England lighthouse had a close call, with lasting drama, that was not about a ship but about an airplane and its pilot playing Santa.

The incident happened just before Christmas 1929, when pilot Captain William Wincapaw, in spite of weather reports of an impending snow storm, took off in his single-engine airplane over the rocky coast of Rockland, Maine. It wasn't the first time the well-experienced Maine native chanced flying in heavy weather, but it would turn out to be nearly his last.

Wincapaw soon knew he was in trouble with so much snow falling he could not see out his windshield and his instruments were not working properly. He soon was blown off course and was flying blind and almost out of fuel. At the last minute he took a chance by dropping down below the clouds, hoping to break free of the inclement weather.

That's when an unexpected but fortunately familiar lighthouse beam came shining through to him from a coastal lighthouse down below. Then five more lighthouses led him safely to his own airport in Rockland. A grateful Wincapaw took off again a few days later and dropped packages of cookies, coffee, and copies of *Old Farmer's Almanac* with a notes of thanks for the beams that saved his life. These gifts became a Christmas tradition, and a coffee company loaned him a seaplane for the future.



Someotherbusinesses were contributing cash and gifts to support the picture of a flying Santa (as in my illustration). In 1934 William Wincapaw was joined by his son William Jr., who at that time was the youngest licensed pilot in Massachusetts. William Jr. flew until 1946. In 1937 other pilots joined the effort. In 1938 William Sr. left for Bolivia to take on a new job of flying gold from the mines there, so William Jr. took over in his place. He was replaced as the flying Santa by a writer and historian named Edward Roe Snow who perfected a new method of tying several packages together to be caught

in the air on the way down, and other pilots soon joined in the effort all along the New England coast.

Ever since there have been many pilots dropping gifts to over ninety coastal light houses. 2022 marks the ninety-third anniversary of the tradition.

Pilots Wincapaw and Snow both had heart attacks when flying missions. Lighthouses up and down the coast blew their fog horns to mourn their loss. The Friends of Flying Santa was incorporated just in time to celebrate seventy years of operation.

—George B. Emmons

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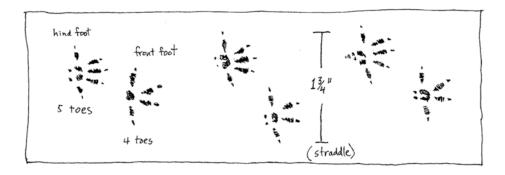
Editor's Note: For more history, lists of pilots and their planes and helicopters, the sponsors, and photos, go to flyingsanta. org. There is even a children's book available of the true story of a six-year-old girl living at a remote lighthouse on Cape Cod and her love of the Flying Santa!



A Mouse for All Seasons

Some little animals hole up for the winter, some head south. Some move indoors with us folks, taking advantage of our architectural and home heating inventions. Our attics are dry and out of the wind, our hollow walls seem safe even from our pet cats. When the mice move in, people get out the mousetraps. Sometimes we are concerned that we don't really want to kill the little critters, just catch them and lovingly let them go outside thinking we can then live as neighbors, with them out in the wild where they were meant to be. Mother nature will provide.

Ah, the not-so-good intentions. What we really want is no varmints nibbling the cornflakes boxes and pooping in the cupboards. We want our cats not hunting mice in the house by night and then throwing them up, usually on the bed. To us, no mouse is a good mouse, or: the only good mouse is a mouse that does not move in with us.



