



Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Swap Shop, Church foyer



*Adam Chait took this photo on February 21 with the Fiber Connect drone. This is part of a six-month series currently in progress which will be a time lapse of the changing seasons. The drone flies the exact same flight plan every day or two around the same time.*

Kenn is hopeful that a few candidates will register and garner nominations in March.  
Interview with Kenn Basler      page 4–5

He also taught “that washing the dishes is an act of love.” Throughout his life his actions embodied the beliefs he held.  
Storrs Olds      page 24–25

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund awarded \$71,500 to eighteen students.  
Scholarship Fund Awards      page 7

Sometimes having an extra quilt—or even one quilt—kept a person from freezing to death.  
The Way We Were      page 16



Boston Post Cane      pages 14–15

It has been a dream of Gould Farm’s to have this extra space.  
Gould Farm Price Center      page 11

The census date of April 1 is fast approaching. Everyone needs to be counted. Libraries are a logical place to come with questions.  
Library News      page 8

At the end of the contest, the town was surprised that its electrical consumption was only reduced by 15.6%.  
Monterey Lights the Way      page 18

Everywhere you went you added beauty and lifted the rest of us up with encouragement. Thank you!  
Remembering Val Costas      page 23

May it be so with the mice. With all we have on our plate, all to juggle, fear, grieve, and work for, let the mice return to reassure us.  
The Mice of Yesteryear      page 22

**Daylight Savings Time**  
“Spring Ahead”  
Sunday, March 8, at 2 a.m.

We know that in final form the Collin’s Center report will strongly recommend that we hire a town administrator.  
IMV-Don Coburn      page 3

If “light trespass” continues to increase at 5% per year, light pollution will double locally in fifteen years.  
Darker Skies Ahead?      pages 12–13

It is sobering to know that once gone—it never comes back from the landfill. At what cost do we give away our culture for something new?  
Saving our Schoolhouse      pages 7–8

Sleeping Beauty is no longer sleeping and no longer a beauty, but has transformed into “The Beast!”  
The Great Chipmunk Hunt      page 21

## Upcoming elections

### Presidential Primary

**Primary day voting:** Tuesday, March 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at town hall.

### Town Offices Elections

Below is the list of offices and their terms that will be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 5.

Board of Appeals 5 years  
Board of Appeals 1 year  
Board of Assessors 3 years  
Board of Assessors 2 years  
Board of Health 3 years  
Cemetery Committee 3 years  
Finance Committee 3 years  
Library Trustees (2) 3 years  
Moderator 1 year  
Parks Commission 3 years  
Planning Board (2) 5 years  
Planning Board 3 years  
Select Board 3 years  
Tree Warden 1 year

### Schedule

**Nominations:** The last day to submit nomination papers to the registrars of voters is Tuesday, March 17. The last day for town party caucuses to make nominations is on March 28, and the certification of caucus nominations will be done by March 31. The last time to object or withdraw a nomination is Thursday, April 2, at 5 p.m.

**Voter registration:** The last day to register to vote is Saturday, April 11, from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 8 p.m., at town hall.

**Annual Town Meeting:** The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2.

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## Democratic Party Caucus

The Monterey Democratic town committee will hold its caucus on Saturday, March 14, at 11 a.m., in the church basement, during which all registered Democrats will nominate candidates for this May's local elections. All registered Democrats are welcome to participate in the caucus.

If you are a registered voter interested in an elected office in Monterey, regardless of party affiliation, email a letter of interest to [monterey-dems@outlook.com](mailto:monterey-dems@outlook.com) on or before March 11. This is the deadline to be added to the ballot. You may also appear at the meeting at 11 a.m. and present yourself to the committee as a write-in candidate.

The following list shows all the positions up for election and the number of years per term. Please look the list over carefully and consider what positions you might be interested in. We encourage you to talk to current officeholders to see what it takes to hold one of these positions. The town website, [montereyma.gov](http://montereyma.gov) lists appointed and elected officials by boards and commissions. We encourage citizens of Monterey to step forward and be part of town government. This is a chance to run for office and contribute.

—Jon Sylbert

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## Republican Caucus Call

Citizens of Monterey, Massachusetts, *who are qualified voters and members of the Republican Party*, are hereby requested to meet in caucus at the Monterey Congregational Church basement on Saturday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m. to nominate candidates for the various town offices to be voted for at the Annual Town Election on May 5, 2020. The caucus will be held and is called under the provisions of Chapter 53 of Massachusetts General Laws and will be called to order by the chair of the Republican Town Committee.

If you are interested in running for office, please prepare a brief statement for the Republican Town Committee and contact Mark Makuc, [mjminmonterey@yahoo.com](mailto:mjminmonterey@yahoo.com). You do not have to be a Republican to receive the nomination from the caucus. Democrats and unenrolled candidates are welcome to request the nomination.

—Mark Makuc

## Candidate Statements

Town elections are upon us once again. Elections for town offices are on Tuesday, May 5, following town meeting the prior Saturday. If you have been nominated for an office, or filed nomination papers for yourself, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the *Monterey News*. The paper will be happy to publish candidate statements in either the April or May issue.

The *News* would also be pleased to publish letters of support for candidates. It would be helpful if you know of others who are intending to write in support of the same candidate to agree on one letter to be published.

Also, please feel free to offer a perspective on any issues to be decided at town meeting by sending a letter to the *News*. Part of the mission of the paper is to encourage community conversations.

The deadline for the *Monterey News* is typically on the 20th of each month. Your letters must be signed, and can be emailed (preferred) to [MontereyNews9@gmail.com](mailto:MontereyNews9@gmail.com), or sent first class, to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

## In My View

### Budget 2021 Questions

The select board, with the assistance of the finance committee, is wrestling with a number of difficult issues in preparing the fiscal 2021 budget, which will be submitted by the select board at town meeting on May 2.

### Capital Expenses

For example, the fire company is seeking support for a new and well-devised system of job assignments that will improve coverage, and thus safety, but will require substantial additional funding. The library trustees are also asking for new funding, in this case for another ten hours of operation a week. The highway department wants two new trucks (at a cost of about \$400,000) to replace equipment whose useful life has essentially ended. The addition of those trucks would clearly improve highway operations. We also have to select the best method for financing the \$1 million-plus library loan; and if we decide to lock in a beneficial interest rate with a bond offering for that money, we have to decide whether we should include money for one or more of the trucks requested by the highway department. Our bank will be advising on this subject. In regard to the fire company and the library, we may want to phase in their requests to ease the financial burden on the townspeople.

### Stabilization Fund

Another issue of importance is the amount of our stabilization fund, which is almost \$1 million. Generally speaking, that money sits in a bank as security for the solution of unforeseen events of unusual magnitude. Our fund is quite high in comparison to most communities. Our accountant has recommended that we reduce it from about 20%, its present amount, to 6%–10% of our annual budget. This would drop the fund to less than half of its current level. There are arguments both ways, and no doubt room in the middle, but I hope we begin to address the issue in the fiscal 2021 budget.

### Health Insurance

During meetings with the finance committee, we have also discussed possible

changes to our medical insurance programs for employees. Some have argued for changes now to reduce premium costs, while others have argued that we should first hire a town administrator on the theory that his or her expertise on the subject will be useful in deciding whether modification is in order.

### Wages

One of the things we cannot put off is a decision on a wage increase for this year. During the past five years we have been limiting employees to a “cost-of-living” increase essentially equal to the federal cost-of-living figure, which has resulted in their take-home pay basically remaining the same. I proposed that we reconsider that practice, which I think is unfair and bad for morale, and instead give an increase of 3.5% in the new budget. Some tend to think that we should limit the raise to 2%. The debate is ongoing but will surely be resolved in time for town meeting.

### Town Administrator

Soon we will be receiving the final report of the Collins Center on its \$6,000 study of ways to improve our town government operations. From the early drafts of this report, which by law are not available to the general public, we know that in final form the report will strongly recommend that we hire a town administrator. The select board has not yet voted on this issue. Nor have we discussed whether the position, if created, should be full-time, part-time, or part-time shared with another town. Moreover, we all recall the unfortunate results of the hiring of our first town administrator a few years ago. So, this is a delicate and complex matter.

Some have argued that we must hire a town administrator because the town meeting approved money in our budget for that purpose last year. But that is an oversimplification. Suppose we cannot find someone for that position in whom we have confidence. Or, suppose the amount authorized by the town meeting is inadequate to attract a suitable candidate. Surely implicit in the town meeting’s decision to include money in the budget for a town administrator was

## Children’s Clothing Drive

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the assumption that the select board would act pragmatically.

As of this writing in late February, I don’t know how any of those issues are going to be preliminarily resolved by the select board, or what view the members of the finance committee will take on our decisions. But, in the end, the proposed decisions will be for the annual town meeting to accept, modify, or reject. So, I urge you to think about these matters, discuss them with your neighbors, and come to the town meeting well prepared to reach sound judgments. There won’t be a written test, but you are the legislature of this town, and in the final analysis what you think, say, and decide counts the most.

—Don Coburn  
Select Board member

*Editor’s Note: In My View is an opportunity for select board members to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

## Interview: Kenn Basler

*Editor's Note: As many folks are probably aware, Kenn Basler has decided to conclude his time as a member of the Monterey Select Board when his second term expires in May. I extended an invitation to be interviewed to take a look towards the future, of Monterey, and of the select board. As of this writing, there seems to be no clear candidates for this important task of managing the town's affairs. I was hoping that Kenn would be able to point to opportunities for the town, and for the select board, to be moving forward in a way that might interest some folks in becoming candidates.*

### What Makes a Small Town?

I began the interview with a large-frame question, "What makes a town different than even a small city-type municipality like Great Barrington?" He began by stating the obvious... fewer people. Then he expanded to say that, "There's more transparency. People know who's doing stuff for the town. In bigger settings there is a bureaucracy with paid staff. There are people filling many of the same roles on boards and commissions as in Monterey, but they aren't as widely known as in a small town." He added that towns flourish with participation, at every level.

At the same time, in small towns there are fewer people who step forward to sit on the boards and commissions such as the planning board, zoning board of appeals, conservation commission, parks commission, etc. It takes a lot of individuals to fulfill the obligations these bodies have to the town, and to the state requirements. "You have the people you have." Typically

each year there are only a few contested seats, but there are vacancies.

He added that, "Transparency has its own burden. People might not take the time to fully understand an issue. Some will go quickly negative if there's something that doesn't please them, without realizing the full story of how decisions are made. And you meet them in the post office."

### People Serving the Town

Volunteer fatigue probably plagues most towns, but in a town with an aging population this is very apparent. I mentioned to him a comment that Bob Carlson made at a special town meeting a few years ago. Bob in essence said, "Many of us have already served on boards. We've done our bit." Kenn sees one opportunity for the select board to find ways to make this service less burdensome. He has worked to support the boards with staffing to help with writing minutes and reporting requirements. As an example, he mentioned how the conservation commission now has a paid agent. The state regulations are very lengthy, and con-com members often had to struggle with fully understanding the complex regulations. This leads to folks burning out before they've had the time to learn the laws. But with a knowledgeable paid agent who knows the state's requirements, and can provide the right technical assistance, the job has become somewhat less burdensome.


### Town and State

I suggested to him the truism that "everyone has a boss." "Who bosses the select board?" He immediately said the voters, especially the voters who become involved, who come to meetings and of-

fer opinions and suggestions, and who stand and speak during town meetings. But going further, the town has weighty responsibilities with the state in just about every facet of the town's operation. The select board is the executive authority in town. The board has to supervise all of the departments, making sure that the work is getting done, and that it is in compliance with state regulations. (There aren't many federal requirements that apply at the town level.) So the state is always looking over their shoulder.

He felt strongly that right now the town has a strong team. As examples, he pointed to the town having received \$10 to \$11 million in state funds in the past five or six years, with most of this money granted to specific purposes. During that time the projects involving state funds have been accomplished well in important ways—on time, on budget, etc. This is recognized by feedback from the state, not just his opinion. The transfer station's recently earned the highest ratings. Other examples include rebuilding Route 23 along its full length, many repaving projects (Route 57, numerous local roads), the community center, the library project, and so on.

Another indicator of how well the town is managed is the current tax situation. He said that the town is in really good condition with regards to its infrastructure, the highway department is well equipped, our fire company is well equipped and the fire house was recently enlarged. All this



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has gone on and yet Monterey's tax rate is fifth lowest in Berkshire county, and the seventeenth lowest in the entire state. Some of our neighboring towns have old equipment, roads in poor condition, and significantly higher tax burden.

### Role of the Select Board

I asked him how he views the best role for the select board. This obviously leads into discussing the possibility of professional management, a town administrator. He said that the supervisory requirements that fall on the board's shoulders are significant, and take a lot of time to do well. Individual members decide for themselves how involved they choose to be, and in what ways, so it can be hard to get to doing everything needed. A town administrator would help with these tasks.

