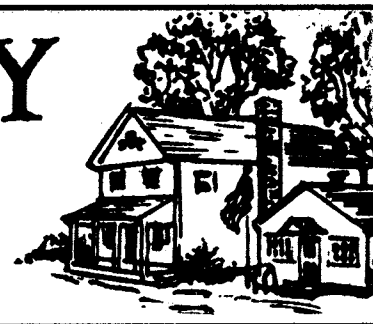


MONTEREY NEWS

August 2023 Est. 1970
Vol. LIII • Number 8



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



David Abromowitz took a remarkable photograph of a Green Heron in a beaver pond down his road. See pages 26-28 for Bonner McAllester's always popular wildlife report.

Monterey Spanish Club—*Hablemos!*
Kid's dreamcatcher workshops
Monterey Community Center page 8

Although the house was in poor condition with a tarpaper roof and peeling paint, Agnes recalled that Will "went down cellar, stuck his pocket knife in the timbers, and found them solid, so the die was cast."
Gould Farm- Early Days page 25

This article may seem like a tall tale with fisher cats an unlikely backyard visitor. But they are real, and very feisty, as are all weasels.
The Ornerly Fisher Cat page 29

A short film will be followed by a talk given by astro-photographer and amateur astronomer Destin Heilman of Becket.
Defending the Dark Skies page 7

An ebullient and resolute champion, Mickey has helped steer the library into the future, working alongside Mark Makuc and others to envision the new library that we all enjoy and to imagine what's next.
Who's Who- Mickey Jervas page 18

I have historically described my father's personality as "pathologically outgoing."
Eulogy for Doug McTavish page 21

Tai chi and qigong are centuries-old movement exercises for promoting good health, reducing stress, and increasing vitality, balance, and well being.
Tai Chi/Qigong classes page 9

This neighbor is a plant, completely and truly new in my life.
New Neighbor: A Treasure page 22

Readers may be aware that a serious effort to consider a merger of Southern Berkshire Regional and Berkshire Hills Regional school districts has been underway for some time.

Merger Decision Soon pages 10-14

People were asking, "What's going on with the store?" I would imagine that we all have asked ourselves that question.
General Store Status page 2

The fund awarded \$80,000 to new graduates and renewals to fourteen students in 2023.
McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships page 7

It's a remote, slow burn, not the sort of hot fire that our volunteers excel at putting out. But it's a greater danger than any house fire could ever be.
Fighting Fires page 4

So unless a swimmer is showing signs of distress, I urge jet skiers and motor boaters to consider keeping as much distance from swimmers as possible.
Safe Boating Rules page 16

I wondered—is the air quality in the village the same, better, or worse than the rest of Berkshire County?
Air Quality Monitoring page 3

Our July supper club was themed "Take A Dip," and it was a hop, chip, and a jump away from one of my favorite supper clubs.
Monday Night Supper Club page 24

A draft of the designs will be ready soon. Based on community input, a walkway has been added. Preliminary designs will be posted on the climate resiliency page of the town website.
Main Road Culvert Design page 5

Reports About Town General Store Status

There was an interesting thread on Monterey's Community Google group this past month. People were asking, "What's going on with the store?" I would imagine that we all have asked ourselves that question. Someone in the group suggested that maybe, rather than speculating or participating in that favorite summer pastime of spreading rumors, someone should ask the owners what is going on. I waited a while expecting this to happen or that Chapin would jump in with an explanation but, no joy.

Last week I was heading into Great Barrington and as I drove through the center of town there was Chapin standing by his truck, talking on his phone in front of the store. Why not ask? Making a quick u-turn, I pulled in beside his truck, waited until he finished his phone call and asked the big question.—What is going on with the store?

Since we both had other places we needed to be, we had a short conversation, a quick look inside the store, and then agreed to get back together for a longer interview and a series of pictures to show progress. My schedule and that of the *Monterey News* deadline for the August issue articles did not leave enough time to do a detailed article for this month. So here's a short piece to address some of the questions and rumors, with a longer, more in-depth article for the September issue.

Question: Has the ownership of the store changed?

Chapin Fish and his partner Jared Kelly continue to own the store.

Question: Given the lack of progress, have they had a change of heart?

Chapin points to the exterior work as progress—the past two years have been difficult and finding quality contractors to work on the building has been the main challenge. Throw in the issues with Covid and the disappearing Berkshire work force,

which Chapin looks at as unexpected, that so much has been thrown out of whack. Their commitment has not wavered and they expect solid progress in the coming months. In our short tour Chapin explained that all the structural work has been completed, a new septic has been installed which will allow them seating for forty-four customers. The electrical is 80% finished and he sees that being finished shortly. Realistically, it's another six to eight months, but as we know all too well, there is no firm timeline.

Rumor: They have run out of money and bankruptcy looms.

When they took on this project they felt that the only way to have this a success was to do the build out with available cash. They purchased the store with cash—no mortgage or loans—and their plan has always been to complete the renovations with available money. Prior to Covid it made complete sense but the challenge of life after Covid has slowed the progress.

Rumor: The Town has impeded progress.

Chapin has no issues with our building department. He feels that he has a good relationship with Don Torrico, our building commissioner, and the other inspectors. Don has been fair and helpful. I spoke with Don to get a sense of how he thinks this project is progressing. He feels that it is taking far too long to complete but can do nothing about that. He shouldn't grant the asked-for extensions, but what good does that do? So he continues to issue extensions to the applied permits and is waiting for paperwork on a couple of issues. At a recent meeting with both Chapin and Jared, Don felt a renewed sense of their wanting to finish this project.

I hope this answers a few of the questions and rumors floating around. Next month I should have more information on plans, timelines, and photos of progress.