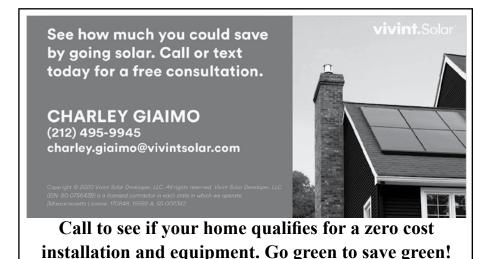
There is such a mouse, only too happy to live outside forever, happy with the food available out there, and not bothered by cold weather. This is the "meadow mouse." Some call her a vole, or a meadow vole. Taxonomists list more than a hundred different species and subspecies and races of "voles," and besides this, the name is all too similar to that of another small furry creature, the "mole," so it's easy to get them mixed up. In my family, growing up, we knew two kinds of mouse, the "deer" mouse and the "meadow" mouse. It was the deer mice that moved in with

us for the winter and kept our cat happy. All she had to do was wait and the mice would emerge once the house got dark and quiet. We didn't use traps back then, though some people did.

Deer mice are those familiar ones with tan uppers, big ears, long noses and tails, and white bellies, like a deer. Meadow mice have short tails, have reddish or blackish fur, are grey beneath. They are kind of stubby looking, have shiny black eyes, and a sloping forehead. They are born weighing 1/20 of an ounce, are blind, deaf, helpless, and have transparent skin, with no fur yet. If you could see one at this tender age, you would be able to watch the blood running in its veins and see all its dark organs. At this point, the baby looks so vulnerable you'd think it did not stand a chance.

The meadow mouse develops into a self-sufficient youngster at two weeks, and two weeks later she is pregnant herself. She will give birth to a litter of five to nine babies in three more weeks, and in a few hours leaves them briefly to go get pregnant again.

Meadow mouse babies and adults are far more hardy than any other kind of mouse. Some species live at twenty thousand feet in the Himalayan mountains. Some live in our local swamps and don't mind at all getting wet. Their fur keeps them dry and they are good swimmers. An observer in Michigan watched a meadow mouse run from a pursuer, right onto open water on a lake. She swam eighty to ninety feet, and for the first ten feet she seemed to be running on top of the water. Then she sank a bit and swam with her feet, with her excellent fur keeping her buoyant. These mice make good meals for all sorts of animals including bullfrogs, snapping turtles, and big fish. Most meadow mice never grow up to reach the age of eighteen months, which





is their average lifespan. Everything eats them, including gulls, crows and ravens, and even rattlesnakes. Someone worked out the fact that meadow mice make up one-third of the diet of the rattlesnakes of Pennsylvania. This is a staggering thing. Even more so when you think what it must have taken to come up with this statistic. Let's hope someone just made it up.

Meadow mice tunnel through the grass and make globular nests of shorter stems and other vegetation. In a swamp where there are grass tussocks sticking up, some will harbor mice inside. These mice think nothing of swimming from one tussock to another, or to shore and then back again. On dry land they make a system of shallow burrows with tunnels about two inches across. Their most serious predator is the weasel, designed to go right into the narrow burrows. A weasel can wipe out an entire quarter-acre of mice in one night. Other mammals living on meadow mice include everything from little shrews to coyotes, also wolves, bears, and domestic cats and dogs. Magpies, hawks, gulls, shrikes, and owls depend upon meadow mice for their own survival. 99% of the food of these mice is vegetable matter and they in turn seem to be feeding the whole world. There are even some Indians and Inuit people who can find the food cache places where meadow mice have tucked away their harvests of various tubers, seeds, and roots. Back in the day, these were important vegetables in the winter, for folks as well as for mice.

One species used to be called a "bean" mouse because it stored the beans of *Falcata comosa*. These plants are called hog peanuts or ground beans, and are really beans, not peanuts. Hogs like them, so do mice, and so do people, who have never been above raiding the pantry of the mice. One storage place could contain six quarts of edible roots and bulbs.

Meadow mice are mathematically and physically capable of huge population explosions, even though they usually get eaten by everyone in the neighborhood. In 1907 there occurred the "Nevada Explosion," during which twelve thousand meadow mice inhabited one acre in Humbolt Valley, Nevada. They ate all the above-ground alfalfa being raised there, then went underground and ate all the roots



Be forewarned! Don't park your car at the public beach before a snowstorm! A public safety warning by Mark Andrews.

to a depth of six to eight inches. Twenty thousand acres had been planted to alfalfa in the valley and fifteen thousand of them had to be plowed up and replanted.