Beyond the supervising, there are policy decisions that govern the direction the town takes on many issues. He thinks it is the role of the select board member to grapple with both problems and possible solutions, make some decisions on behalf of the town, and then stand up in front of the voters, explain what's been decided, and look to them for approval or not. There are few problems that are simple, and town meetings aren't the best venue for sorting out conflicting options. "The select board is voted in to lead, to try to shape outcomes."

### Town Issues Coming Up

The conversation moved to future considerations facing the town, and the select board. For Kenn, some of the most pressing issues are around how to best support our aging population. How to help people stay in their homes, or provide alternatives in town so they can remain in the community. His disappointment with the struggle to get the broadband project built out is partly because of how universal access to high speed connectivity is getting to be more and more critical in our communities, and has direct bearing on the demographics of our town and the ability of the aging population to remain and be safe. He said the housing rehabilitation project led by Alice Boyd has been very successful thus far, with twelve to fourteen major house renovation projects having been accomplished.

Some upcoming policy questions involve how to manage short and long term rentals of properties in town. There are a growing number of rental incidences with too many people, which can create hazards, especially in situations that are not safety code compliant. In our lake areas, houses can be very close together, and when a house is over-occupied, it can be a real issue for a neighborhood.

Another issue that is in front of not only our select board, but municipalities across the state, are organizations that have property-tax-exempt facilities regardless of the demands on local services like police, schooling, fire protection, road maintenance, etc. PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) programs are being employed to help balance this out, but even this is not as simple as it sounds. For example, Hume New England does not pay property taxes as a religious organization, and there are demands on local services. However, Hume recently agreed to host the site for the new cell tower for the east side of town, which has to be viewed as a contribution in kind. Gould Farm, which is also tax exempt, has made voluntary payments to the town, but these are probably not commensurate with the demands on local services. It is a thorny issue, but as budgets and tax burdens grow, it is reasonable to work through this issue. Fortunately other municipalities are tackling this, so Monterey doesn't have to come up with a program on its own.

## Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us March 18 to hear:  
Dr. Barry Rose

Issues in Healthcare:  
Advocacy and Philosophy

See the community potluck supper  
article on page 7.

3rd Wednesdays, October-May  
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall  
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As our time together wound down, I asked Kenn about future involvement in the town. He thinks there are some important areas that he would like to participate in going forward. He would like to be on the search committee for a town administrator. He is also putting his name forward to join the conservation commission.

On a final note, Kenn said that everyone who takes a seat on the select board is beginning a learning experience which he found took much of the three years of his first single term. Kenn is hopeful that a few candidates will declare themselves during March in time to register and garner nominations.

— Stephen Moore



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## Saving Our Little Schoolhouse

On March 11, at 7 p.m. in the library, there will be a special meeting about our schoolhouse, continued from February 4. A decision might be made at the Annual Town Meeting in May. Can we save our iconic one-room schoolhouse from sale and likely demolition? We need your views to preserve this important landmark. Its usage either as a school, conversion to other purposes, or sale on the auction block will be decided this year. The more who come the better the outcome for everyone.

In 1818, Philadelphia's Independence Hall (where the Declaration of Independence and drafts of our Constitution were created) faced demolition. Legislators sought to carve its land into building lots for revenue. Sixty-five years after its creation, it found itself on the chopping block. With tight time constraints, citizens and officials rallied to preserve an integral part of American history. Today a quarter-million people visit this edifice per year, a building that unites our past and present. Might we see a way forward regarding aspects of our town's founding too?

Even before the 1776 American Revolution, there were two strict ground rules to establish a town in the Bay State of Massachusetts. A school had to be built and a school master hired, and a church or meetinghouse consecrated and overseen by a paid "Minister of good character."

Our state requirements were crafted to ensure two vital results—community involvement in self-government, along with congregation of faith.

To ensure town status, our one-room schoolhouse was erected in 1845—a full two years before our center church began construction in 1847. That ensured the status of the town as a legal town. The fascinating history of both buildings demonstrates the pioneering spirit and strong camaraderie of those who created our community of purpose.

One-room schoolhouses like ours are hard to come by these days and harder still to find in usage. With the invention of the motor vehicle, the closings of these schools began and sped up in earnest over the decades to follow. Of the one hundred thousand that once existed, less than two hundred stand in our nation today, and more are shuttered yearly. Schools have been, and still are, part of the heartbeat of community. Most of our nation's historic people received their education in buildings like ours.

At what advantage to our children do we sell off or tear down this edifice? Our school was put in hiatus in 2016 by our school district due to our teacher being wanted for the New Marlborough school instead. We were told the hiatus would be lifted (we had enough students to attend at the time who were instead bussed to New Marlborough). Then, the school superintendent stated that \$20,000 was needed to repair the school to

lift the hiatus. It seemed a challenge but they offered \$10,000 of that amount towards its survival. The hiatus then continued (without mention of any match with our \$10,000) when mice were found in the building in 2018, along with the determination requiring lead paint and asbestos removal. These seemed under control: however, there was no further expenditure. In 2019 it was proposed that instead of revitalizing the school and keeping Monterey children here for their first schooling—that the school be put on an auction list instead.

It has been estimated that fundraising and repairs might take two years and that we would have between six and ten students from Monterey who would attend our school once completed (based on birth records between 2014 to 2019). A kindergarten can only teach fifteen children at its maximum, and there is no statutory minimum, so we are in good standing to continue offering this special gift to our community—the education of our little ones close to home.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Kip Wasiuk and others in the congregation, our church was given rightful restoration. We owe the same to the other foundational building in our town—our schoolhouse. Advice toward acquiring funds to repair the school has come from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the school district, and foundation grants. We simply need to act on this advice and the ideas of others in our town that have experience breathing life back into these historic buildings.

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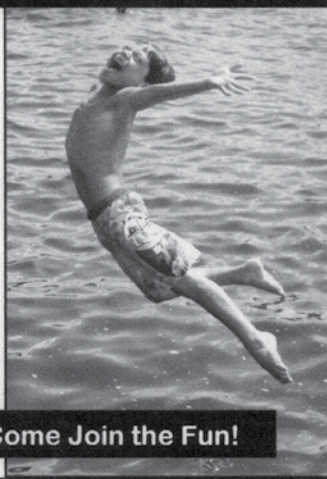
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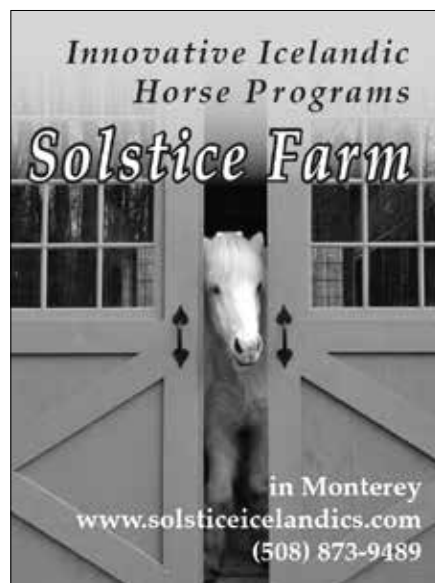
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Four out of five of our school district towns must vote to close the school. Monterey supported South Egremont when it worked to save its schoolhouse at not inconsiderable effort and expenditure. It felt the deep need to save its own education of little ones, persevered, and won. We must review and uncover similar obstacles so that we can pay attention to the opportunities we have to reopen it.

Recently, the concept of early childhood education in a small group has been revisited and is often cited as established fact. Studies of children from pre-k through kindergarten reveal that toddlers learn about their own identity and their own place in the world in their first classroom. There they also learn cooperation, teamwork, and the value of friends.

A town that does not validate its young ones by providing the environment for them to make lifelong friends and companions of townspeople is a town that gradually becomes less of a community, with less impetus to give back. Currently 65% of the Monterey Fire Company at-

tended Monterey schools. Don't we wish to continue this tradition?

An example of what happens if a small town loses its school is illustrated by the cases of Luray, Kansas and Waldo, Kansas. Luray kept its last school, while Waldo did not. Waldo is now nearly a ghost town, with shuttered businesses, while Luray prospers (see *The Journal of Inquiry & Action in Education*, 2(2), 2009 | "A Tale of Two Towns: The Significance of a School to a Rural Community" by Ed Mills, Northwest Kansas Technical College).

Revitalizing of America's town centers suggests that people like living with historic buildings. The National Trust for Historic Preservation states: "When you tear down an old building, you never know what's being destroyed." About 300,000 buildings are demolished annually in the US, generating 22% of the country's waste. It is sobering to know that once gone—it never comes back from the landfill. At what cost do we give away our culture for something new?

—Barbara Swann

## McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, supports seniors who are residents of Monterey and are entering their first year at a college or university, as well as prior McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship recipients. Grants of up to \$8,000 will be awarded. For more information and to apply by March 15, go to [berkshiretaconic.org/McLaughlinWilson](http://berkshiretaconic.org/McLaughlinWilson).

In 2019, the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund awarded \$71,500 to eighteen students.

### High school graduates

- Megan Mulvey, Monument Mountain Regional High School, going to Towson University
- Dylan Stoll-Tinker, Monument Mountain Regional High School, going to Worcester State University

### Renewals

- Chelsea Balestro, University of Central Florida
- Isabel Bronson, Vassar College
- Julia Bronson, St. Lawrence University
- Ella Carlson, Smith College
- Maya Finston-Fox, Baldwin Wallace University
- Lauren Gilderdale, Westfield State University
- Jacob Makuc, University of Connecticut
- Joseph Makuc, Temple University
- Justin Makuc, College of the Holy Cross
- Marya Makuc, College of the Holy Cross
- Claudia Martin, Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Hannah Mulvey, University of Massachusetts
- Ariana Saporito, Salve Regina University
- Donovan Sawyer, Nichols College
- Shayna Sawyer, University of Rhode Island
- Evan Sylbert, Bard College at Simon's Rock

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## Monterey Library News

### Census

The census date of April 1 is fast approaching. Everyone needs to be counted. Libraries are a logical place to come with questions. The Monterey Library has been designated a Census Questionnaire Assistance Center. What this means is the staff has been trained to help with questions, and just as importantly, offer the library computers to be used in filling out the form. It's important that everyone be counted. Our goal is to make sure that no barriers keep you from that. The library is accessible according to the Americans with Disabilities Act and our staff is going to make sure we can accommodate everyone. Don't be intimidated by the online filing with this census. Come to the library and we will help you be counted.

### The Knox Trail

On Saturday, April 4, at 1 p.m., the Monterey Library is happy to join with the Bidwell Museum to present Otis Town Historian Thomas Ragusa for his talk *Rediscovering the "Great Road," also known as "The Knox Trail."* Listen as he describes the path taken by patriot surveyor Nathaniel Austin of Sheffield. Mr. Ragusa will explain and unravel the notorious 1764 road survey through Otis and Sandisfield that has been the source of much historical discussion. This program

will be held at the Monterey Library. The event is free, but pre-registration on the Bidwell House Museum website is appreciated. For more information, see the Bidwell House Museum article on page 20.

### *A Grief Sublime, A Reading*

*A Grief Sublime* by Beth Robbins is a work of creative nonfiction that begins with the moment Robbins is informed of her husband's sudden death in a car accident. The book moves in a fragmented way, from the aftermath of devastation, to Robbins's childhood near Long Beach, New York, to moments in her marriage to Steve "Sproutman" Meyerowitz, to the lived experience of grief. Her navigation of grief becomes a hero's journey and ultimately leads to rediscovery.

Begun as a personal essay, it has since been expanded into the book. Karen Allen, film and stage actress as well as a director, lives in Monterey and read *A Grief Sublime* for the audiobook. Both are available at the Monterey Library.

Robbins and Allen will be at the Monterey Library on Saturday, April 18, from 4 to 6 p.m., to do a reading and then discuss the work. For further information please contact Wendy Germain, at [w.germain132@gmail.com](mailto:w.germain132@gmail.com).

—Mark Makuc

Monterey Library Director  
[MontereyMassLibrary.org](http://MontereyMassLibrary.org)

## Playgroups at the Library New Day and Longer Time

Come to the Monterey Library to play! South Berkshire Kids is continuing to host a weekly playgroup program for children, ages birth to five. Their caregivers, parents, and grandparents are welcome.

Beginning on Monday, March 2, the playgroup will now meet Monday mornings, for an additional half-hour, from 10 to 11:30.

The playgroup includes free play, songs, crafts, and stories. This is a great program for children to learn social skills and for the adults to connect between themselves. This program is free and open to the community. South Berkshire Kids is fully funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant provided by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

—Jess Mahoney

South Berkshire Kids Program Coordinator

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## Garden Talk

It's that time of year when winter has lost its luster and we are looking forward to the warm sunny days of spring and getting out into the garden. It's not too early to start thinking and planning for the garden we want this summer. On Saturday, March 21, at 10:30 a.m., the MCC will hold a panel discussion primarily about vegetable gardening in anticipation of the coming growing season. A panel of three very experienced Monterey gardeners will be responding to questions from moderator Steve Pullen about favorite cultivars and techniques, seed catalogs, tools, and other topics. There will be plenty of audience participation and exchange of ideas. This is an unstructured dialogue that will respond to topics raised by all participants.