—Kenn Basler



Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green

Meeting House events can sell out!
Buy tickets **ONLINE** now at:
nmmeetinghouse.org

Date Time	Event
Aug 12 4:30 pm	Karen Allen Join multi-award winning actor and director Karen Allen for a fast moving, interactive afternoon as she shares highlights of her exciting career.
Aug 26 4:30 pm	Alison Larkin An in-depth conversation with Comedienne, bestselling author, and founder of the Berkshire based audiobook company Alison Larkin Presents.
Sept 2 4:30 pm	Simone Dinnerstein Simone Dinnerstein returns by popular demand, performing works by Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, and others. This performance sells out!
Sept 9 4:30 pm	Melissa Clark and Madhur Jaffrey Tasting the World: Two of today's great cookbook writers come to New Marlborough to discuss food, cooking, and their careers crafting delicious recipes.
Sept 23 4:30 pm	Trio Calore: Wincenc - Nikkanen- Asteriadou The trio of renowned recitalists will perform works by Jacques Ibert, Franz Doppler, Bohuslav Martinu, J.S. Bach, and others.
Oct 7 4:30 pm	Simon Winchester with Chandra Prasad, Francine Prose, and André Bernard On writing in the age of artificial intelligence.

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

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Reports About Town
 Air Quality Monitoring

Back in June as I looked out towards the vil-
 lage from my upstairs windows all I saw was
 a thick haze everywhere, which made me think
 about my father. As a child he had been a very bad asthmatic, and
 reminiscing on occasion, he would discuss how difficult it was living
 in the village of Monterey during the winter as a child. The village
 geographically is in a bowl and when the conditions were just so, all
 the smoke produced from the villagers’ wood stoves and fireplaces
 (that and coal were the primary sources of heat at the time) would
 thickly settle in the village, not to dissipate until later in the day as it
 warmed up or a good prevailing wind would blow it away.

As I went about my day, I found going outside in the haze there
 was a strong smell of smoke in the air and my eyes and sinuses
 burned. I wondered—is the air quality in the village the same,
 better, or worse than the rest of Berkshire County?

To satiate my curiosity, I did a Google search and found several
 great sites on measuring air quality, which inspired me to order an
 outdoor air monitor that measured the “air quality index” (AQI)
 and “PM2.5 air pollution.”

Setting up the air monitor app and exploring the site I found
 that there were not many local public channels available in our
 area, the closest being about ten miles away. What our personal
 air monitor revealed during the most intense smokey period was
 that the air quality readings in the village were some of the high-
 est, if not the highest readings of the outdoor air quality monitors
 in Berkshire County, ranging from a AQI of 154 to AQI of 18.

AQI measures air pollution using a range of 0 to 500. According to
 Airnow.gov, “when AQI values are above 100, air quality is unhealthy:
 at first for certain sensitive groups of people, then for everyone as AQI
 values get higher.” The US Clean Air Act sets standards for what is
 considered healthy and unhealthy for the following pollutants: ground-
 level ozone, particle pollution (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide,
 sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

Breathing in, for example, unhealthy
 levels of PM2.5 can increase the risk of
 health problems like heart disease, asthma,
 and low birth weight. Unhealthy levels of
 PM2.5 can also reduce visibility and cause
 the air to appear hazy.

The air quality monitor I purchased
 (I have no financial or otherwise rela-
 tionship with this company) was from
 IQAir, a Swiss Tech company that sells
 air quality monitors but also collects air
 quality data. IQAir claims to “operate the
 world’s largest real-time air quality data
 and community platform, comprising
 over 80,000 public sensors worldwide
 on five continents. IQAir engages citizen
 scientists, organizations, and governments
 to contribute data and fight environmental
 injustice by increasing the breadth and
 depth of air quality data where it’s most

Monterey Village					
Datetime	AQI US	AQI CN	PM2.5 (ug/m3)	PM10 (ug/m3)	PM1 (ug/m3)
7/9/2023 9:54	187	165	125.5	13	88

Air Quality Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution		
Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index
Green	Good	0 to 50
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200
Purple	Very unhealthy	201 to 300
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher

Source: airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/



needed. We partner with global organizations like the United Nations and Greenpeace
 to educate people worldwide about the impact of air pollution.”

For anyone interested in following the “Monterey Village” public AQI channel go
 to: iqair.com/us, and search “Monterey Village.” As a side note, to dispel any possible
 confusion, unfortunately Monterey does not meet IQAir’s definition of a “city,” so IQAir
 has listed our public channel as in Great Barrington but added “Monterey Village” to
 the name.

—Kathie Tryon and Raymond Becker, 455 Main Road

**JOIN US FOR OUR
ARTY PARTY RECEPTIONS!**

July 28
thru Aug 27

Motion/Emotion
Opening Reception July 28, 5-7 p.m.

Sept 1
thru Oct 8

The 25th Annual New Marlborough Artist's Show
Opening Reception September 1, 5-7 p.m.

**Details about New Marlborough Meeting House events
online at NMMeetingHouse.org**

Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green

Fighting Fires

Not so long ago, one of the pleasures of the season was visiting with Warren Thomson when he stopped by to sell us tickets to the fire company steak roast. He always stayed long enough for a good old-fashioned chat, sitting together on our porch in a summer breeze. Work life, town life, complaints, successes. It was a fine moment, repeated for many years, that connected us with a fine person. His accidental death a few years ago was a loss felt sharply even by those, like us, who only knew him marginally.

Those visits came to mind when I saw the eight-page, 8 1/2" x 11", full color mailing addressed to "Local Postal Customer" and titled "Greetings from Your Monterey Fire Company." This is a new approach. In a pitch for funds, photos highlight the drama and danger of firefighting, and the text reminds us of volunteers' dedication and intensive training.

My own time as a volunteer firefighter in Monterey and New Marlborough was in the 1970s and 80s. In Monterey, in addition to turning out for fires, we established the nonprofit fire company and logged countless hours building the present firehouse. We played as hard as we worked, sponsoring the steak roast, hosting dances and town meetings, supporting the gravity car race. Company solidarity was never perfect, but it was solid enough to fight fire right. We trained, and we showed up.