What happened to all these mice? Disease hit this huge population and within six months it was hard to find a single one left in the whole valley.

The female meadow mouse spends her whole life on a quarter-acre, the male may venture over half an acre. They walk among us but do not come into our houses. These are our mouse neighbors, remarkable animals that can fight intruders by standing up on their hind legs and clicking their teeth in rage while boxing downward

blows with their front feet. Their claws can slash through the fur and skin of other mice and the teeth cut the face and paws of their assailant. Theirs is a success story, a matter of sheer numbers and good design.

Consider population explosion. What is the role of the individual? This is our existential question right now, and not just for our own species! Lucky the mouse who does not lie awake nights. Ma Nature has solved the problem there, making mice so supportive of the Pennsylvania rattle-snakes and many another fellow citizen. What did Ma N. do for us? Gave us a big brain. Thanks a heap, Mom.

—Bonner McAllester



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Here's a Thought... Sometimes Backward is Forward...

The debate's been underway for quite some time. On its surface, the question seems irrelevant to the point of embarrassing. But there it was again, the subject of an article last month in the *New York Times*. The author, John McWhorter, chose a title that asked a simple, practical, question: "What's the Point of Teaching Cursive?" Basically, he says, what with keyboard strokes and email, it's already terminally ill. It deserves an honorable death and a decent burial.

So, is cursive writing going the way of the dodo? It may be. Does anyone under retirement age care? Maybe not. It's irrelevant in the cultural mainstream, quaint as the CD player no longer available when I bought my now five-year-old car. Does anything more than nostalgia fuel my defense of the art?

Jimmy Bryant offered his own opinion in the *Times* ten years ago (April 30, 2013), three months after I'd taken the photo at right. He marshaled some salient facts, starting with reasons for letting cursive go. The college students he teaches not only don't use it, but many can't read it. Overall, we're losing our ability to communicate with it. But as the director of archives and special collections at the University of Central Arkansas, Bryant also made a heartfelt call to keep cursive on the menu.

Why? He lists two important reasons. More than sixty years ago, and especially more than a century ago, historical documents and personal letters were written by hand. (See page 23 for a nineteenth-century deed.) Once recorded, people cherished and preserved them. And so we have documentation of past eras, events, and the lives of people. The documents and letters didn't disappear like deleted



A January photo from ten years ago, 2013. I don't see quite the same view anymore. The tree with the arched branch on the right, an ash, is no longer with us. It succumbed to the ash borer. But though the photo's out of date and parts of that tree became sawdust in the wind, it's still a beautiful scene.

email. Even today, isn't a handwritten letter, no matter how scribbled, usually something to cherish? And the script was often very beautiful long ago, in part due to its cultural value and simple practice. So Bryant asked us to keep cursive in the school curriculum, "not just for the sake of tradition, but also to preserve the history of our nation."

And in Katie Zezima's April 27 article two years earlier, she raised a few questions. Might those who only write in printed letters be more at risk for forgery? And does learning cursive allow for further development of fine motor skills?

No surprise here: I agree with Bryant's assertions and Zezima's questions. And, full disclosure, the first time I successfully wrote the capital letter 'L' in cursive I felt a thrill of accomplishment I still remember. Though I had no words for it then, maybe it was when I saw that beautiful line on the page that I realized handwriting is an art, a field of human experience with visceral impact.

Like many of the other arts, it's no longer stressed in mainstream education. It isn't efficient, or commercially profitable. Instead, it's soul-polishing. It serves the same purpose as a Sabbath in a religious weekday. It's an act of resting in the flow of the here and now, body and mind united. So I hope that even if cursive dies in the elementary school curriculum, maybe it will be offered as a tasty side dish available in some high school visual arts programs.