It may be bleak outside, but for a gardener, hope springs eternal and Steve and his fellow experts can help you have the best garden ever. So start thinking about those gardening issues that need a little help and come to the MCC on March 21.

## Coffeehouse

The first in a series of coffeehouses got off to a great start in February with Peter Poirier and Mike Law playing for an enthusiastic crowd. If you happened to miss that performance, you have another chance. Peter will be doing a performance sponsored by the Council on Aging on March 18, at 1 p.m., at the MCC. It is free and open to all ages. You might remember that Peter and his band played at last year's steak roast. If you enjoyed Peter's coffeehouse show, you might want to catch him again.

## Navicare

Allison Rice, from Navicare, will once again be available to meet with any senior who is eligible for both Medicare and Standard Mass Health. She can explain the program to you and describe all of the many benefits Navicare can provide. Allison will be at the MCC on the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m., so on March 20.

## Bidwell House Talk

What's coming our way from the Bidwell House Museum? Resistance, revolution,

scandal! All of those juicy topics will be covered in the next History Talk Replay at the community center on March 8, at 1 p.m.

The talk is free but donations are appreciated. See page 20.

## New Volunteers

The MCC is pleased to have two new volunteers to help out with various duties such as publicity, assisting with special events, and whatever else comes up. Nancy Kleban and Nancy Larkin responded to a request in this column for someone to lend their skills to the community center in return for a tax abatement. We were lucky to have these two talented and capable people respond and are grateful for their assistance.

## Ongoing Activities

**Al-Anon:** Sundays at 9 a.m.

**Mahjong:** Mondays at 7 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

**Chair Yoga:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

**Pitch and Bridge:** Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.

**Community Chorus:** Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

**Balance Review:** Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

**Darn Yarners:** The first and third Thursdays of the month (March 5 and 19)

**Canasta:** (for experienced players): Thursdays at 7 p.m.

**Cookbook Club:** second Friday of the month (March 13). See page 27.

**Ping Pong:** Saturdays at 2 p.m.

If you have a skill you would like to share or a group or class you would like to see take place at the MCC, please contact the MCC coordinator, Mary Makuc at 528-3600, or email her at [calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org).

—Laurie Shaw

Monterey Community Center Chair



## MCC Coffeehouse Series

Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod

The Monterey Community Center and the Monterey Cultural Council are hosting another free concert in their coffeehouse series on Friday, April 3, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. Our musicians will be local musician Eric Martin with Karen Axelrod. Come out and enjoy a delightful evening of music and song in our lovely community center. Coffee and goodies will be available. The coffeehouse is free but donations are welcome.

The Axelrod-Martin duo presents an enthralling concert of traditional dance music from around the world. Monterey's Eric Martin plays violin (fiddle) and viola, sings ballads and traditional tunes, and accompanies with foot percussion. Northampton-based musician Karen Axelrod plays piano and accordion. Eric and Karen present unique arrangements of traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Scandinavia, Quebec, New England, and Appalachia, with a few tangos and klezmer tunes thrown in for fun.

—Wendy Jensen

**Christopher Blair**

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## Council on Aging

Despite three cancellations for weather problems at the end of January and the beginning of February (two board meetings and the movie), the Council on Aging has been very busy—now it can be told, the secret is out! We have re-established the tradition of honoring the oldest citizen in town by presenting our most senior resident with a replica of the *Boston Post* Cane.

On February 22, Richard Tryon was presented with the cane by Kenn Basler, chair of the select board. It was also to celebrate Dick's 96th birthday a few days prior. Kenn provided great commentary on everything that Dick has been involved in. Dick was very surprised and gratified. (See the article on pages 14–15.)

The **Council on Aging board meetings** will be on Monday, March 9 and Monday, March 23, both at town hall at 10 a.m. We welcome townspeople to join us.

**Movie night** will be Tuesday, March 10, at town hall at 7 p.m. We'll try again to show *Harold and Maude* (no pea-soup fog, this time, please). This is a "coming-of-age black comedy, incorporating elements of dark humor and existential drama", with music by Cat Stevens.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse will hold a **Wellness Clinic** at town hall on March 12, from 2-3 p.m., no appointment necessary.

There is still time to sign up for the **Boston Flower and Garden Show** on Saturday, March 14. First Choice Tours is offering the trip starting from Lee. \$86 covers the transportation and admission.

Call 413-665-9090 for reservations and payment information.

We will be having another **Elder Law** specialist lawyer on May 14, at 10 a.m., at the community center. MassBar suggested we join with another town, so we joined with Sandisfield. We'll let you know topics closer to the date.

There is a **Regional Councils on Aging Meeting** on Monday, March 16, at the Monterey Community Center at 10 a.m. Again, everyone is welcome to come and discuss topics of local/regional significance.

The Council on Aging is sponsoring our own **Peter Poirier** on March 18, at 1 p.m., at the community center. He will sing popular songs from the 1920s through the 1970s, focusing on many of the great singers of our time—Bing Crosby, Nat "King" Cole, Elvis Presley, the Beatles, as well as many country music stars. Come on down, it's free and it'll be great!

The **Foot Nurse** will be at town hall on Thursday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 413-528-1443, ext 247, for an appointment. The out-of-pocket cost is \$25—the CoA pays an additional \$10.

Still working on the outreach worker grant—looks like it will be for next fiscal year at this point.

We are planning a lunch out in April at the Brewery, no date yet decided, and a trip in June to the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington.

—Kyle Pierce  
Chair, Council on Aging

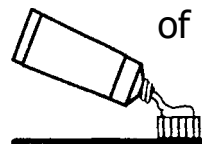
## Contributions in February

It is a pleasure every month to thank our contributors on behalf of everyone who works to put this paper together, now working on its fifty-first year of publication!

William & Carol Ban  
Paul & Delight Dodyk  
Elias Lien & Brooke Dyer-Bennet  
Melissa Hochstetler  
Malinka Jackson  
Carol & Alfred Landess  
Pat & Howard Nourse  
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## Price Community Center Gould Farm

The Rev. Hampton E. Price Community Center (a.k.a. the red barn) is located on Gould Farm's upper campus behind Main House. At 7,500 square feet on two floors, the Price Community Center is the future hub of the campus and a gathering place for the entire farm community. Activities available to Farm residents will include music, singing, indoor sports, creative arts, fitness and recreation, and wellness activities. The most significant impact will be the large community room with an occupancy of 150 people for entertainment, fitness, and large private and public gatherings, such as at Thanksgiving.

### The Campaign

Gould Farm conducted its first capital campaign and raised the \$2.7 million required to construct the center. Tom and Ellen Bowler of West Palm Beach, FL provided the lead gift of \$500,000 in honor of Ellen's late father, Rev. Hampton E. Price. Hampton Price was the Farm's executive director from 1962–72.

Over fifty Monterey residents contributed to the campaign, starting with the Farm's Monterey-based board members, followed by many local and part-time residents who appreciate the Farm's mission, impact, and role in Monterey. In addition, over 250 individuals nationwide are the donors who are making the community center a reality after twelve years of planning.

### Wall Signing

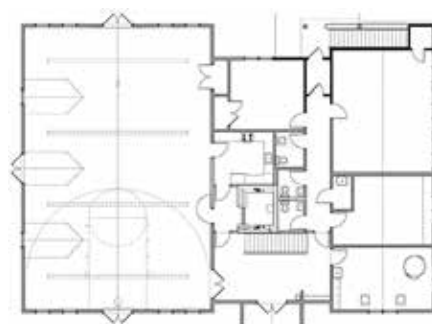
The Farm held a "wall signing" celebration on Saturday, February 15. The main purpose of the wall signing was to give the Gould Farm community a chance to leave their mark on the building. It was also to celebrate



*Above: The Price Center construction in early February.*

*Below: Board Chair Phyllis Vine leaves a message on the wall of the community room.*

*Photos courtesy of Gould Farm*



how far we've come in the construction process and to share our excitement of using the building once it has been completed.

We had over fifty people show up—current guests, some family members of current guests, current staff and their families, some former staff and guests, and people from the local community.

It has been a dream of Gould Farm's to have this extra space, and to be able to step inside and imagine all the activities we will be doing there was very meaningful. Nearly everyone wrote their name, some people left inspiring messages, quotes that were important to them, or glued artwork on the walls. Even though it will all be covered up by drywall, it is special to know our names are in there and can serve as a time capsule in case there's ever work on the building in the future.

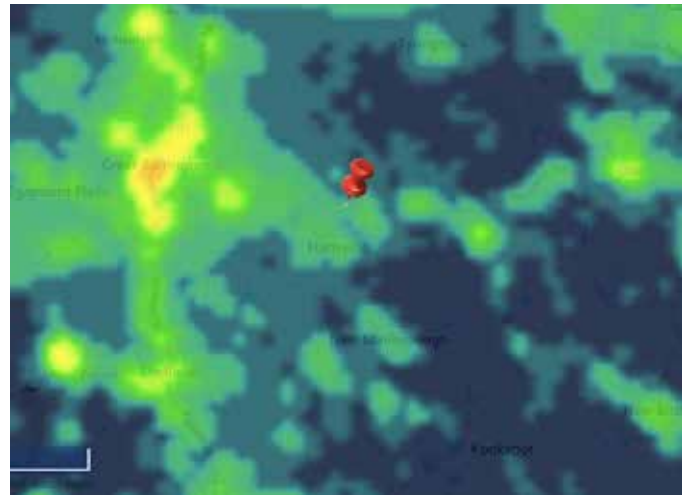
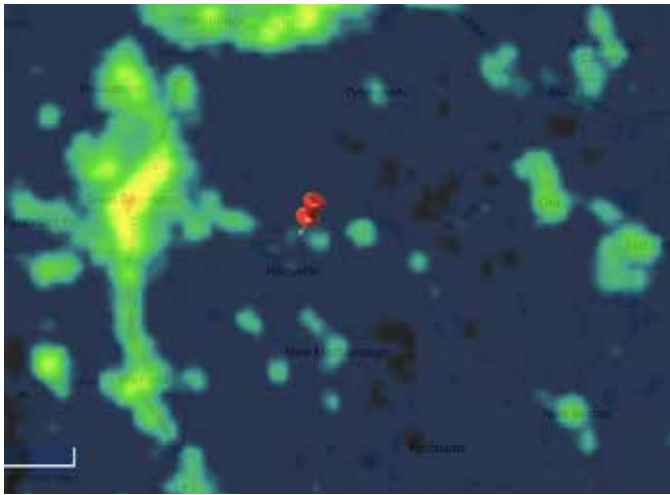
Over \$250,000 is still required before the Farm can fully complete the lower floor's fitness and recreation centers (\$150,000) and outfit the community room with AV and sound equipment, the stage, and seating for 150 people. Room naming opportunities are still available. Contact Melanie Brandston, Development Director, 413-528-1804, ext. 27 or [mbrandston@gouldfarm.org](mailto:mbrandston@gouldfarm.org).

The architect is Robert Harrison of Berkshire Design Inc. Foresight Land Services developed the site plan. The contractors are Restorations Inc. of Hinsdale, MA, and Tryon Construction of Monterey.

An official grand opening for the public is scheduled for mid-October 2020.

—Melanie Brandston and  
Liz Halla-Mattingly  
Development Direction at Gould Farm





Two images from the Interactive Light Pollution map. On the left is from 2013, on the right is from 2019. The bright area on the left is Great Barrington, with Lee to the north and Sheffield to the south. Near the center is a “pin” for the center of Monterey. The image extends east from Monterey to Blandford.

## Darker Skies Ahead? A Community Conversation

One brilliantly starry June night a decade ago, I sat on the stoop of my sister’s place in the Tyringham valley and gazed out across the hayfields. The flickering of fireflies at the height of their mating season dazzled: dozens of staccato lights flashing every second, on and off, in varying rhythms, from different directions. The syncopation of glittering lights was like a hallucination that appeared to reflect the twinkling stars in the firmament above.

It was disconcerting but not really surprising, to read in the *New York Times* a few weeks ago that artificial lighting at night is dimming not only our view of the cosmos, but also the chances of firefly


survival. “Like a lot of other insects, they face increasing threats from habitat loss, pesticides and pollution,” said the report. “But they also have a problem that’s unique to luminous bugs: It’s getting harder for them to reproduce because light pollution is outshining their mating signals.”

The loss of these “jewels of the night” as Fireflyers International calls them, is disheartening. But the fact that insect populations more broadly are in dramatic decline, as a review of seventy-three studies published in the *Biological Conservation* journal revealed, is even more disturbing. Insect populations are essential pollinators of our food crops and the very foundation of food chains. With the loss of insects, birds, reptiles, and many other species will soon follow.