I remember a raging house fire which I entered at the nozzle end of a charged, inch-and-a-half line wearing

a Scott airpack. I could hear the click and hiss of breathing in and out into my mask as I crawled up a staircase to knock down flames with short, cooling, fog-pattern bursts. I knew to expect the strong recoil each time I shut or opened the valve, and listened for the alarm bell that would signal low air supply, time to get out. It is not a fearful memory. Others I trusted had my back, and we knew what to do—and what not to do. We worked together to reduce risk and minimize property damage.

The present Monterey Fire Company operates under the same ethos in a time that feels different, as if porch visits with Warren Thomson belong to a simpler, distant past. The brochure reflects changing times.

One sentence stands out: "To get to the nitty gritty, the fire company's utility bills alone run from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually." It's a good reminder of the large sums required for our up-to-date emergency response team.

But it also reminds us that the fire company has an asset that can reduce that sum significantly: the roofs of the firehouse and pavilion. These have the capacity to generate clean electricity from the sun with minimal visual impact. The location already has three-phase service, which can reduce the cost of developing solar electricity on those roofs. Early in its research the Renewable Energy Working Group identified proximity to three-phase service and minimal visual impact as two of three criteria that are optimum for solar development. The town-wide solar assessment conducted by UMass students

over the past school year reports that the "technical potential" of the two roofs owned by the is 109 kW, equivalent to thirteen installations at the average size of residential arrays in Monterey. This is a significant amount of power. Coupled with battery storage, it could also provide a measure of resiliency for emergency response when grid power is down.

This is not to say that we should rush to put solar panels on these rooftops, rather, that the potential merits serious consideration. Fire Chief Shawn Tryon has reservations about safety after Monterey firefighters helped douse a recent, stubborn residential fire in Sandisfield started by an old solar array on a roof covered with pine needles. His concerns are valid; fire safety is his job, and he does it well. The Solar Energy Technologies Office, in the US Department of Energy, notes that "a solar system spontaneously bursting into flames is an extremely rare occurrence" generally caused by "design flaws, component defects, and faulty installation." This fits anecdotal reports, and sketches an approach to fire safety for solar installations. Batteries—in electric cars and bikes, or those designed to store rooftop solar electricity—are a more prevalent fire hazard. Both are dangers to be addressed.

Precautions will help insure fire safety. The greater challenge is for voters, the town, and the fire company to navigate the bureaucratic and legal maze of funding, procurement, ownership, contracting, and distribution to arrive at the most cost effective and widely supported way to use these roofs to generate electricity from the sun—or not, if that seems to be the prudent choice after deliberate consideration. The Town has already designated \$15,000 in ARPA funds to hire a topnotch consultant who can help us work this out, together. That's the harder part, but we are off to a good start.

Renovating our energy infrastructure to mitigate the harms of climate change is a monumental task with no perfect solution. It's a remote, slow burn, not the sort of hot fire that our volunteers excel at putting out. But it's a greater danger than any house fire could ever be.

—Peter Murkett, Chairperson
Renewable Energy Working Group



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Route 23/Main Rd. Culvert Designs Coming Soon

As many of you know, the town is working with engineers to upsize the Route 23/Main Road culvert. Climate change is projected to bring more intense rain storms more frequently to our region, and the current ten-foot culvert is ill-equipped to handle larger storms thereby leading to flooding of town hall and possibly Route 23. A larger structure will accommodate these storms and keep our infrastructure safer from the worst impacts Mother Nature has in store.

A draft of the replacement designs outline an upsizing of the culvert to a twenty-five-foot span bridge. Based on community input, a walkway has been added for consideration to increase connection from town hall and Bidwell Park to the post office and library. A preliminary copy of these designs will be posted on the climate resiliency page of the town website (montereyma.gov/climate-resiliency).

There will be two public presentations to present the designs and answer questions from the public:

Tuesday, August 29: 6 p.m., during the select board meeting, at the Monterey Library.

Wednesday, September 6: 7 p.m., on Zoom. To register go to bit.ly/Route23Culvert.

Bidwell Park Improvements

If you haven't been to Bidwell Park, it's worth a meander next time you're in town. To get to this gem of open space, follow the crosswalk across Main Road from town hall toward the maroon sign that reads "Bidwell Park." Follow the dirt road to the left and down the hill that brings you ever closer to the Konkpot River. The park starts with a plaque in a stone and spreads out before you with a tall forest canopy that makes it feel like you're in an outdoor cathedral tucked on the back side of town. To make this park usable again the town twice invested money to clean up emerald ash borer ridden ash trees and others that fell during some bad storms last year. Following this, an intrepid crew of volunteers from the Monterey Native Plants Working Group braved the torrential rains in June to remove barberry invasives and install native plants throughout the park. Overtime, these plantings will help stabilize the bank and mitigate stormwater runoff while also providing valuable pollinator habitat and beauty for visitors.

A huge thanks to the parks commission for working with organizers to place plantings and maintain the character of the park; the Monterey Native Plants Working Group for volunteer hours, outreach, and resources throughout the project; Jim Hunt and his highway crew who finished up the

planting and mulched garden beds and who will provide water throughout the summer.

This project was made possible through an MVP Climate Resiliency grant, as well as a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant through MA Department of Environmental Protection. Plants were purchased locally from Helia Nursery.

Stormwater Assessments

This month is your last chance to get your property assessed for stormwater solutions. The town is working with stormwater consultant Courteny Morehouse from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission as part of our water quality and climate resilience projects. Stormwater assessments will look at erosion issues, nuisance flooding, geese, with the goal of improving water quality throughout Monterey and building climate resilience on private property. At the end of the summer five properties will be selected for stormwater solution installation such as a rain garden or a water's edge buffer. To sign up, call Courteny at (415) 442-1521, ext. 26, email at cmorehouse@berkshire-planning.org, or sign up through the form at bit.ly/stormwaterhomeassessment. Assessments will end the week before Labor Day weekend so sign up today!