FINE STONE MASONRY

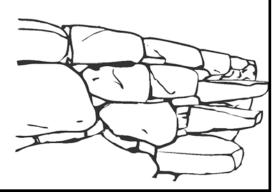
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Mike & Laura Arnow
Janet Check
Tom & Suzanne Sawyer
Donald & Carol Welsch
Cos & Margery Spagnoletti
Peter & Linnea Grealish
Evelyn & Peter Vallianos

—Thank you everyone for your support.



Even if only learned in the occasional university arts or history curriculum, this won't be the first time that culture was preserved in centers of learning.

Now we depend on machines—which depend on the electrical grid and money to pay the electric bill—for communicating with each other. Much of what we tend to communicate is information. But information isn't the sole purpose of communication. There's this little matter of communicating our way through relationship dynamics. I'm all for whatever helps us improve our learning curve there, even if it's as oddball a tool as cursive writing!

So here's a shout-out to my British Isles ancestors whose brothers labored in monasteries to create or copy documents that make some of our European cultural history available to us. And cursive writing is a descendant of that ancient calligraphy. If we completely jettison it, let's not do it simply by default.

And if we do let it go, let's figure out other ways to preserve access to the past for our own personal and historical descendants. Electronically? Sure. But... remember the 8-track? I have more faith in cursive writing.

-Mary Kate Jordan



Thanks to volunteers, the Monterey ice skating rink is assembled and ready once we hit steady winter temperatures. (It takes several days below freezing to build enough ice.) Once it gets frigid, water is added and the rink opens, hopefully in January and into early March. The rink is located behind the fire station in the Monterey Fire Company Pavilion. Skating is free and open to the public 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Free rental skates are available.

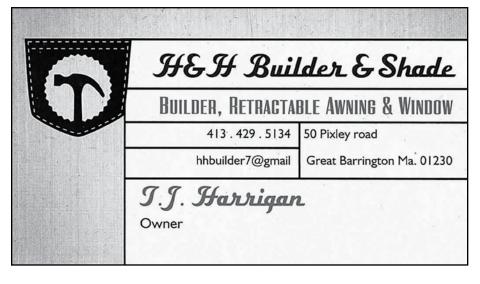


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Monterey Historical Society Lots of Old Years & A New Year

Happy new year—may it be happy, healthy, and historic (in a good way). It's fun looking back at the past as we move day by day through the present. So here's a grab-bag of goodies.

1856: First Christmas Tree in Monterey

On December 29, 1856, Marshall S. Bidwell, Jr., wrote a letter to his cousin (and future wife) Alice Cecilia Bidwell describing the Bidwell family's holiday celebrations at their home on Beartown Mountain Road. This was apparently the first such celebration in Monterey: "The great event in our monotonous life—I might say, the pudding stick which has been stirring our steady mush-like existence has been our Christmas party. Lamenting the deplorable ignorance of Monterey on this important subject (your father did not even know when Christmas came; and the school was open on that day, just as usual) we have endeavored to introduce that delightful festival into these benighted regions. Moreover, a Christmas Tree—the first one of those beautiful exotics so common and so thoroughly naturalized in New York, that has ever blossomed or borne in this inhospitipal [sic] clime—has actually graced our humble parlor. The venerable and benevolent Santa Claus has therefor obtained a fair footing in Monterey."

(¹ Alice Bidwell's father was John D. Bidwell)



Clip from opening scene filmed in Monterey village of the movie Undercurrent, released 1946. The arrow on the right points to Delmor J. Tryon who is driving a horse drawn sleigh (beyond the station wagon).

1946 Movie Filmed in Monterey

Did you know that a Hollywood movie was filmed here in Monterey? Well, at least the opening scene was. *Undercurrent* starring Katharine Hepburn, Robert Taylor and Robert Mitchum was released in 1946. And the opening scene featured Monterey Village.