Light pollution should not, one would think, be a big deal in a town like Monterey, which doesn’t even have nighttime commercial activity (at least until the general store reopens one of these days). However, light pollution—sometimes

called light trespass—is increasing in our area by about 5% per year, according to Tim Brothers, the manager of the MIT Wallace Astrophysical Observatory, who analyzed frames from an interactive light pollution map. If it continues to increase at that rate, spurred on by brighter than ever LEDs, floodlights, and wallpacks, light pollution will double locally in fifteen years. “Light pollution is increasing faster than the national average in these once pristine rural/suburban areas,” Brothers wrote in an email. “Overall, I see the highest percentage growth in these areas, not cities,” he added.

I checked out the light pollution map myself. In the 2013 overlay of this area, Monterey showed up as a small island of light in a sea of dark. By connecting the dots of light you could trace the path of Route 23. By 2019, the skyglow over the same area practically blotted out the deepest darkness. Pools of light spread more or less uninterrupted along 23 from Great Barrington to Otis. The large repositories of darkness had



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shrunk considerably, representing the loss of critical nighttime habitat to creatures who depend on the dark.

In a recent talk (*Where have all the insects gone?* at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford) Tufts University insect researcher Avalon Owens argued that light pollution is a seriously overlooked factor in the insect apocalypse and “possibly the only environmental pollutant that can be cheaply, easily, and instantly eliminated.”

Indeed, one of the most poignant aspects of the light pollution crisis is that its solution is within our grasp, and would result in cost-savings as well as improved human and ecosystem health—not to mention the pleasure of once again being able to gaze at the Milky Way, a view that’s obscured to about 80% of humanity. Many of the solutions are obvious: Light only what is needed, when it is needed (motion detectors and timers can be a big help in this regard). Shield lighting so the illumination is directed to a path or roadway—not toward natural areas. Use lighting on the warmer end of the spectrum. The websites listed below have many more details on this.

And there are collective actions that could be taken as well, such as the Dark Sky bill currently making its way through the state legislature.

Light pollution and what we as the citizens of Monterey can do about it will be discussed at the April 15 community potluck (6 p.m., in the basement of the

Monterey church). The presentation will include a short film called *Losing the Dark*, produced by the International Dark Sky Association, as well as information about light pollution and safety, human health, environmental impacts, and technical solutions. Town officials will also be invited to participate.

The issue is a timely one, as Monterey has already been approached by National Grid to accept a free retrofit to light emitting diodes (LEDs) that are, in the opinion of experts, far brighter and bluer than what we need or have now. The proposal calls for bluish tinged lights at a color temperature of 4,000° kelvin. (“Color temperature defines the color appearance of white LEDs,” Wikipedia). That part of the spectrum—in fact, anything over 3,000°k—is considered dangerous to human health by the American Medical Association. The preferred standard in many towns is now 2700°k.

Individuals can also help preserve the majesty of the night sky and the magic of fireflies by joining the legions of “citizen scientists” who are helping amass data about the night sky, and firefly behavior as well. The “Globe at Night” project, now in its fifteenth year, is a crowdsourced effort to measure levels of light pollution worldwide. The next event will take place during the dark phase of the moon, March 14-24, and participants will count the visible stars in a section of the sky demarcated by four bright stars near Orion’s belt.

## Letters

### Monterey Lights

We in Monterey feel so fortunate to live in a community of good neighbors, those who respond to emergencies, those who bring soup and cookies, and who happily check on your home if you are away. Good neighbors don’t dump trash in your yard or block your driveway with snow.

This is what makes it so surprising when we install glaring bright lights outside our public and private spaces that invade our living rooms and blind us when we drive by. Some equate bright lights with safety, but there is more to the story.

On April 15, at the Monterey Community Potluck Supper, we will be presenting a short film as part of the Dark Skies Initiative to help us become informed about the obvious and not so obvious consequences of increased lighting not just for our neighbors but for the entire planet.

I hope you’ll be there. Monterey Lights the Way!

—Michele Miller

A statewide challenge in this regard has been issued: So far only seven measurements have been submitted from our state since January 1. Surely we can do better! The Massachusetts chapter of the International Dark Sky Association is trying to get that number up to two hundred.

In June you can be part of the Firefly Watch Citizen Science Project. A commitment of just ten minutes once a week during firefly mating season offers opportunities to learn more about these threatened luminaries of the night.

—Janet Jensen

### Resources

- International Dark Sky Association: [darksky.org](http://darksky.org)
- Massachusetts Chapter of the Dark Sky Association: [idamass.wordpress.com](http://idamass.wordpress.com)
- Interactive Light Pollution map: [light-pollutionmap.info](http://light-pollutionmap.info)
- Conserving the Jewels of the Night: [xerces.org/publications/guidelines/conserving-jewels-of-night](http://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/conserving-jewels-of-night)

### For citizen scientists:

- Globe at Night: [globeatnight.org](http://globeatnight.org)
- Firefly Watch Citizen Science project: [massaudubon.org/get-involved/citizen-science/firefly-watch](http://massaudubon.org/get-involved/citizen-science/firefly-watch)



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## The Glories of a Small Town

### Dick and the Boston Post Cane

On January 27 I received a short message from my Rawson Brook Farm co-worker, Hannah, who, along with her partner Miles, has moved in with Dick Tryon to help with some daily household tasks. Dick turned 96 on February 22.

She said that Dick had mentioned a cane that used to be given to the oldest person in town and he was curious as to its whereabouts. Hannah added that she was sending this tidbit on to me because she knows how much I like a good project. I decided it might be best to pass this along to Monterey's Council on Aging. I was delighted to find I could email them from the town's website. I cast my line and got a bite!

Kyle Pierce called me and said she would look into it. She asked around and it turned out that Linda Thorpe knew all about the cane and had been involved in resurrecting the tradition here in Monterey back in 1997...and they were off and running. Kyle was determined to have a cane to give to Dick on his birthday and she made it happen.

Turns out this tradition was started back in 1909 by Edwin Grozier, owner of the *Boston Post*, which was then growing into what would become a major New England newspaper by 1930. Mr. Grozier came up with a number of unique publicity stunts for his newspaper and perhaps the most famous was his creation of seven hundred ebony walking canes crowned with ornate 14-karat gold caps. He contacted town selectmen across New England inviting them to participate, with the agreement that the canes would be presented in "varying measures of ceremonial pomp" to the oldest living male of those municipalities (females started being included in 1930!), and that the canes would continue to be passed down over the years. The story goes that all responding towns received a cane.

Linda Thorpe reports that currently many towns carry on the tradition in some manner. Over the years many canes have been lost, destroyed, not returned by families after the holder had died, or holders moved from town taking the cane with them. Some towns have stopped the tradition for a variety of reasons. Lenox, for example, not wanting their cane to be lost, has their original cane



Dick Tryon receiving the Boston Post cane from Kenn Basler.

mounted with bronze nameplates added to the display for each eligible recipient. Linda heard that the Town of Lee's cane was lost at some point and then found in some rubbish in Charlton some fifty years later. Coincidentally, while at the eye doctor's last week, I noticed an article in the *Berkshire Eagle* that said that on January 30, the Lee cane was presented to 101-year-old Dorothy Mary Mottarella.

In 2015 NPR ran a piece entitled "An Award To New England's Elderly Is Not Always Cause For Celebration." This three-minute broadcast saddened me as it brought to light that many folks aren't proud of and don't want to be recognized for their age. I feel that our current culture is so consumed with *youthfulness* that the huge value elders and their wisdom provide to our societal health gets lost in superficial muck.

But back to Monterey....

At the February 19 community potluck supper, Linda Thorpe and Barbara Swann gave us a sweeping history of "The *Boston Post* Cane." Barbara spoke in depth about the fascinating life of Edwin Grozier and his various outlandish schemes to increase circulation of his newspaper. Linda spoke about the cane itself. I was shocked—the kind of shock that led me to not believing her—to learn that Monterey never received a cane back in 1909. We will never know why the selectmen at the time failed to respond, but we could fabricate some good stories. Linda suggested that perhaps they did not care for the leanings of the *Boston Post*.

We pick up the cane story here in Monterey in 1997. During the 150th Anniversary of Monterey celebration, a



Above: An original Boston Post 14-k gold cane tip; at right, the cane tip of Monterey's new reproduction cane.







*Dick tried out his new cane. Looks like he'll be skiing soon!*

silver-plated substitute *Boston Post*-like cane was presented to our oldest resident at the time, Claude H. "Tim" Burke, who was born in 1902. It did not resemble the original *Boston Post* canes except in spirit; it had a rounded top and Tim's name was engraved around the base of the cap. Tim was born in Monterey and lived here until his wife of sixty-seven years, Grace, died. He then lived with his son Russell in Becket until he passed in 2002. Later on, Russell lost his home to a fire but reported that while digging through rubble, he found the head of the cane.

And now, in 2020, Dick mentions the cane to Hannah, who mentions it to Susan, who mentions it to Kyle, who mentions it to Linda, who mentions it to Barbara, and here we are. Kyle located a man in New Hampshire who sells *Boston Post* Cane replicas, although we aren't supposed to refer to them as replicas for some reason. And for some reason, he needed a town check, not a personal check, and obtaining that town check was a major feat that chewed up some precious time. Once he received the check, he mailed a cane to Kyle and then she had to scramble to find some-



Ilene Marcus

*Some of Dick's friends and family who turned out to surprise him on his 96th birthday.*

one who could add 'Monterey Mass' to the engraved head. Early searches for engravers lead far afield but eventually circled back closer to home; Zabian's Jewelers in Lee could do the job. Phew!! And just in time.

The cane was presented to Dick Tryon, on his ninety-sixth birthday, at the coffee club gathering on Saturday, February 22, in the church basement. One of the biggest miracles of this achievement was that it was a well-kept secret and the birthday celebration was a total surprise to Dick. Dick said he thought that "maybe six people would be there." The coffee club members had decided to not take any chances, so to throw him off just in case, they had a little cupcake with a candle to give him Friday morning at Roadside to celebrate his birthday. Dick said he wasn't even going to come up to coffee club on Saturday but Roger (and Cindy, again double coverage) provided transportation.

There was everything one could want from such an occasion— friends, relatives, camaraderie, laughter, cake, coffee, big smiles, and a heartfelt tearjerker of a presentation by Kenn Basler. Great man to great man. I can't even remember all that he said it was so poignant. Afterwards, I headed home vowing to allow time to soak in the goodness of it all. I sat and watched my goats, eagerly and with approval, consume a sample of alfalfa hay I received in the mail, and I didn't listen to any national news for a whole day.

—Susan Sellew

Kenn Basler said many things about Dick before presenting the cane with what surely qualified as a "measure of ceremonial pomp," starting with, "I can't even say Dick's name without saying Barbara and Dick. They were Monterey's power couple for years." He went on to add that Dick was one of the original instigators for the regional school district. Responding to conditions for dairy farmers he became active in the Massachusetts Farm Bureau, serving as president for a number of years, and he served as a selectman for nine years. Kenn said, "There's hardly a board or institution in Monterey that doesn't have Dick's name in it." And he pointed out that the cane was especially appropriate for Dick as he was born in Monterey. Dick sat listening, and smiling all the way through, even calling out a correction or two during Kenn's homily.

— Stephen Moore

## Thai Yoga Bodywork

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References



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## Here's a Thought... The Way We Were

Ah, what a delight: the electrician has been here and the troublesome overhead fixtures in my studio space are gone. Now a clear bath of white light streams over the entire area at the flick of a switch and I'm back stitching again.

As I sorted through my fabric stash the other day, enjoying the play of color and texture, the sheer abundance of what I had in front of me stopped me in my tracks. This work I—and all contemporary quilters—do for the joy of it comes from the same wellspring of creativity as much of the colonial and early American quilters' work did. But the quilts most women made then, even the elegant appliqué of the American south, had an additional purpose entirely. The quilts weren't simply beautiful; didn't just keep members of the household warm in the cold weather. Sometimes having an extra quilt—or even one quilt—kept a person from freezing to death.

That's part of the reason tradition required girls to finish a dozen bed-sized quilts before they were married. Or at least they were to finish a dozen quilt tops, the part that shows on the surface. Pre-wedding quilting bees often took communal care of the rest of the tasks required to finish a quilt.

These include layering the three quilt parts, backing, batting—the center part of the quilt that made for warmth—and the quilt top, to prepare them for the quilting itself. Quilting is the stitching that holds the three parts together and keeps the batting from sliding around and bunching up. And after the quilting is done, quilts need binding around their edges, for stability and to minimize wear.

Historically, quilting bees were important social events. When women had a reason to gather to quilt for a few hours, free from other labor, it was quite a luxury. Of course, there was also good food and drink for everyone to share. Children hid beneath the quilt frame to play and hear gossip they might, or might not, understand, and were put to work threading needles for their elders to use overhead.