—Courtney Morehouse



The Konkpot after the July 9 rains. Photo by Natalie Manzino



Planting and restoration work at Bidwell Park after the storm damage was cleared away.

Getting the Monterey News

Pick up in several locations in town.

Have it mailed free of charge.

Receive it via email.

The *News* has been financed by voluntary contributions for over fifty years without a subscription.

Contact the *News* at

MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

Summer Greetings from your Parks Commission

This summer Monterey residents should easily find convenient beach parking, so enjoy the beach. You will notice our hard-working parking attendant and lifeguard staff doing everything they can to ensure fun and safety for beachgoers. Check the town website for weekly yoga on the beach this summer.

Across the street, Greenagers have been working hard to complete the trail around Brewer Pond so that by the end of summer, everyone can walk there and enjoy that peaceful place. Remediation of Bidwell Park after storm damage continues. Courteney Morehouse of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, with help from the pollinator group, has installed native plants and trees to help control erosion and runoff and to replace many damaged trees.

Behind town hall look for work to begin on the new playground this September, starting with demolition and site preparation. We plan on installment of the new equipment in October.

The town crew, under the leadership of Jim Hunt, will be doing the much needed work on the ballpark. When work starts, it will be posted on the town website.

— Tracey Brennan
Monterey Parks Commission



Tracey Brennan

MONTEREY MASTER PLAN: Goals and Implementation Forum

**Thursday, August 10,
6 to 7 p.m.
Monterey Library**



Contact:

Tom Sawyer sawyer141@gmail.com

Laura Mensi [<lauramensi9@gmail.com>](mailto:lauramensi9@gmail.com)

Seth Jenkins, BRPC Community Planner

413-442-1521 ex. 24, SJenkins@Berkshireplanning.org



Monterey Native Plants Working Group

Backyard Ecologists

Defending the Dark
Film, talk and star party!
Friday, Aug 18, 7:30
Monterey Library

Pollinators01245@gmail.com

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, was established by Marjorie McLaughlin and Edith Wilson to benefit Monterey students who are continuing their education beyond high school. The fund awarded \$80,000 to fourteen students in 2023. The next application and renewal cycle will be open after January 1 until March 15, 2024.

High School Graduates

- Cheyenne Amstead, Plymouth State University
- Oskar Hurst, Parsons School of Design at New School
- Josephine Hurst, Bard College at Simon's Rock
- Wim Hurst, New School
- Brady DeVergilio, Hudson Valley Community College

Renewals to College Students

- John Covell, University of Vermont
- Grace Makuc, Northeastern University
- Madeleine Makuc, University of CT
- Nadia Makuc, Princeton University
- Lucien Firth, Loyola Marymount University
- Megan Mulvey, Towson University
- Sophia Krans, Bard College at Simon's Rock
- Isabella Saporito, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Emma Soule, University of VT

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Pleiades Cluster (M45): This iconic open cluster in Taurus is one of the most widely recognized asterisms in the night sky. Recognized since antiquity, the Pleiades cluster has served as a source of inspiration, navigation, and scientific discovery for thousands of years. The Japanese have another name for the Pleiades, "Subaru," the namesake for the starry symbol that adorns their cars! —Photo and text by Destin Heilman

Defending the Dark Skies

Little by little, light pollution is drowning out our view of the cosmos. Come to the Monterey Library on Friday, August 18 at 7:30 for a family-friendly presentation on Defending the Dark. A short film will be followed by a talk given by astro-photographer and amateur astronomer Destin Heilman of Becket, where the skies are the darkest in the state. Afterwards, we'll have an opportunity, weather permitting, to behold the stars through his telescope.

— Janet Jensen

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Monterey Community Center Calendar

Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly activities

Mondays: NEW! Monterey Spanish Club—*Hablemos!*, 10 to 11:30 a.m. For those that love to speak and practice Spanish—*Intermedio y Superior*—practice Spanish and meet new friends.

Mondays: Simple meditation, all are welcome, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

Monday, August 14: Supper club, 6 to 8 p.m., under the tent. The theme for August is "Fruitful Harvest" (see page 24).

Tuesdays: Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

Tuesdays: Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Wednesday, August 23: Council on aging documentary movie, *Twenty Feet From Stardom*, at 2 p.m.

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

Thursday, August 3: Darn yarners, at 10 a.m. (first Thursday of the month).

Thursday, August 17: Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m. (third Thursday of the month). With Tritown health nurses. Checkups include blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. No charge for Monterey residents, no appointment needed.

Thursday, August 24: Chorus, 4:15

p.m.

Thursdays, August 3, 17, and 31: Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews, 6:30 to 9 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark Andrews at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

Fridays: Super gentle yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email james-boneparth76@gmail.com.

Friday, August 25: Transformational breathwork, at 5 p.m.

Monday, August 28: Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com. See page 24.

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

Saturdays: Ping pong, 2:30 p.m.

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

Special Events

Thursday, August 3, and Sunday, August 13: Kid's dreamcatcher workshops with Hanna Jensen. 1 to 2 p.m. Ages eight and older. Pre-registration is required by July 29 for the August 3 workshop, and by August 8 for the August 13 workshop: Call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org. \$5 materials fee.

Thursday, August 10: Yoga Nidra and sound healing with Nancy Monk and Robinson Martinez, 5 p.m. \$20. Register by emailing nancyamonk@gmail.com.

Thursday, August 10: Peter Poirier concert on Sunday, August 20, 2 p.m. Free concert under the tent.

Coming up in September:

Saturday, September 2: Desperate Catskill Mountain Band, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free concert under the tent, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council.