The horse-drawn wagon or sleigh in the background (behind the station wagon) was driven by Delmor J. Tryon. The whole opening sequence lasts maybe three seconds, but it's there. According to Frances Tryon, Del's wife, they set up the old Brookbend barn (at left in the image) to look like a Western Union office.

New Historical Acquisitions

We are very grateful for a number of fascinating artifacts recently donated to the Monterey Historical Society. James Pearson, descendent of the Pearson family who for several generations owned the former Hale House (now Frank and Julie Kern's) at the corner of Art School Road and Tyringham Road as well as many hundreds of surrounding acreage, donated dozens of old property deeds, the oldest of which dates to 1838, in which Thomas D. Hale of Tyringham (prior to Monterey's 1847 separation) deeded seventeen acres to William Hale. (See portion of deed at right-above.)



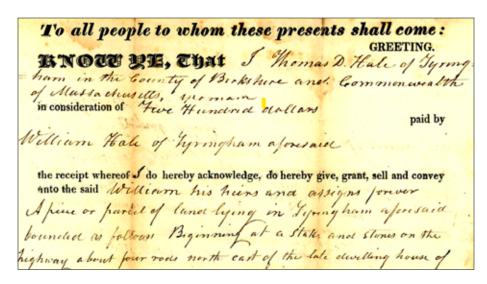
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James Pearson also donated a number of other artifacts and a charming small painting of the Pearson Barn by artist Ann Rydberg (above). The barn still exists behind the Kern's house.

The Estate of Richard D. and Barbara J. Tryon donated an envelope full of old paper money, including an 1899 series paper US Silver Dollar Certificate. (See image at right.) The old 1899 dollar bill is about 50% larger than current paper money, and a dollar then was certainly worth a lot more than a dollar today...roughly \$35!

The design of this bill is unlike any other US bill ever produced. Instead of having a portrait in the center of the bill, it has a picture of a black eagle. So it is called the "black eagle note." Underneath the eagle are small portraits of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant. This is the only US bill to have portraits of two different presidents.

A number of these historical objects will be on display in the historical display case in the library multipurpose room. C' mon in and take a gander. Also, please let us know if you have artifacts relevant to Monterey's history. We would love to become the custodians of your historical treasures.

Historic District Application Grant

The Monterey Historical Society is very grateful to the Monterey Select Board for approving its application for a Grant from ARPA funds. This \$10,500 grant will pay for a consultant to assist the Monterey Historical Commission with preparing detailed documentation and photography of the historic buildings in Monterey village and submitting an application for designating the village area as an historic district. The district would run between the "Rev. Dooley" house directly opposite the firehouse on the west end to the "Capt. John Brewer" house and the community center on the east.



The commission is surveying the property owners in the proposed district about this proposal, awaiting word from Massachusetts Historical Commission about another small grant, and also hoping for the green light to proceed with the formal application. If approved, the historic district designation would be largely honorary, notifying townspeople and passers-by that Monterey village comprises an area of historic buildings. It would not create any regulatory burden on the residents or property owners nor affect their tax valuation. However, such a designation

would make several historic town buildings eligible for funding for repairs and restoration. This would include town hall, library (the 1931 portion of the building), community center, and the old school house.

The application will be reviewed by Massachusetts Historical Commission and for approval by the National Park Service. The historical society and historical commission look forward to working with the property owners to answer questions about the designation of the proposed Monterey Village Historic District.

cont. on page 24



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December Wildlife Report

Snow has come at last, maybe not for long, and we get to see the tracks of our wild neighbors. Now the woods and fields look busy with foxes, coyotes, deer, squirrels, mice, turkeys, bobcats, even otters.

We saw a big otter on the ice as we drove by Royal Pond in mid-December, just over the Otis line. She sat by an open hole, tossing her head up repeatedly as she worked to chew up and swallow a good-sized fish. We had also seen otter tracks, with that big tail drag, crossing the driveway next door headed away from the pond there. They say otters can fish out a small pond in a short time and then move on, sometimes travelling seven miles in a night.