All in all, the quilts in a girl's cedar chest were cherished for the memories they contained as well as the skill they displayed. They united the best of a young



*This appliquéd poppy and embroidered blue-work titmouse are part of the Monterey Piecemakers' 2015 Bluebird quilt. Join me in this trip down memory lane during this time of long evenings and bright indoor lighting, on behalf of all quilters everywhere.*

woman's personal life and social life. They strengthened and extended her place in the shared life of the community. Both the simple and the complex relationships among the women involved in the quilting bees became part of the quilts, too.

Most of this is also true about the quilts made by the Monterey Piecemakers, who used to gather around Barbara Tryon at Lowland Farm. We didn't have a required number of quilts to finish, though I believe we exceeded a dozen. There was no cedar chest to fill. No children hid under the table, either. But Maggie, the Tryons' golden retriever, sat in for the kids. She never threaded any needles, but she never got any dropped needles or pins in her paws, either. Good dog, Maggie!

If you happen to be one of the people lucky enough to have won one of the raffled quilts years ago, you know you have a treasure. But maybe the remaining Piecemakers, along with Dick and Roger, who also benefitted from Barbara's baked goods on the days we visited, have additional treasure. Good quilts and good memories, too.

— Mary Kate Jordan



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## On Carmel

(for Esther and Israel Moldovan)

The night you stood on the balcony  
looking out on the bay  
gazing over the Mediterranean  
as it trembled in the dark,  
the sea longing, its breadth of waters  
filling with that one desire,  
blue, rising gently, breaking on the shore  
from which thousands of days have long receded,  
didn't you know the sea was asking you to stay?  
The night wished to fill you with its dreams,  
its starry brilliance desired to enchant you.  
Didn't you know the darkening blue  
would have filled you with its breath forever?  
Didn't you know? What dream were you dreaming?

—Amos Neufeld

(this poem first appeared in a 1988 issue of the  
journal Agada)

## Remembering the Beginning

(For my parents, Charlotte and Ernest)

I try listening for the song again,  
light dimming, looking across the water,  
remembering the Mediterranean's  
blue lit harmony when it seemed summer's

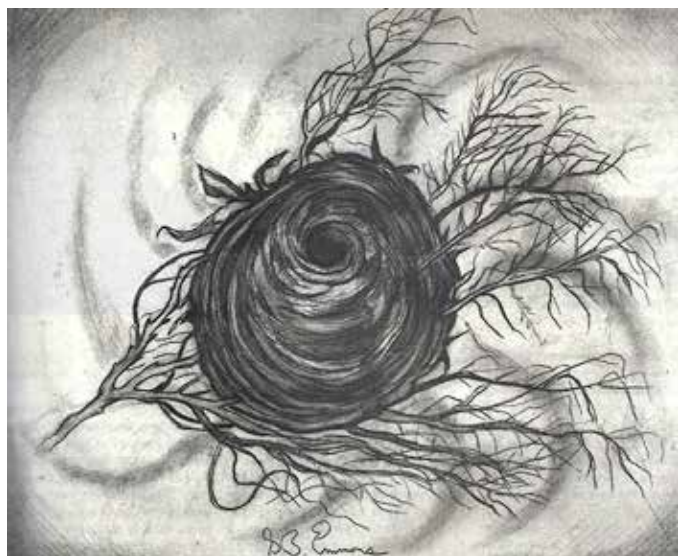
light, the calling sea — the song would never end.  
Not for a boy happy in that garden of sand  
who belonged like a fresh breath to the living earth,  
a dream that partly came true: the rebirth

of but an orphaned few, returning home  
from blood-soaked nights, burnt flesh, the choked smoke of war.  
From the impossible. Surviving by some  
quirk of fate the broken earth, the sheer horror that tore

their hearts asunder. To hear the song again,  
return to the living — where they could begin.

—Amos Neufeld

(this poem first appeared in the poetry journal Shirim 2019)



*Hornets' Nest, by George Emmons, from August 2000 issue*

## Bug

The beetle, frozen in time now,  
once scurried, bothered, droned around  
born from some hundred eggs  
who knows when.  
How old is the plastic casing?  
A little mini-tomb,  
or glass case, encased like a beauty.  
Who encased it?  
Some entomologist?  
Maybe once part of a larger collection?  
or sold at a museum store  
for children to pass around  
at a birthday party.

Now it sits alone, frozen in time—  
no buzz, no fidget, like winter ice

—Sara Rappaport





### **Monterey News Join Us to Celebrate 50 Years!**

The first issue of the *Monterey News* was published on March 24, 1970. Come celebrate fifty years of the *Monterey News* on Saturday, March 28, at the Monterey Library, between noon and 2 p.m. We'll have refreshments, displays of past issue pages, and good cheer will be served. We're hoping many of the people who have been involved with the *News* will be able to join us as well.

### **Monterey News, 1980-1984**

#### **Monterey Lights the Way**

A group of Monterey citizens, headed by Mickey Friedman, organized the Monterey Energy Project. The goal was to formulate ways that residents could conserve energy during the energy crisis (due to the high cost of foreign oil and dependence on electricity as a primary heating source). As a result of Monterey's focus on energy self-sufficiency, the town was chosen to represent Massachusetts in the 1980 International Conservation Days competition, a contest conceived by the New England governors and Eastern Canadian Premier Conference to establish an awareness of energy use and motivation toward energy conservation. One town in each of the New England states and eastern provinces of Canada participated in the contest to see which town could reduce the total electrical energy consumption by the largest percentage during a three-day period in October. Each town was monitored earlier in the month to establish a baseline for average electrical use. The contest began

at 6 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, and ran until noon on Saturday, October 25. Members of the Monterey Energy Project coordinated the Monterey participation.

During the contest, residents gathered for a community potluck supper and a dinner under a big tent at the site of the new firehouse. The general store turned off its coolers. Dick Tryon used a generator to run the milking machines to milk his cows. Alan Steinberg turned off his electric kiln. Residents were encouraged to cook on camp stoves or wood stoves. At the end of the contest, the town was surprised that its electrical consumption was only reduced by 15.6%. The town theorized that residents were already conserving electrical use at the time the baseline was established. Therefore, Monterey came in second in use reduction. St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada was first. Articles about Monterey and the contest appeared in the *NY Times*, *Boston Globe*, *LA Times*, and *Yankee* magazine.

Families that reduced their electrical usage by 100% were the Fred Phelps family, Tony Reed family, and Ellen Pearson family. John O'Connor's family reduced their usage by 97%, Ann Slaughter by 88%, Henry Makuc family by 83%, Mickey Jervas by 73%, and Millie Walsh's Mobil Station by 71%.

#### **New Firehouse**

Monterey had outgrown the existing firehouse and needed a new facility. The firemen established the Monterey Fire Company,

Ltd., purchased two and one-half acres of land west of town, and moved a small house to one side. The new site provided space for a much needed larger building to house the fire engines and equipment, better parking, and more room for training. Plans for the new building were drawn, a loan was obtained from Lee Bank, and construction of the new firehouse began in the spring of 1982, and was completed in January 1983. The firehouse was built with numerous donations of time and materials from many south county residents and businesses.

#### **Schools in Monterey**

From the June 1982 issue: Sally Fijux, president of the Monterey Historical Society, wrote about the history of the schools in town. The first school opened in 1766, and by 1868 there were 150 children attending nine schools. In 1883 there were 115 students, male teachers earned \$40 per month, female teachers earned \$20 per month, and the annual school budget was \$873.48. The schools were Center School and Corashire School (both on Main Road), Harmon school (now Richard Tryon's cottage), Rock school (on Beartown Road near the Ariel home and gone now), Old Center school on Beartown Road, the school at Morse's corner (corner of Art school Road and Tyingham Road), the school on Blue Hill Road, the school at the top of Mt. Hunger Road (near the cemetery) and Pollywog school on Route 57 near Lake Buel.

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## Monterey Library History

From the February 1983 issue: Sally Fijux also wrote about the history of the Monterey Library which was established in the late 1800s. Books were collected and initially housed in an old cobbler's shop (at the site of the current post office). In 1906 Della Tryon was the librarian. When Alice Tryon Conley (Dick and Ray Tryon's great aunt) died in 1910, she donated her library of 125 books, plus \$500 to establish a building fund, and a grandfather's clock (which is still in the library). The former Langdon mill property was purchased by the town to be used for a public park and library (site of the current library). By 1929 the Conley fund had grown to \$3,000 and the town appropriated the additional \$7,000 to build the library building. The library was built in 1930 and Newman Abercrombie became the first librarian.

## Roads

In 1982 the support beams under the New Marlborough bridge over Rawson Brook were found to be rusted and the bridge was closed. To repair the bridge, the state proposed installing a concrete box culvert. However, the neighbors wanted to retain the rural character of the bridge and its stone abutments. The North Road Association was formed, plans were drawn up for replacement of the bridge, and the new span was built by Tryon Construction in July 1984, funded mostly by donations and volunteer labor. *(Note: That bridge was temporarily replaced in 2014, and a permanent replacement made in 2015.)*

On Memorial Day week in May of 1984, it rained and rained, causing significant flooding and wide-spread road damage. Barnum Flats looked like a lake and Curtis Road was closed. Route 23 near Chestnut Hill Road was undercut and the entire right lane dropped two feet. Swann Road was severely damaged. Ernie Westberg's foot bridge over the Konkapot River washed downstream and caught on the dam behind the library. However, the Memorial Day parade went forward as planned in the rain, but without the Mt. Everett band.

## This and That...

Hazel Heath retired as a mail carrier after twenty-three years. She said she loved the job "except now and then when she found

snakes or frogs left in the mailbox for her by young pranksters."

In May 1981 the Monterey General Store was purchased by Lewis Scheffey and managed by Maynard Forbes.

Millie Walsh was given the outstanding citizen of the year award by the Monterey Grange. She ran the Mobil station and store on Main Road. In 1983 Sheldon Fenn was awarded outstanding citizen of the year.

On May 20, 1980, Dean Amidon received the Man-of-the-Year award in Boston for his public works accomplishments.

In February 1981, Monterey established a community land trust to purchase land for conservation and affordable housing.

In November 1981, Bonner McAllister wrote her first monthly article about nature, which continues. *(Note: She says she hasn't missed a month, so her March article would be her 459th essay, not including her wildlife reports.)*

In December 1981, the Monterey Ladies Aid Society dissolved. The group began in 1855 as the Monterey Sewing Society.

Bea Phillips died on July 8, 1982. She was a teacher in the Monterey schools and later in the New Marlborough school from 1925 to 1970.

In February 1984, the Sellev-Dunlop house burned to the ground; the community rallied to help the couple.



## South Berkshire Kids Playgroup Monterey Library

**Mondays** in March 10 to 11 a.m.  
(March 2, 9, 16, 23)

We are taking our playgroup fun to the newly renovated Monterey Library! 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.



In May 1984 the annual town meeting voted to create the Lake Buel Restoration/Preservation District. Once the district was approved by the state legislature, and voted on by two-thirds of the abutters, all owners were to tax themselves in order to manage and maintain the lake. The goal was to improve its general recreational quality.

—Cindy Hoogs



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## The Prolific Bonaparte's Gull

The Bonaparte's Gull is named for the French zoologist Charles Lucien Bonapart, a nephew of the Emperor Napoleon. It is the only gull that nests in trees, at the base of firs, hemlocks, or pines, as illustrated. It is also the only gull that can hover to make a shallow dive under water for fish, like the Osprey. For winter migration south along the coast, it fades in body color to camouflage with changing habitat. Along the way the black of the head feathers fades entirely, leaving only one dark spot behind its eye remaining, until migrating back here in summer and acquiring breeding plumage.

Most other local gulls, such as the larger Herring Gull, the vocal Laughing Gull, the Ring-Billed Gull, and the larger Black-Headed Gull, also morph in three phases while migrating. They first lighten in color as they mature. The dark edges of back and wing feathers become more clearly defined in gray, like the Bonaparte. Last of all, the shades of summer are morphed during fall migration to camouflage with their winter habitat. Surprisingly, the necessity to protect gulls with exotic plumage from extinction by the feather trade has been a concern of the National Audubon Society since its founding, with passage of the Migratory Bird Act of 1918.

It is estimated that of 314 species of gulls on this continent, as many as eighty-five may be extinct by the year 2080 due to global warming and pollution. The term "sea gull" is a misnomer and is not a correct term for all gulls, because there are inland species that never get to see an ocean. The Bonaparte, for instance, flocks along almost any aquatic environment including lakes, ponds, and streams. Because of its small size and frantic wing beats, it often can supplement a fish diet with insects as well as wade for crustaceans.

The gregarious, shrill cry of Bonaparte's "cheer—cheer—cheer" heard over both the coastal and inland waterways is one of the most iconic sounds announcing the coming of spring. As the Earth's tilt on its axis moves us into spring, exposing the face of the northern hemisphere into more direct rays of the Sun, the prolific Bonaparte Gull will once again appear on wings of vernal equinox.