Saturday, September 11: Supper club, 6 to 8 p.m. Theme to be decided. Under the tent. Please register by emailing supperclubmonterey@gmail.com.

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

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator
and Nancy Kleban

Improvisation

prints by
Midori Curtis

August 4 - September 9

Friday, August 4: Artist's Talk: 5pm, Reception: 6pm




KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Artist Discussions sponsored by Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Councils

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Catching up with the Council on Aging

Happy fiftieth anniversary to the Monterey Council on Aging! Please note the August 4 event (details below).

Note the expanded hours and destinations for our van transportation (see box).

Join our Tai chi class.

Exercise with Annie! is on vacation for the month of August.

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

—Kathryn Roberts
CoA Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Coming Events

Friday, August 4: Fiftieth anniversary celebration for the CoA! 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the community center. Sue Epstein will talk about why “Laughing Matters,” and chair Lin Saberski will recap recent council highlights and talk about future plans. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, August 7: Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, August 9: Movie night at the Monterey Library, 7 p.m. Showing *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. We are showing the very first *Raiders* film, and if you haven’t seen it since its release in 1981 you are in for a treat. Critics consensus: “Featuring bravura set pieces, sly humor, and white-knuckle action, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* is one of the most consummately entertaining adventure pictures of all time.” Special bonus: Monterey’s Karen Allen costars with Harrison Ford. The council will serve light refreshments.

Wednesday, August 16: Lunch out at Koi, noon. Please get in touch with Kathryn to reserve your seat at the table.

Thursday, August 17: Wellness check at the community center from 2 to 3 p.m. Tritown Health nurses will check blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen level. No appointment necessary. For those



Publicity photo from 1981 with Karen Allen and some guy from the movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

who are homebound and unable to come to the community center, please call Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209 to arrange for a home visit.

Wednesday, August 23: Documentary film at the community center, 2 p.m., showing *Twenty Feet From Stardom*. Winner of the Academy Award for best documentary feature in 2014. “Rich, insightful, and occasionally heartbreaking, *Twenty Feet From Stardom* is an energetic tribute to the passion, talent and hard work of back-up singers, both illuminating and entertaining.” The council will serve light refreshments.

Ongoing Services

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington, Sheffield, Egremont, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, and Pittsfield (medical only, Mon. & Wed.). Call (413) 528-1881. Twenty-four-hours notice required to guarantee a ride. Expanded hours: M–F 8–6, S & Sun 10–4.

Parkinson’s Support Group: This month’s meeting is on Thursday, August 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Monterey Library. Richard Pargament began our APDA-approved support group in October 2021. He and Roberta Weiss always provide a kind, compassionate, and informative two hours. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call the CoA at the number above if you’d like more information.

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

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

Council on Aging Join Our Tai Chi/Qigong Community!

Tai Chi/Qigong in Monterey is jointly sponsored by the community center and the council on aging. Our class meets each Wednesday morning, 10 to 11 a.m., at the Monterey Community Center. In warm weather, we practice outdoors and it is truly wonderful. Tai chi and qigong are centuries-old movement exercises for promoting good health, reducing stress, and increasing vitality, balance, and well being. These exercises are done standing. They are slow and flowing and designed to regulate balance, posture, breath, and mental focus.

The class is open to all, experienced as well as beginners. We learn and practice the Tai Chi form, and are guided in Qigong exercises. All is easy to do on your own at home in between classes. Instructor David Crowe has more than twenty-five years of training in these arts and is especially sensitive to those with special needs or physical limitations. And he’s a terrific teacher and fun, too. Please join us. You will be glad you did! No reservations necessary.

Classes are \$8/per class or \$30 to \$40 monthly (depending on the number of Wednesdays).

—Lin Saberski



Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Schools Merger Decision

8 Town—"Yes" on Merger Community to Vote this Fall

On July 18, the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board voted 16-2 (with two abstentions) to recommend the merger of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

The twenty-four member board (with one elected and two appointed representatives from each of the eight towns) was formed in March 2020 to study a possible merger in the face of declining enrollment and rising operating costs. In April 2021, the board voted to develop the merger model recommended by its expert research team, which was to keep the elementary and middle schools in place as they are, and construct a new merged 9-12 high school, with new vocational facilities, on the Great Barrington campus. Since that vote, the board has been developing and testing the assumptions supporting that recommended model.

"After three years of careful research, our board has concluded that the proposed merger presents the best path forward for our students and our community," said Lucy Prashker, chair of the 8 Town board.

Prashker added that the board's recommendation identifies important educational benefits and opportunities as well as significant cost savings that could

be realized from the two districts pooling resources and achieving economies of scale. Its decision was also informed by broad community outreach, including surveys, student forums, focus groups, forums, and open community gatherings.

"South Berkshire, like other parts of Berkshire County, has experienced staggering declines in student enrollment over the last two decades, a trend that is expected to continue," explained Prashker. "Those declining enrollments put a tremendous strain on our ability to just maintain what we have, much less to expand those offerings. By joining together, we will be able to provide the educational enhancements our children need and deserve in a way that is sustainable and our eight towns can afford."

According to the findings of its educational quality subcommittee, a merged high school would allow for new and expanded vocational opportunities as well as expanded academic choices for college-bound students, more electives and extracurricular activities, optimized class sizes, and a more inclusive and diverse school population. For all grades, a merger would result in broader access to resources for English language learners, special education, and social-emotional support, and more professional development and other opportunities for teachers.

While transportation was identified as a potential concern of a proposed merger, an

independent study demonstrated that the time most students would spend on a bus would either stay the same or decrease. Assuming a relatively modest investment in additional vans, the maximum bus time is expected to decrease from one hour to forty-five minutes. The merger would also allow a two-tier transportation system for the students in all towns, allowing elementary school students to ride separately from high schoolers. (Currently only BHRSD has a two-tier system.)