Earlier in the month Bob Cutick sent in a tell-tale photo (right) of a sculptural bird-feeder pole at a new angle, with Lake Garfield in the background. The lake was still open at this time, and clearly there was

Historical Society, cont. from page 23

Thank you

We are especially grateful to all the old and new members of the Monterey Historical Society. We would love to hear your stories, and to get your input and ideas for topics you'd like us to explore. Please consider becoming a new member of the Monterey Historical Society in 2023, or renew your membership if you've been a member. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An individual membership is only \$15, family membership is \$25.

Upcoming Events: History Talk and Annual Meeting

We're planning to host a series of talks throughout the year. The next history talk is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, at 7 p.m., at the library. We will explore in more detail some of the new and old collection items. The Monterey Historical Society will hold its annual meeting for election of trustees and officers on Monday, January 30, at 7 p.m., at the Monterey Library. You're invited to sit in.

Thank you.

-Rob Hoogs



at least one bear in the neighborhood, still up and active. Bob sent an account of the scene in verse (top of page 25).

About this same time, Anna Poirier wrote in with an account of a great-horned owl. This was the first she'd seen in Monterey, and it was "perched on a bare branch, silhouetted against the sky." She got a "view of the tall head-tufts," as the owl was "scanning the meadow for dinner as the sun went down."

Anna also saw her first rusty blackbird in town, on Diane's Trail last month, and more recently reported that the black vultures are back in downtown Great Barrington. I saw them myself on December 19, eleven of them perched on the roof of the old First Aggie Bank building. These big black birds are stouter looking than our familiar turkey vultures, and do not have red heads.

Cindy Hoogs keeps an eye on Brewer Pond and saw a great blue heron there in the middle of December, when the pond was still open. We have a great photograph (right, above) from Marc Holzer of a young bald eagle, on the ice on Lake Garfield. Not much earlier, when the lake was open, Marc took a photograph of many Canada geese, just offshore.

Noël Wicke tells of bluebirds at Gould Farm, still, and Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen are seeing them, along New Marlborough Road.



Here on East Hupi the recent snow has been a godsend (or a Ma Nature send) for small critters who tunnel along unseen. But our dog Rocky can detect a mouse, or anything else, with his eyes blindfolded, such a good nose has he. The other day he jumped and pounced, just like a fox, and dug like the expert he is. He dove his face into the snow and came up with a prize: a meadow mouse which he immediately dispatched with one quick shake. Ever since then this mouse has thrilled the dog, who gallops around with it, tossing it, grabbing it. Puppy with a prize, as we say around here.

Besides this, there are deer tracks, and sometimes we see one or two, as did Steve Snyder on Monument Mountain Road, a "ten-point buck" in the middle of December. Carol Edelman writes that she and her family have some big, shaggylooking deer visiting the compost pile at

Bearfeeder Ditty

Got up early in the morn'
Sun was out ..it felt quite warm
Thought I'd heard some birds
a'tweeting

Went outside to give them greeting Saw the feeder bent way down, Figured there were beasts around. Had a thought that did alarm me "Could it be a squirrel army? Or the creature on the loose Might it be an errant moose?!" "Well, thought I, "I can't remember Bears a'roaming in December." Then I thought: "It's climate change, A bear this late is not so strange. Let him eat, I can't be bitter At some hungry ursine critter Birds I guess you'll have to wait, Till it's time to hibernate.

- Bob Cutick



their place. The deer are munching on pumpkins they find there. Janice Madden-Coon saw a buck deer, and sent in a good photograph (above). At our place, the deer mostly "go by at night." Here is Stephen Vincent Benét, writing in 1933:

When Daniel Boone goes by at night, The phantom deer arise And all lost, wild America Is burning in their eyes.

Thank you to the poets and wildlife observers.