—George B. Emmons

## Adult Book Group

The adult book group will meet in the library on Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m. This month's book is *Master and Commander*, by Patrick O'Brien. April's book is *Weed the People*, Bruce Barcott, nonfiction.

—Laurie Shaw

## Bidwell House Museum Final History Talk Replay

Spring is quickly approaching along with the Bidwell House Museum's thirtieth anniversary season! Our season program announcement is coming soon, but in the meantime we have two more off-season programs to share with you.

### History Talk Replay

Coming up on Sunday, March 8, at 1 p.m., is the final screening in the History Talk Replay series at the Monterey Community Center. Listen as Allegra di Bonaventura, the Associate Director for Graduate Programs at Yale Law School, describes an unhappy marriage in Puritan New England. Edward and Hannah Lane wed in 1650s Boston but it only took a few disastrous days in the marital bed for her to realize that her marriage simply would not work. Seeking the domestic bliss that had eluded her parents would lead Hannah to take on the Puritan legal establishment, and her ultimate triumph would be as improbable as it was extraordinary. The video lasts just over an hour. You can also find all of the details on the Museum website, [bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org). The event is free but pre-registration is appreciated.

### Knox Trail

On Saturday, April 4, at 1 p.m., the museum is happy to join with the Monterey Library to present Otis Town Historian Thomas Ragusa for his talk *Rediscovering the "Great Road" also known as "The Knox Trail."* Hear Mr. Ragusa describe the path taken by patriot surveyor Nathaniel Austin of Sheffield. Thomas will explain and unravel the notorious 1764 road survey through Otis and Sandisfield that was the source of much historical discussion. This program will be held at the Monterey Library which has limited parking. Attendees can also park in the lot at the Town Hall. The event is free, but again, pre-registration on the museum website is appreciated.

### Help at the Museum

Are you interested in history? Do you like being involved in the local community? Are you or your friends looking for volunteer opportunities this summer? If so, the



## The Great Chipmunk Hunt

I have found one of the positive aspects of working in the construction/maintenance field over the years has been that the jobs are varied and keep changing along with the location and circumstances. A routine job done at a different job site, or at a different time of year, brings with it a host of different possible variables. This keeps things interesting and doesn't allow boredom a chance to set in. Here is just one example:

One cold late December day the crew was working alongside a stone wall. Stone walls are common and well known in this area. The machine operator bumped and wiggled a few rocks along the wall with the bucket of the machine as he worked, when out of the stone wall rolled this ball of leaves and out of the leaves rolled a chipmunk, curled up and sleeping for the winter. A cute little fellow, sound asleep and unaware of anything that was going on around him. Normally, he probably would have been gathered up along with some leaves and stuffed back into the wall somewhere, and nature would have taken its course. But humans have a knack for taking the natural course of events and turning them all around.

One of the crew decided his kids would get a kick out of seeing this little fellow up close and personal, so he gathered up "Sleeping Beauty" and placed him in his lunch box to take home for show-and-tell.

Bidwell House Museum may be the perfect place for you. Whether you are interested in helping with seasonal programs, working on the trails, or giving house tours, the museum would like to invite you to be a volunteer. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call 413-528-6888 or email at [bidwellhouse@gmail.com](mailto:bidwellhouse@gmail.com).

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA and is open for house tours from Memorial Day until October. The grounds are open all year. For more information, please call 413-528-6888, or go to [bidwell-housemuseum.org](http://bidwell-housemuseum.org).

Happy Spring everyone!

—Heather Kowalski  
Executive Director

Work continued for the rest of the day and finally, with the sun beginning to set, the crew got in their pickups and headed home. By this time Sleeping Beauty had been forgotten about. After being gone all day, there are always chores to be done upon getting home, and these become even more urgent to get done in the winter evenings because it gets cold and dark, plus, after being out in the cold all day, a warm house and a hot meal also have a strong appeal. The lunch box got taken into the house and deposited on the kitchen table, and then the man of the house went back out the door to the chores.

Enter the faithful wife.

Upon seeing the pile of mail along with the lunch box on the kitchen table, she realizes her husband is home and promptly begins to execute her wifely duties. The lunch box is taken to the kitchen counter to be cleaned and made ready for the next day. When the wife pops open the lunch box Sleeping Beauty in no longer sleeping and no longer a beauty, but has transformed into "The Beast!" The ride home, with the lunch box on the floor of the truck next to the heater vent, thawed the little guy out so he was wide awake and raring to go. He popped out of the lunch container like a jack-in-the-box with an untethered spring.

Commotion ensued in the kitchen, the kids came running, and saw the chipmunk dashing about the kitchen, knocking things over, and their mother becoming angrier by the second. The chipmunk made it into the living room where there was all kinds of furniture to hide under and behind. So began a game of hide and seek with the kids. This became known forever after in the family as "The Great Chipmunk Hunt."

The family cat, whom one would have thought could have and should have made himself useful when his family needed him the most, instead retreats to an upstairs bedroom. Finally the chipmunk is herded back into the kitchen where he makes several laps before spying the open door and dashing outside.

A short while later the husband comes in and is totally bewildered by all of the excitement in the house, and wonders why his wife is so upset.

"A chipmunk?"

"Oh yeah, I brought it home to show the kids. Did they get to see it?"

I think she believes to this day that he did it all on purpose.

Note: The names have been purposely omitted from this true story to protect the innocent *and* the guilty.

—Lyman Thomson

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## The Mice of Yesteryear— Where Are They?

There have always been mice, and there are mice still. There is at least one, that I can be sure of. We store our winter squash and onions in the unheated cellar guest room. Our kids grew up and vacated their upstairs room which we can heat more easily with our household woodstove. Now our guests stay there.

The old cellar guest room has a big stone fireplace with a heat-o-lator liner. We never make a fire in there any more, since the guests now stay upstairs, but heat-o-lators have built-in airways for the cool air to go in low and get hot and then come out higher up, into the room. These little stone doorways have been mouse exits and entrances into that room for decades. You can tell by the stains from all the little mouse feet going in and out, on their way to the winter squash. They have never paid any attention to the onions.

I put hardware cloth around the squash crates to keep out the mice, and though this has worked, the mice did not give up altogether. They could still get lucky on the other side of the room down there where we keep the dog kibble. It comes in a big paper bag. We open this and pour the dry food into a mouse-proof barrel. Sometimes we spill a little. Every week or so we go down to refill the dog-kibble canister we keep in the kitchen. Any transfer of kibble



*Yes, deer mice can sing! This one was also eating popcorn.*

can result in a little spillage in the former guest room. We never begrudged the mice a few bits of kibble.

All that has stopped. There has been no sign of mice, even in the fall which is when they usually move in, prompting us to set out our live traps in a relocation project. We take them to a stone wall far away by a historic cemetery where we can also visit our family plot. Some years in fall and winter we have taken more than thirty mice there to join the ancestors. We toss a little birdseed into the wall and wish them luck.

Not this year, though. There has not been a single mouse until two days ago. We had eaten all but the last buttercup squash and I'd left it out of its crate, on top of the open basket of onions. I was

feeling sorry that there really was no need to ward off mice. Yesterday I went down to get it for our last squash supper, and saw that someone had already begun that meal! Some scout was keeping an eye on things, some survivor, some veteran of the system around here. There was a bright orange patch of mouse-nibbling on that last dark green buttercup.

Who are these mice? Why do I wax sentimental about them instead of just counting my blessings that the little bug-gers are apparently gone?

They are deer mice, the prettiest things you can imagine. Maybe they get their name from their warm tan uppers and pure white belly, like our white-tailed deer. Some call them "white-footed mice," and some say the term "deer mouse" is a general name for several species of the genus *Peromyscus*. In my days of small mammals research in Wyoming, along the upper Green River, the mice I studied were *Peromyscus leucopus*, a separate species from *Peromyscus maniculatus*. Most people just call them all deer mice and don't notice much difference. The main thing I hear people noticing is that suddenly they are not seeing deer mice of any kind.

In this time of heightened fears for life on the planet, we are sensitive to any changes, particularly disappearances. A couple of years ago we saw not one single grey squirrel around here, and neither did our dog. Then they came back. One winter there were no blue jays at all coming to our feeder or brightening up the landscape with their vivid blues and their calls. We love the jays, and so do the poets, from Dickinson to Cummings. How worrying, how lonely, to have them gone.

And then . . . they came back!

May it be so with the mice. With all we have on our plate, all to juggle, fear, grieve, and work for, let the mice return to reassure us. Also the mosquitoes, the evening grosbeaks, and the bats. Some of these are colorful neighbors, some worthy adversaries. We need them all, I feel, or something's just not right. Maybe something very big.

Thanks to one constant deer mouse in our former cellar guest room, I feel quieter. All cannot be lost if we still have mice.

—Bonner McAllester

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—PLMeriam

## Knox Gallery News

*Nature's Beauty and Fragility*, by PLMeriam, opened on February 29, with an artist's talk and reception. A crowd of Montereyans assembled to see Meriam's paintings and hear her speak about her mission "to help people notice the beauty and detail of the natural environment so that they will be motivated to preserve it." Meriam believes that artists' voices are critical in this time of the world's fragility. She expresses that she paints the "hope, beauty and wonder that still exists."

Meriam works in oil, and her subjects range widely, from still life, to portrait, to abstract. The exhibition focuses on her increasing interest in the beauty of



Enchanted Forest

—PLMeriam

nature. To see more of her work, go to [plmeriam.com](http://plmeriam.com).

The artist's cousin, long-time Monterey resident and library trustee John Higgins, brought the Vermont-based artist to the Knox Gallery. We hope everyone will enjoy the exhibition, which will be on view through April 11.

Please mark your calendars for the opening of our next exhibition, work by longtime Monterey resident Alan Roland, on April 17. Details will follow in next month's *Monterey News*.

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

—MaryPaul Yates



Mary Makuc

## In Memorium Val Costas

Val Costas planned and implemented this very full and colorful raised garden bed at the Monterey Community Center in May 2017. She said it was a gift for Mother's Day, but she planned it to bloom in the spring, all summer, and into autumn. It was replete with cosmos, nasturtium, petunias, trailing vines, succulents, and so much more. So many colors, all bursting with joy—like her persona. Though we miss her daily, the raised bed she started will live on this year. It was planted and tended the last two years by Wendy Jensen and Libby Wolf, with help from many anonymous garden angels.

After living with cancer for fifteen years, Val passed on in June 2019. This March 13 we are saying Happy Birthday in heaven, Val. Everywhere you went you added beauty and lifted the rest of us up with encouragement. Thank you!

—Mary Makuc

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## Remembrance Storrs Fenton Olds, 89

Storrs Fenton Olds, 89, long time resident of Monterey, died peacefully Monday morning February 3, 2020.

He was born March 9, 1930 in Mansfield, Connecticut. He was the youngest son of Abbie and Raymond Olds. He grew up in Mansfield and Monterey with his brothers Anson and Ray. The family lived and worked at Gould Farm near the end of WWII. Storrs went to a one-room school house at the location of the Avalon School.

Storrs spent several years at Earlham College, where he met and married his life-long partner, Shirley Bittiner Olds. They were deeply devoted to each other during their marriage of sixty-six years. He was deeply loved by his family, including his sister-in-law Beverly Ahlers (Stan) and their three sons; his children, Tom (Cheryl), Anson (Emily; Melissa), and Melinda (Rob; Brad); his grandchildren, Mariah (Will), Molly (Josue), Sara (Amy), Brad (Vanessa), Katie, Anson (Fiona), Sarah; and his three great-grandchildren.

While at Earlham College he solidified his beliefs in pacifism, spending one summer in Philadelphia working with the Peace Caravan. It was during his time at Earlham that his beliefs led him to resist cooperating with the draft during the Korean War. This led to three months in prison and time in service as a conscientious objector, during which Shirley stood by him and supported his beliefs.

Together, Shirley and Storrs raised their three children in Storrs, CT, where Storrs



taught in the local high school. Their next adventure took them to New Hampshire to reopen The Meeting School, a Quaker boarding school. After successfully reopening the school and mid-wiving it through its first few years, they moved to Monterey.

They felt called to return to ForestEdge on Blue Hill Road in Monterey in 1982 to help care for Storrs' aging parents. ForestEdge is the name given to their home, which they began in the mid-1940s. Storrs and his father built a twelve-foot-by-twelve-foot home, with plastic instead of glass windows. Storrs dug the original well by hand, to a depth of about twelve feet. Not long after having retired to Monterey, they were among the founding members of the Southern Berkshire Friends Meeting (Quakers).

He enjoyed gardening, feeding the birds, and teaching his grandchildren to make bread. He also taught them that "washing the dishes is an act of love." Storrs is remembered by family as a kind, quiet soul, with quick wit. Throughout his life his actions embodied the beliefs he held. As a life-long pacifist, he always inspired people around him to be the kindest version of themselves. He is an inspiration to us all.