"Building a state-of-the-art high school will be a huge win for the students of all eight towns," said Deb Phillips, chair of the board's educational quality subcommittee. "Merger would also allow us to increase the salaries of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District faculty to achieve parity with those at Berkshire Hills."

The board's July 18 vote included approval of a draft regional agreement, which the board has been working on for close to a year. Following some expected additional input from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and legal counsel, the board expects to vote on a final version of that agreement in late August, together with a written statement of the reasons for the merger, to be presented to the select boards of the eight towns. The board will announce additional public forums where community members can learn more about the benefits. The voters of the eight towns will decide whether to merge at special town meetings, which are expected to be held in October.

Visit 8towns.org for more information about the RSDPB and the benefits of merging districts.

—Lucy Prashker, Chair
Regional School District Planning Board



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Daytime Book Group

The daytime book group will meet on Wednesday, August 16, at 1:30 p.m., in the library. All are welcome, and the book to read for this meeting is *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende.

—Bonner McAllester

Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Schools Merger Decision

School Districts Merge A Rebuttal

I am writing this with grave concern. As you may have seen, the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) has released a statement that the board has voted to merge. Technically, that is partially true—they have voted to recommend a merger. Here is the problem. Or, rather, here are the problems.

The Recent Board Vote

Let's start with the vote taken. First, not all members of the Regional School District Planning Board were present to vote.

Second, the public relations team and leadership of the board released this press statement well ahead of the final vote in August by the board. Yes, I said it: this is not the final vote. But their public relations team is gearing up to make it seem as though the decision is made and that this is all said and done.

And lastly, the draft Regional Agreement was emailed to members twenty-two hours prior to the meeting, with thirty-two pages of a legal document to review, that had shifting content and multiple new details from the prior version of this agreement. RSDPB members had no time to digest the information or understand the impact of all of it.

It was not clearly stated on the meeting agenda that a vote was going to be taken for recommendation of a merger. The agenda item was listed as "Continued Discussion of 8 Town Regional School District Agreement," which was to include debt approval contingency, duration of transition period, illustrations of apportionment language and other revisions, vote on the Regional Agreement (not merger recommendation), subject to additional provisions suggested/reviewed by DESE. This vote was done by a group of well-meaning people with only a few actually having educational experience, and without either of the school committees, town select boards, or their counsels to review it. So, your children's future is being decided on by a majority of people with no educational, financial, or legal background.

Subcommittee Findings

The educational quality subcommittee has recommended the merger based on "more." Their statement is, effectively, the larger the school, the more opportunities. But they have no data to back that up. The people that actually have an educational background who sat on the committee constantly voiced their objections to this statement. We all know that our children flourish in smaller classes. Not to mention once our high school students are taken out of Mt. Everett, per the draft Regional

Agreement, students have to attend the school closest to them. This will dwindle our middle school population attending Mt. Everett, and students will lose opportunities instead of gaining them. No more seeing your child on junior varsity or varsity sports until ninth grade (if there is even a spot for them as they will be competing for an opening with many more children). We're also likely to see at least two fewer theater productions, so fewer opportunities for students to have a role in theater, with more competition for those spots. The marching band, jazz band, and madrigals will go away. Shakespeare productions will be gone from Mt. Everett. This is just a sample of what we would be losing.

Now let's move on to the educational side. We would lose our college destination grant that gives our children who choose to go to college an opportunity to acquire up to thirty college credits at no cost to the parent. All our grants that fund our special programs, such as robotics and drones will be gone as we are absorbed into a larger school, unknown to us if

Merger Rebuttal cont. page 12.

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Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Schools Merger Decision

Merger Rebuttal cont. from page 11.

these will even be offered in a school that will supposedly have “more.” Our agriculture program will be gone. Our wonderful culinary arts program will be gone, along with so much more that makes our school special. They say that they can offer so much “more” but not what they can actually offer.

There is no educational pathway, as all things will be decided by a transitional committee. I am not willing to accept proficiency-based grading that is currently being used at Berkshire Hills where your students are all taught the same material in the same class, without any opportunity for separate honors or advanced placement (AP) classes available. The RSDPB is promising so many things, but they haven’t even secured funding for Chapter 74 classes or even building the school. They are only in a pipeline with no guarantee of what they might receive.

Costs

Finally, there is the cost. The RSDPB is using a cost that was estimated and stated prior to 2021 and has never been updated. In 2019, the *Berkshire Edge* published an article that stated if Berkshire Hills could get just one town to join them, they could save millions on building the new high school that Berkshire Hills needs. The average cost for building a school is \$786 per square foot with a reimbursement rate of \$393 capped per square foot. But the latest Career and Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) school (with Chapter 74 programs) to be built in Massachusetts came in at \$912 per square foot. Then there are cost overruns that always happen when building something like this. The RSDPB has been unwilling to give us an updated and accurate cost estimate because they have no exact plans for what they are going to build as they have no idea the number of students they are building for. They keep saying enrollment numbers are declining,

but all I see is the same fluctuation that has been for years.

To sum things up, they are asking us to put the cart before the horse. They want you to vote on a merger that shows, using their numbers, it is less expensive to tuition our students into the new school and keep our district open (and that is before an actual cost of the building is given to us, which would happen after the vote) and to accept no clear educational pathway, except there may be a potential of “more” (but no guarantees), to be determined by a transitional committee yet to be elected.

I’m not sure about you, but as a resident of Monterey who sat through many of these RSDPB meetings, and as a mother with three children in district, I can honestly say, I cannot vote on something that is based on unsupported assumptions.

—Kim Alcantara

Monterey School representative

Editor’s Note: Points made above in the “The Recent Board Vote” subsection were also reflected in two letters published recently in the Berkshire Edge. One mirrors Alcantara’s views, and the other refutes these contentions. To read both, go to the berkshireedge.com, and search for “Eight Town Regional School District.” The letters were posted on July 27 and July 30 respectively.