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

Gould Farm Yarn Opening the Door a Little Wider

When you think of activism, does hospitality come to mind? The word "activism" is associated with protests, policy reform, or donating to political causes. And those are all vital forms of activism that help to dismantle oppressive power structures and redistribute resources. And yet, there are other counter-balancing forms of activism as well: kindness, care, and hospitality being a few. They are just as necessary if we hope to create a world where everyone can build a life of meaning.

Hospitality at the Farm

In 1913, when social reformers Agnes and William Gould bought 110 acres in Monterey, they set out to create a community of radical hospitality. A place where people from all walks of life were welcome, invited to participate in whatever ways they were able, and where everyone broke bread together at the dinner table. When Gould Farm was founded, people with mental health challenges were treated no differently from others. Decades later, as expertise about treatments evolved, and the field became more focused, Gould Farm became licensed as a residential treatment facility.

What Gould Farm was then and still is now is a radically hospitable place of healing for those who find their way to our doors. In concrete terms, that hospitality looks like a broad financial aid policy for guests, a staff committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion work, and an invitation to join us in our work of running a now seven-hundred-acre farm the moment you arrive, whether guest, volunteer, staff, or neighbor.

Meeting the Need

The public mental health treatment system in the US is mostly described as not being a system at all. It is rife with challenges. The pandemic amplified these challenges for the majority of people as mental health needs skyrocketed and available resources dwindled. Individuals seeking care for a complex mental illness frequently encounter such barriers to care, even pre-pandemic. Did you know that not one state in the US meets the minimum

recommended number of psychiatric beds? It is difficult—sometimes impossible—to find refuge or welcome if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. These are realities people with mental illnesses like bipolar disorder, major depression, and schizophrenia have faced for too long in our country.

People who come to Gould Farm to participate in our treatment program are called guests for good reason. By the time folks make it to our door, it is no exaggeration to say that they have experienced increased distress because of the very system that was designed to help. Many have experienced the rejection of being outcast. Part of the work that Gould Farm does is to return to each individual a sense of autonomy and a place to belong.

The ability to choose to be here is vital and, once you become a guest, the right to exercise your voice is nurtured. As one former guest shared recently, "Being at Gould Farm changed the course of my life because I have learned to advocate for myself and protect my integrity as a human being."

Hospitality as Activism

Gould Farm board chair, Phyllis Vine, PhD, recently published a book titled, Fighting for Recovery—An Activists' History of Mental Health Reform. When I asked Phyllis about her thoughts on hospitality at Gould Farm being a form of activism, she replied, "Core to Gould Farm's success is the warm welcome guests receive from the moment they arrive, enabling a recovery journey in a community which appreciates every individual's contributions. This is activism at its best because it is person-centered advocacy in the service of a larger goal of wellness for mental health."

Playing the long game of radical hospitality has allowed Gould Farm to have a global impact with our model. Over our one-hundred-plus-year history, people from Australia, Denmark, the Cayman Islands, Canada, and Ireland have come to visit, eat at our table, and learn from us. They have gone on to replicate this model in their own countries. Several farm-based residential programs exist in the US based on the Gould Farm model as well—in

cont. on page 26

Gould Farm, cont. from page 25

Michigan, Ohio, and North Carolina, to name a few. There is something timeless about a therapeutic community—it seems to hold vibrant elements of what is missing in our divided society today.

Join Us

With this column, the Gould Farm community extends our hospitality to our Monterey neighbors by opening our doors a little wider post-pandemic: we welcome you to visit us for a tour, hike on Diane's Trail, and eat with us at Roadside Store and Café once it reopens later this year. We are here with you, in this historical, global moment, asking: who is looking for hospitality? We will continue to do our best to play our part in answering that question and welcoming you in.

If you want to learn more about the history of the farm, head to the Monterey library and check out Gould Farm: A Life of Sharing by William J. Mckee.

Join your Monterey neighbors for a tour of Gould Farm in February/March during maple sugaring season! To get details, email Stephanie McMahon at smcmahon@gouldfarm.org.