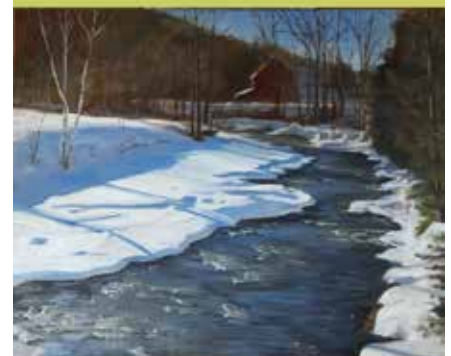
A memorial was held on February 8 at the Southern Berkshire Friends Meeting House. Donations may be made to the Southern Berkshire Friends Meeting to support peace activities, c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories, and reflections may be sent to the family at [FinnertyandStevens.com](http://FinnertyandStevens.com).

—Tom Mitchell-Olds and Melinda Olds

## A Gentle Man – Storrs Olds

As I returned to the United States in 1968 after spending thirteen months with the Marines in Vietnam, I tried to buy a beer at LAX prior to my red-eye flight back East. I was refused, "not old enough." This was predictive of my life as a veteran for the coming years; feeling guilt, blame, confusion, being blamed, accused (how could >

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a kid not old enough to buy beer cause a war?). The war was a burden, always with me. I experienced a whole stew of emotions and PTSD (unnamed then) for which I self-medicated. I had successes, graduating from college, and getting a good job; and failures like getting divorced. A few years ago, while traveling in Arizona, I met a US Park ranger who was a member of the Piute tribe and a Vietnam veteran. We shared our recovery stories. He told me he built a sweat lodge on the rim of the Grand Canyon and watched the sun rise for many days to clear his mind and body of the poisons of war. My culture had no such ritual. I come from a long line of war veterans. When the Marines were sent into Vietnam a few months before I graduated from high school, I knew I was going. No other option occurred to me or was offered to me.

In 1977 I met Sally and then my life changed. She told me about how war affected her family and friends. Sally introduced me to the concept of pacifism and non-violent resistance. In 1942, her father, Ray Ward, a congregational minister, had argued against war and was asked to leave the church in Maine he was serving at the time. Luckily he had studied dairy management at Mass Agricultural College and the combination of pastoral and farm skills landed him a job at Gould Farm. He recruited Raymond Olds to join him in managing the farm operation. The two Ray's shared the same beliefs about war and became life-long friends. Two of their children were (my) Sally Ward, a toddler at the time, and Storrs Olds, a teenager. Like other children of staff members, Sally looked up to Storrs. He did things the right way and was clear in his values, even as a teenager.

Sally told me how Storrs refused to register for the draft during the Korean

War, which was a felony punishable by imprisonment. Storrs had made his stand knowing exactly the risk. He spent three months in Danbury Federal Prison. How many of us have the courage and strength of our convictions to endure that? Storrs's witness affected me deeply many years afterward when I heard it. We were both indelibly changed as young men by war, and that was part of the bond we shared over the past forty years. That's where he met his beloved Shirley, and where Sally was inspired to attend also. Sally and I attended a Quaker meeting in Vermont where I met other war veterans turned to pacifism and conscientious objectors who had done alternative service during war time. It became clear to me that we can't blindly believe that violence will keep us safe. War is the problem, not the solution. Like my Piute friend, the poisons started to wash away.

*Gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside  
Ain't gonna study war no more*  
(Pre-civil war spiritual)

— Steve Pullen



Bonsai Cox

## Community Potluck Supper Wednesday, March 18

Well, the February potluck wasn't what it was supposed to be (Camille Roos canceled and will do her presentation in May, instead), *but* we had a great night talking about a secret that now can be told! Everyone at the potluck was sworn to secrecy for two days, and the secret was that the Council on Aging is re-establishing the tradition of giving a replica of the *Boston Post Cane* to the oldest citizen in Monterey. Susan Sellew started the ball rolling, both to get the CoA on board, and at the potluck to introduce the topic, while Linda Thorpe and Barbara Swann had done a tremendous amount of research, both on the cane itself, and on the publisher of the *Boston Post*, a fascinating man and quite the promoter. (See the article about Dick Tryon's 96th birthday on page 14.) Thank you to all of them, working so hard on such short notice!

For the March potluck, we are very lucky to have Dr. Barry Rose, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, who was chief of orthopedic surgery and surgical division head for the Alameda division of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF), Sutter Health. He recently moved to Monterey to look for a house in the Berkshires. Dr. Rose presents a compassionate vision for healthcare in his new book "The Cutting Edge of Compassion." He plans to read some excerpts from his book regarding issues in healthcare as well as some new issues. His talk will be directed about advocacy as well as merging eastern and western philosophy. Afterwards, he will open the dialogue with everyone to share what we think isn't working and ideas about how we can fix a broken system.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

— Kyle Pierce



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## Remembrance

### Estelle Gelbard, 87

Estelle Gelbard passed away in her home on January 24 from complications from dementia.

Estelle Poritzky was born in Peekskill, NY and grew up on Warren Street in Hudson, NY. She started coming to the Berkshires as a teenager when she played violin in her school orchestra and they took class trips to Tanglewood.

She left home at sixteen to attend college. Estelle studied art and music, starting at George Washington University in Washington DC, then went on to Parsons School of Design in New York, and ultimately graduated from Teachers College at SUNY New Paltz. She had an incredible musical ear (if there was a piece of classical music playing, she could tell you what it was and who the composer was).

Estelle was set up on a blind date with Paul Gelbard at the end of Korean War. It was a quick romance—they were engaged after six weeks and married after six months —and the marriage lasted sixty-four years. They were partners in absolutely everything, never wanting to do anything without the other, and were always seen holding hands. It was a true love story.

Estelle and Paul started their lives together in Yonkers, NY. Estelle taught elementary school in Tarrytown, Mount Vernon, and Port Chester, and later substitute taught in White Plains after they moved there.

She loved nature, flowers and gardening, classical music, and the ballet. Some



of her favorite all-time places were Jacob's Pillow, Tanglewood, Lincoln Center, and the City Center Ballet. She also absolutely loved museums and her favorite was the Metropolitan, and locally, The Clark in Williamstown.

Estelle's true joy was the Berkshires. She introduced Paul to the area and they stayed at the Monument Mountain motel several times for summer vacation. A colleague of Paul's told him about a house for rent on Lake Buel, where they spent two summers. They fell in love with Monterey and bought a house on Lake Garfield in 1969.

Nothing made Estelle happier than when she was surrounded by the entire family at the lake. She and Paul spent as much time as possible there for fifty years. When Estelle was on the lake, it was almost always in a rowboat and she was frequently seen rowing Paul around until recently. When on shore, Estelle's favorite place was sitting on a lounge chair in the shade reading the paper or a good book. She was a voracious reader and always had several books going at a time.

A lifelong learner, Estelle took literature classes at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison and Temple Israel in White Plains for many years. She was also an election volunteer in White Plains for many years, and volunteered at her local temple and several other organizations.

Estelle was a tennis player until she was almost eighty, but her favorite activity was walking—and she did every day. She was a regular on Beartown and Hupi Roads and was frequently seen by many in Monterey. She would always chat with whomever she passed. She was a kind, loving woman who never spoke badly about anyone.

Traveling was also something Estelle enjoyed and she and Paul went to Europe many times. But her favorite travels were the large Gelbard family trips. She loved being surrounded by family—especially as it grew.

Estelle is survived by husband Paul, sister Betty Bader, brother Sandy (Janice) Poritzky, children Arlen (Jane) Gelbard, Randy (Adrian) Gelbard and Alyssa (Keith) LePack and grandchildren Andrew Gelbard, Lauren (Josh) Braunstein, Daniel Gelbard, and Cara Gelbard.

—Alyssa Gelbard







## Hume New England Winter Camp Session

Hume New England just completed six weekends of our annual winter camp season. The primary goal of each weekend was to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our guests. Each weekend consisted of our guests enjoying fellowship, joining in the many activities we provide, hearing from a speaker, and worshipping with a band. We were so excited to have the opportunity to host thirty-one different churches represented from seven different states.

This winter our speakers taught on the parable of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15. The heart of Christianity and God Himself lies within the story of a father and his two sons. In this parable, Jesus reveals two ways of being alienated from God: moral conformity and moral abandonment. Jesus also shows us the love, grace, and kindness of God as seen through the father. Years ago Jesus challenged His audience—as well as us today—regarding our thoughts about who God is, what sin is, and what He offers for eternal life with Him.

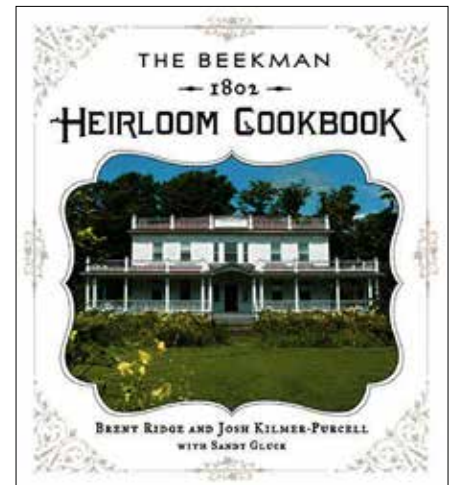
Even with the mild winter, the students enjoyed being outside to play broom hockey and other recreation. We love the imagination the students had in building a box sled out of cardboard and duct tape, and then riding it down our snow tube run. We had an additional twenty staff who helped run all these activities, cook in the dining hall, keep our facilities clean, and put on a fantastic program. We welcomed staff not only from Massachusetts, but all the way from Connecticut to Mexico. We couldn't be more thankful for our entire staff and all their many hours of hard work and hosting our churches with excellence. Now on to hosting church retreats and getting ready for summer.

— John Szablowski and Lacey Perez  
Hume New England

## Monterey Cookbook Club

The Monterey Cookbook Club met on Valentine's Day last month for another delicious lunch meeting. The cookbook club meets on the second Friday of each month. The cookbook for this meeting was *The Whole Smith's Good Food Cookbook*, by Michelle Smith. A few of the thirteen recipes prepared were: Tuna Casserole with Spaghetti Squash, Chia Pudding, Strawberry Lassi, Lemon Chicken, Split Pea Soup, Smoked Salmon "Toasts," Lentil Salad, and Butternut Squash Enchiladas.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m., at the community center. The cookbook for March is *The Beekman 1802 Heirloom Cookbook*, by Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell, with Sandy Gluck. If you are interested in joining us this month, stop in the Monterey library and ask for the cookbook club book from behind the desk and sit to peruse the recipes. Choose a recipe that interests you,



photocopy it, and mark it with a post-it note. Please try to follow the recipe as is printed so we can critique it! If you have any questions, please email Wendy Jensen at [wendygj@gmail.com](mailto:wendygj@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

— Wendy Jensen and Susan Johnson

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## Wildlife Report

Correction and apology: Last month we were happy to publish "Tufted Titmouse, a Winter Evening," written by Tieggen Stucker, and illustrated in pencil and water color by Maddox Stucker. We regret that Maddie's surname was erroneously given as "Tucker." Tieggen and Maddox are twin brothers who live on Blue Hill Road with their parents, Dominic and Esme, and in the summer they are joined by grandparents Virgil and Lis Stucker, there at Forest Edge. This was formerly the home of their old friends, Shirley and Storrs Olds.

Cindy Hoogs wrote in late January of some wonderful hooded mergansers on the open water of Brewer Pond. There were four males and two females of these handsome ducks. A few days later, Cindy saw no mergansers there, instead some muskrats sunning themselves on the ice by the open water.



Early in February, Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati saw a red fox (above), coming for seeds under their bird feeder. They got some good photographs, and were pleased to find that the fox came again, for more seeds. They are leaving extra seeds on the ground, now.

Also early in the month, Dennis Lynch noted on Groundhog Day that there was "a parade of American robins running and picking their breakfast on our back lawn" and then a "swarm of seven cedar waxwings . . . mobbing a holly bush for some delicious red berries only inches away" from a window. Dennis notes, "even the robins jumped into the gorging of the berries."

Soon Dennis sent further news of the holly berry feasting: "... a small group of eastern bluebirds!!!"



David Abromowitz, who lives near Stevens Pond, sent photographs of a porcupine up a tree near his place (above). This remarkable picture was taken using an iPhone up against one eyepiece of David's binoculars. For comparison he sent another photograph, taken without the boost of the binoculars. In it the porcupine appears as a mysterious distant dark lump.

In mid-February Bruce Wilkins, down near Stevens Pond area, saw a Carolina wren at his feeder. A week or more later he saw it again and said it was enjoying the suet and the seeds. These birds mostly eat small invertebrates, but they will eat some seeds, too.