Natalie Manzino caught this image of dew droplets on a spider web.



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Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Schools Merger Decision

Schools Merger Possibility An Observation

By now readers of the *Monterey News* may be aware that a serious effort to consider and justify a merger of the two local school districts (Southern Berkshire Regional and Berkshire Hills Regional) has been underway for some time. I have spoken with people who have said plainly that they have not been paying attention, it's too complex, they don't know what to think. It is my intention as the editor to try and provide information to help people understand what is at stake.

The Informational Structure

The committee, titled the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB), also referred to as the 8 Town committee (8town.org), has three representatives from each town. One is an elected representative, and two others are appointed. In Monterey this is Kim Alcantara, our elected SBRSD representative, along with Don Coburn and Jon Sylbert who were appointed.

The 8 Town committee has been well funded by grants from the state and assessments on local towns for the purpose of hiring various consultants to consider many issues. They have a well-structured, transparent website that allows interested parties to read all previous committee and subcommittee minutes, access various analyses, and so forth. They have conducted some community input meetings. This is centralized information with considerable momentum about the process and the publicity around it.

I am not aware of any organized groups that are actively opposing the merger proposal, though many individuals are not in favor. I have not seen any structured arguments looking to the future as a counter to the merger effort dealing with some of the key issues (declining enrollment, taxes, educational opportunities) beyond maintaining the status quo with SBRSD. It is hard to see how a decision can be properly made without strong arguments on both sides.

It is not clear to me how challenging questions can be posed with replies

that would be available across the eight towns involved. When one person has a question, often others are wondering the same, and even more would be interested in the answers.

Coming Soon to Monterey— Decision Time

At this point the process seems to be heading towards the RSDPB adopting a final merger recommendation by late August which will be sent to the select boards of the eight towns. The towns must then hold a town meeting to vote to accept or reject the merger within thirty days. All eight towns must vote to accept. Thus these town meetings would likely be held in early October.

What is at Stake?

This is a decision that will impact the whole region for decades. It may result in the removal of the existing Monument Mountain high school and a \$100-plus million replacement; it may result in changes in the future uses of the Mt. Everett school campus and smaller outlying schools; and it will present new challenges and opportunities for the students and their families.

The decision will also have financial impacts on each town varying to their ability. It may carry long-ranging impacts from the changing demographics of the area. The scale of a new district may change the ability of individual towns to shape the school operations. Greater centralization

might weaken local communities since so much revolves around schools.

To Learn More

It would be a benefit to our town, as we face this decision, to have our representatives explain more about the advantages and disadvantages of this merger. Readers could dip into the 8town.org website. Questions could be posed to our town's committee members (emails listed below.)

We all should give this serious attention, talk to each, and consider this issue in a holistic fashion given the broad range of impacts. The upcoming students, their families, and the whole town will be affected.

—Stephen Moore

Monterey's RSDPB members are:

- Kim Alcantara, kimmervt@aol.com
- Don Coburn, dscoburn@aol.com
- Jon Sylbert, jsylbert@mac.com

Robert McMahon Projects

If you were a client of Robert McMahon, Architect, and wish to have the architectural drawings and files pertaining to your project from his files, please email Jeanne Randorf at mcdorf@gmail.com to arrange to pick them up. Files remaining will be destroyed in three months.

—Jeanne Randorf



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Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Schools Merger Decision

Schools Merger Possibility "Inconvenient" Questions

Below are some questions I have concerning impacts for the possible districts merging. I am posting these questions in the hopes that others will develop similar questions. I invite any of our three representatives (Kim Alcantara, Don Coburn, and Jon Sylbert) to reply. Also, it would be helpful if any community members would like to offer opinions or pose questions of their own.

I will publish all replies in the September issue. This is a regional issue that really calls for encouraging community conversation. Send your questions or replies to montereynews9@gmail.com.

1. What are the impacts of not merging? This should be priority information.

2. Twice in the past ten years Berkshire Hills voted down proposals for a new high school due to cost. Is the merger proposal, which involves a \$100+ million project, mostly a way around this political problem?

3. There have been attempts between the two districts to share strengths and resources. Have those initiatives been unsuccessful?

4. Instead of merging and building an entirely new school, has a study to upgrade Monument Mountain been conducted? \$20 to \$30 million could likely remake it into a nearly new school—but—probably no state aid.

5. Has the environmental/climate impact of discarding all the invested

resources of the existing school (materials, equipment, energy, previous labor, and the utility of the built spaces), to be replaced by all the new material resources and energy required for new construction, been considered? Consuming less and conserving more is a key environmental and climate strategy.

6. How will the capital and operational costs be equitably shared (loaded word...) when Great Barrington taxes are already so high and smaller towns' tax rates are more reasonable? Can anyone explain the state's "safety valve" rules to smooth out tax burdens among the towns?

7. I've heard that the cost for all the general education 9-12 students to attend will be within the budget, but that any students who choose a vocational path will be "tuitioned in" at an additional cost to their towns of \$26,000 per year. Is our society less willing to broadly support the education of trades and technically-inclined students than college-bound students? Will schools become a "fee for service" operation?

8. What is to happen to the Mt. Everett campus once a new high school is operational? With only younger students (up through local middle school students) the facility will be significantly under-used relative to its capacity. Who bears the expense of keeping that building? Will Great Barrington and Stockbridge folks want to pay the upkeep for a building with less than 50% use (just a guess on my part). Are there alternative uses for some of the Mt. Everett building?

9. How much pressure will be put on closing the New Marlborough Central School, which likely needs some upgrading of its own, in the push for more centralization? Would the new 8 Town district have any interest in maintaining that building? (The Monterey School being unsupported despite the SBRSD agreement to maintain it is a perfect case-in-point.) And similarly, how would this affect the newly restored Egremont village school?