—Stephanie McMahon, with editorial support from Lisanne Finston, Lauren Behrman, and Phyllis Vine.



Bovine hospitality at Gould Farm.

Auld Lang Syne by Robert Burns

Robert Burns wrote this song in the year 1788 based upon several older folk songs that were intended to bid farewell to the old year at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. It can mark the end of a funeral service or a graduation ceremony. It can also bring to a close a boy scout jamboree as well as the lowering of the Union Jack after a military parade.

Today his song is the same tempo as Scotland's national ceremony that takes place on a dance floor of an assembly hall to demonstrate the actual arrival of a new year. Every one performing joins hands together to circle together. When the music stops they cross arms over their chests before rushing to the middle of the room to take a new position in a changing of the guard.

My illustration of Robbie Burns taking a cup of kindness at the moment when the old becomes the new year demonstrates his feeling for anyone moving from the present into the past tense. Because of his humble agricultural working background, he has a fetish and is a spokesman for every hard laborer and underappreciated >[underappreciated one word] Scotsman in the working class. His life work also demonstrates his wish for a better balance between nature and all of mankind.

Just as William Shakespeare is well known in the English language as the literary bard, Burns achieved that stature among his own countrymen. He was so admired that "Auld Lang Syne" has been copied by masters of music. Beethoven wrote an arrangement as part of his twelve classical Scottish versions, with the brisk strathspey rhythm.

In the past, at the stroke of midnight on Saturday, January 31, a flaming ball of fire was dropped at the end of the countdown from a tall building into New York's Times Square. At the same moment, when a musical rendition of Auld Lang Syne began by Guy Lombardo's dance band, people raised a glass of kindness, that old acquaintances who were special people in our lives should not be forgotten.

—George B. Emmons



Auld Lang Syne

Should old acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, And old lang syne?

(Chorus)

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne, We'll take a cup of kindness yet, For auld lang syne.

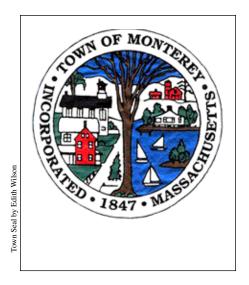
And surely you'll buy your pint cup! And surely I'll buy mine! And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.

We two have run about the slopes, And picked the daisies fine; But we've wandered many a weary foot, Since auld lang syne.

We two have paddled in the stream, From morning sun till dine; But seas between us broad have roared Since auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty friend! And give me a hand o' thine! And we'll take a right good-will draught. For auld lang syne.

—Robert Burns (English version)



Select Board Corner

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

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

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

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

528-3211

Calendar

MCC events listings on page 7. Council on Aging events on page 10.

Wednesday, January 11:

Guided snowshoe walk at Bidwell House, 10 a.m. See page 13.

Movie night in the Monterey Library at 7 p.m. with a second chance to see *To Sir With Love*. See page 10.

Wednesday, January 18:

Barrington Brewery lunch at noon. See page 10.

Bidwell House lecture (Zoom), "Life In Winter." See page 13.

Saturday, January 21: Special town meeting, 1:30 p.m., firehouse. See page 2.

Wednesday, January 25: Documentary film at 2 p.m. in the community center showing *The Biggest Little Farm*. See page 10.

Saturday, January 28:

Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lake Buel boat ramp. See page 8.

Guided snowshoe walk at Bidwell House, 10 a.m. See page 13.

Saturday, February 11: Backyard Ecology Talk, at 11 a.m.

Sunday, February 19: Winterfest! Good food, music, crafts, and more! 1 to 3 p.m.



Rachel Jo Arnow, August 2013

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews 9@ mail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

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(for town boards and misc. questions)

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Community Center: 528-3600 calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

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chief@montereyma.org

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montereylibrary@gmail.com

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Contributions from local artists this month: Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 27; Hannah Bracken, p.14; Maureen Banner, pgs. 6, 11, 21; George Emmons, pgs. 17, 26; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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