Joe Baker has seen a chipmunk several times, maybe the same one, maybe not. We think of these ground squirrels as being in the group called "the Seven Sleepers." These are chipmunks, bears, bats, jumping mice, woodchucks, skunks, and raccoons. Some are true hibernators, are dormant in winter but may wake.



On February 10, Carol Edelman saw eleven turkey women on Hupi Road, "heading for the New Hampshire Primary, no doubt." She took a photograph of them (above). Will they be back in Massachusetts in time to vote here, too, is the question.

John Weingold, of Fairview Road, was visited by a bobcat who did not mind coming quite close to the house. The cat



sat for a time, then got up and stretched, and moved on. This was the first time John had seen a bobcat so close to the house, and he also saw two bluebirds on his suet feeder, right about that same time. He took good photographs of the cat (above) and the birds.

There was another bobcat spotted in Monterey in mid-February, this time by Ed Salsitz who was driving up Hatchery Road. I saw my first skunk of the year about this time. This one had not made it across the road, over near Taft Farms.

We had a cabbage butterfly in the house, in the dead of winter. It was fluttering against the window glass, at a time when all fluttering would have ceased immediately if we had ushered it outside. Instead it ceased anyway, but a bit later. Probably this adult butterfly had been tucked away for overwintering, and then somehow got carried into the warm house. There it emerged to a short life with no way to continue its species. Plenty of that will happen in the summer, when our cabbages and other brassicas are up in the garden.

Kit Patten called to tell of a visiting feral cat at his place, and how he and Connie have been leaving a little dish of food on the deck to help the cat along, and to encourage it to come to the house. Then one day they looked out to see that they were also encouraging a fox, who had come to eat out of the cat's bowl. As Kit recounted this on the phone, he suddenly exclaimed that the cat had just come into the house! It was a brief first visit. Kit and Connie sometimes leave their back door ajar, a friendly welcome. "The latchstring is always out."

Thanks, everyone for your wild news and enthusiasm.

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



## Talkin' (about) Trash Lighting Up Your Life

Dear Trash Talker,

My girlfriend (a.k.a. my wife) told me the other day, "You light up my life!" Nice to hear, even if it sounds like a movie line. But then I wondered, "How?" Perhaps because I'm a guy, I wondered if she meant flashlights, or table lamps, or ceiling lights. She slugged my arm because that was a stupid line of questions, especially on Valentine's Day!

But that left me wondering, what about all that lighting and recycling? Batteries, fluorescent lights, LEDs, incandescent bulbs.

I'll sign this with what she called me:  
Dim Bulb

Dear Dim Bulb,

There should be training classes for guys who are getting married to learn how to avoid saying dumb things, but it's probably hopeless. Better a "Dim Bulb" than a "Dead Battery!" Anyway, to your rather open-ended question:

**Batteries:** Easy answer. The transfer station will take any batteries. They keep a bucket on the right side of the household trash enclosure for household batteries. And they'll take tractor batteries, car batteries, and so on. If you have bigger batteries, talk to Dave.

**Fluorescent light bulbs:** Also a pretty easy answer. Right next to the battery bucket there's a spot for fluorescent bulbs, and a price list above: 50¢ for small bulbs, \$1 for medium, and \$2 for long bulbs. CFLs are "compact fluorescent lamps," so they're small bulbs.

**Others:** There haven't been any guidelines about LED fixtures, so they can go in the household trash along with regular incandescent bulbs.

### Ice Cream Carton Alert!

Last month there was some information about ice cream containers... not how to open them, or how to eat the ice cream, but what to do with the leftover cardboard. Well, as of mid-February, a rule from the sorting facility came down... No ice cream containers—period. End of confusion. Into the trash, because, as regular readers now know, "When in doubt, throw it out."

—Trash Talker

## Owl Sign

This photo is my own personal "snowy" added to the South County Christmas week bird count. It's a barred owl, but so light feathered. It was dozing during my photo shoot, eyes half closed.

Did I disturb you Mr. or Mrs. Owl? You didn't pay much attention as I slowed the car, turned on the flashers, did a U-turn, stopped beside you, rolled down the window, and stepped into the road.

You handled this nonchalantly, eyes open, eyes shut, facing me, facing away. But my departure was too big a movement, the acceleration too great a sound. You left, claw rasping across metal sign.

I am sorry, Barred Owl. You picked a good spot. No motorist should pull over on a blind curve on a hill with shoulders banked in snow, even in Monterey on a Sunday morning. Two cars came while I photographed you. One roaring by in haste, the other waiting patiently for me to finish.

When I share your photo, Mr. or Mrs. Barred, what everyone sees is a big yellow road sign. They think, ha ha, this is a New Year's message from Tam. "Hidden Entrance!" You blend with the backdrop of gray trees.

Dear Mr. or Mrs. Barred, do you know that I have, for two winters, been planning a climb to photograph the snowy owls wintering high in Acadia? I've seen magnificent photos posted on Facebook by my friend



Zoe. I've gotten Katoula microspikes, lined up a telephoto lens, and climbed extra stairs. I'd half wondered why our hosts—park ranger and retired ranger—seem reluctant and haven't gone themselves. They've said, based on photos, people are going too close.

Yesterday, Zoe posted her regrets to Facebook. Said snowy owls wintering on Sargent Mountain are being harassed by photographers, roused from daytime sleep, even chased by hikers' dogs off leash. Zoe shared a message from park officials which urged people to hike the other mountains, giving the owls their rest.

So I won't go. Why would I? You came to me! Holding a big yellow sign.

HIDDEN, you say.

Drive on by, you say.

Can't you see that I'm sleeping?

—Tam Iselle



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## Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

### MontereyMA.gov

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

### Meetings and Events

**Board of Health:** Mondays, March 2 and 16, at 4 p.m.

**Conservation Commission:** Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m.

**Council on Aging:** Mondays, March 9 and 23, at 10 a.m.

**Visiting Nurse:** Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, March 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

**Planning Board:** Thursdays, March 12 and 16, at 7 p.m.

**Select Board:** Wednesday, March 4, at 6 p.m., and March 18, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

All meetings will be held in the town hall unless otherwise noted.

### Rabies Clinic

There will be a rabies clinic on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Monterey Firehouse. Please call Town Clerk, Terry Walker for more information 413-528-1443 x113.

## Climate Change Impacts Town Mitigation Plans

During this past November, the highly regarded Pew Research Center released the results of a survey entitled “U.S. Public Views on Climate and Energy,” which looked at climate change from different aspects including political affiliation, age, gender, and even where Americans live. It’s important to note that the report stated that “most Americans today (62%) say that climate change is affecting their local community either a great deal or some” and 67% said that more should be done by our country to combat its global effects.

Monterey as well as other towns and cities in the Commonwealth have recognized this crucial need and are coordinating resources to do their part to protect life and property from present and future impacts such as the increased frequency and amount of storm-caused inland flooding. Through a state-funded planning grant in 2018, Monterey became a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)-designated community for future state funding to mitigate climate-change-related impacts.

### Village Culvert Enlargement

Wisely, our select board authorized the submission of an MVP Action Grant last fall and was recently notified that Monterey has been awarded state funding in the amount of \$57,893. Specifically, the grant funds will be used to initiate the first phase of technical work to enlarge the culvert under Route 23, in the village between the town hall and the post office, to accept larger volumes of stormwater runoff flowing into the Konkapot River and prevent flooding in Monterey town center. As a required part of the grant, the town approved the amount of 25% local matching funds in December of last year. The engineering work for the enlargement of the culvert will be conducted by the engineering firm, GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc.

In addition, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has been retained to conduct an informative program of public outreach and education, as well as project administration. The work of BRPC includes public meetings, on-site project visits, and future news articles, so



Dennis Lynch

please stay tuned for additional information as the project moves forward.

### Planning for Hazards

The Town of Monterey will be seeking public comment in the coming weeks on how hazards such as flooding, ice storms, tropical storms, and invasive species are impacting the area, and how the Town can become more resilient. Resilience applies to infrastructure, the built environment, and natural systems, as well as people and social aspects of the community. Your comments will inform future projects for which the Town may seek both State and Federal funding to implement.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the draft Monterey Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan when available, please contact Caroline Massa with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission at [cmassa@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:cmassa@berkshireplanning.org). The plan will be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval. Please keep an eye out for an opportunity to have open discussion at an upcoming select board meeting.

—Dennis Lynch

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## Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center

### Regular Events

**Sundays:** Al-Anon, 9 a.m., MCC.

### **Mondays:**

South Berkshire Kids playgroups, 10 to 11:30 a.m., library. See page 8.

Mahjong, 7 p.m., MCC.

### **Tuesdays:**

Chair Yoga, with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., MCC. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Pitch and Bridge, 1 p.m., MCC.

Community chorus, 7 to 8:15 p.m., MCC.

### **Wednesdays:**

Balance review classes, 10:30 a.m., MCC.

Mahjong, 3:30 p.m., MCC.

### **Thursdays:**

Canasta lessons, 7 to 9 p.m., MCC.

Darn Yarners, March 5 & 19, 1 p.m., MCC.

### **Fridays:**

South Berkshire Playgroup, 10 to 11 a.m., Monterey Library. See page 7.

Pitch and Bridge, 1 p.m., MCC.

**Saturdays:** Ping pong, 2 p.m., MCC.

### March Events

**Tuesday, March 3:** Presidential primary, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., at town hall.

### **Sunday, March 8:**

Transfer Station begins summer hours. See page 32.

History Talk Replay, 1 p.m., MCC See page 20.

**Tuesday, March 10:** Movie night, showing *Harold and Maude*, 7 p.m., town hall. See page 10.

**Wednesday, March 11:** Select board discussion about the schoolhouse, 7 p.m., library. See page 6.

**Friday, March 13:** Cookbook club, 11:30 a.m., MCC. See page 27.

### **Saturday, March 14:**

Boston Flower and Garden Show trip. See page 10.

Elder Law lawyer, 10 a.m., MCC.

Democratic party caucus, 11 a.m., in the church basement. See page 2.

Republican party caucus, 1:30 p.m., church basement. See page 2.

**Sunday, March 15:** Deadline to apply to McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship. See page 7.

### **Wednesday, March 18:**

Concert with Peter Poirier, MCC, 1 p.m. See page 9.

Community Potluck Supper with Dr. Barry Rose, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 25.

**Friday, March 20:** Allison Rice presents Navicare benefits, 10 a.m., MCC. See page 9.

### **Saturday, March 21:**

Gardening panel at MCC, 10:30 a.m. See page 9.

Lenox Contra Dance: 8 to 11 p.m. Live traditional New England dance music with Coincidence, featuring Pete's Posse, with Bob Issacs calling.. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

### **Saturday, March 28:**

Rabies clinic, 9 a.m. to noon, firehouse. See page 30.

*Monterey News* 50th celebration, noon to 2 p.m., library. See page 18.

**Friday, April 3:** Coffeehouse series concert with Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod, 7 to 9 p.m., MCC. See page 9.

**Saturday, April 4:** Otis historian Thomas Ragusa for his talk *Rediscovering the "Great Road," also known as "The Knox Trail,"* 1 p.m., the library. See page 8.

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to [montereynews9@gmail.com](mailto:montereynews9@gmail.com) or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

## Police Emergency Contacts

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

**528-3211.**

## Town Contact Information

### **Emergency! 911**

### **Administrative Assistant:**

528-1443 x111

[admin@montereyma.gov](mailto:admin@montereyma.gov)

(for town boards and misc. questions)

**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115

[assessors@montereyma.gov](mailto:assessors@montereyma.gov)

**Building Department:** 528-1443

x118 [buildingsafety@montereyma.gov](mailto:buildingsafety@montereyma.gov)

**Community Center:** 528-3600

[calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org)

**Fire Department** (non-emergency): 528-3136

[chief@montereyma.gov](mailto:chief@montereyma.gov)

**Highway Department:** 528-1734

[dpw1@montereyma.gov](mailto:dpw1@montereyma.gov)

**Library:** 528-3795

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

**Police Department** (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

[mpdchief@montereyma.gov](mailto:mpdchief@montereyma.gov)

**Post Office:** 528-4670

**SBRSD** (Schools) 413-229-877

**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117

[montereytax@yahoo.com](mailto:montereytax@yahoo.com)

(for questions about your tax bill)

**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113

[clerk@montereyma.gov](mailto:clerk@montereyma.gov)

Town website: [Montereyma.gov](http://Montereyma.gov), under each department, for office hours.

## DOWNING & LANE, LLP

— ATTORNEYS AT LAW —

17 MAHAIWE STREET, SUITE 1  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040

FAX: (413) 528-5095

DENNIS J. DOWNING

[DENNIS@DOWNINGLANE.COM](mailto:DENNIS@DOWNINGLANE.COM)

COURTNEY S. LANE

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*Contributions from local artists this month:*

*Maureen Banner, p. 23; Chris Carnese woodcut, p. 20;  
George Emmons, pgs.17, 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 22.*

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