10. The towns have to vote on the merger proposal within thirty days of receipt by the select board thus at special town meetings. Typically, special town meetings are held for some financial housekeeping (bills from previous fiscal years) or emergency appropriations. Many people object to special town meetings. How can the towns justify putting such a transformational question in front of the voters at what are typically less well attended special meetings? What's the rush?

11. In anticipation of such a vote, how will the voters get pros-and-cons information beyond what the 8 Town group provides? Who will compile such information and how might it be distributed?

At this point I am neither for nor against the merger proposal, but the full range of considerations have not been broadly communicated to the general public. Obviously, this is a very complex issue and not easily simplified. The 8 Town group has held on the order of 180 open public meetings, and all the agendas and minutes are easily available (8town.org). That kind of transparency, and the efforts made by the RSDPB members, is laudable. Probably many of the questions I raise have already been discussed in some of these meetings, but it cannot be expected that as we are approaching a decision, our citizens, even those who work to stay informed, are going to have the time or knowledge to wade through all that. This is why we have representatives, and we need to be well informed by both facts and opinions.

— Stephen Moore



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Knox Gallery in August

Many visitors were able to enjoy Patricia Hogan's watercolor Berkshire scenes, and Mary Claire Hogan's marker and colored pencil renderings of insects. *Patricia and Mary Claire Hogan: Nature and Nurture* opened on June 16. The exhibition was on display through July 22, so we hope most of you took a look at these beautifully executed pieces. They are a delight to see! We had a great turnout for the Hogans' opening reception, which featured a custom tablecloth printed with Mary Claire's images.

After the Hogans' exhibit closed the Knox Gallery took a brief break to make space for the "world-famous" Monterey Library Book Sale, which was held on July 29. Lots of books and plants for sale at great prices! We appreciate all who patronized to support our library.

Did you pick up your August *Monterey News* right at the start of the month? Please don't miss Midori Curtis' *Improvisation*, which will open at Knox Gallery on August 4, the first weekend following the book sale. That evening she will speak about her work at 5 p.m.

Curtis is a master printmaker who uses various printmaking processes to create harmony between juxtaposed cultures and aesthetics. This exhibit features monoprints and woodblock prints. The artist is widely exhibited and her work is in collections of prominent museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of



Freedom, © Midori Curtis

Art in New York. We are thrilled that she is willing to talk about her work and her processes, and hope you will attend and ask her questions. Thanks to the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils for supporting our artists' talks.

We are delighted that Sarah Varney, Monterey resident and prominent field reporter for NPR, PBS, and other outlets, will join Curtis for this talk—as interviewer and prompter. Although Varney's main focus is on health care issues, she took on the task of interviewing Monterey artists for the *175th Monterey Anniversary Book*, so she is well-prepared for this occasion.

A reception will follow the artist's talk, starting at around 6 p.m.



Improvisation © Midori Curtis

Midori Curtis' *Improvisation* will be on view through September 9. JD Logan's *Shapes and Colors* will open on September 15, with a reception on Friday, September 22. Please mark your calendars.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). We encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. (Masks are no longer required.) Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; [Facebook.com/KnoxGallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery).

—MaryPaul Yates



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Letters of Appreciation Safe Boating Rules

As an ardent swimmer, I greatly appreciated seeing the Massachusetts Boat Safety regulations in the July issue, particularly the one about not operating motorboats or jet skis within 150 feet of any swimmer. It's not only the law and a matter of safety, but also one of simple consideration.

Most boaters get it, but some don't—swimming in the wake of motorboats and jet skis is unpleasant. So unless a swimmer is showing signs of distress, I urge jet skiers and motor boaters to consider keeping as much distance from swimmers as possible (i.e. even more than the required 150 feet), particularly if you are pulling water skiers and are practicing circles with them. I'm a friendly person on land, but in the water, just about the last thing I want to do is wave back at motor boaters and pontoon boaters who think they are being friendly by coming close to call out "hello" and wave, oblivious to the swells they leave behind long after they have buzzed away.

Thanks again for publishing the regulations and reminding the boaters in our community: Please give swimmers a break and don't make them swim in your wake.

—Galina Vromen

Letters of Appreciation Plant and Book Sale Success

Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who made the annual book and plant sale a success. Thank you to all who attended and supported the Friends of the Monterey Library. Together you all support the library to provide many types of services to everyone in this community!

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

Contributions for July

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Thank you to everyone for your continued support, and to our advertisers for their support as well.

2023 Official Coffee Club Photo

July 4, 2023



Back row: Scott Margol, Kenn Basler, George Cain, Bill Enlund, Bruce Wilkens, Frank Abbott, Cliff Weiss, Mark Wittkowsky
Front Row: Dennis Lynch, Joe D'Elia, Jim Mazza, Seth Kaufman, Gerry Clarin, Steve Kahn, Steve Dube, Michael Storch, Mark Andrews, Joe Wasiuk

Dean's List Notice

Lars-Belvin Larsson, Monterey resident and rising sophomore at the College of the Holy Cross, made the spring term dean's list with a GPA of 3.5. Lars-Belvin is the son of Karin Williams and Lars-Yngve Larsson, and grandson of E. Belvin Williams and Bella August, members of the Monterey community since 1967.

Lars-Belvin moved to Monterey from Sweden in 2017 to attend high school in Massachusetts. Lars-Belvin is a member of the Holy Cross men's varsity golf team. When at home in Monterey he enjoys practicing and playing rounds on the local courses.

—Karin Williams

Monterey Library Traditional Music Performance

Hunter Andrus grew up in Monterey before moving to Asheville, North Carolina in the summer of 2022.

Hunter has found a passion in traditional root music. He began to focus on playing bluegrass music and has expanded his knowledge by playing with various bands and open mics throughout the Asheville area. Beside playing some traditional bluegrass, Hunter will also demonstrate flat-picking on his guitar. He is scheduled to play at the Monterey Library on Tuesday, August 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., highlighting songs going back to 1910.

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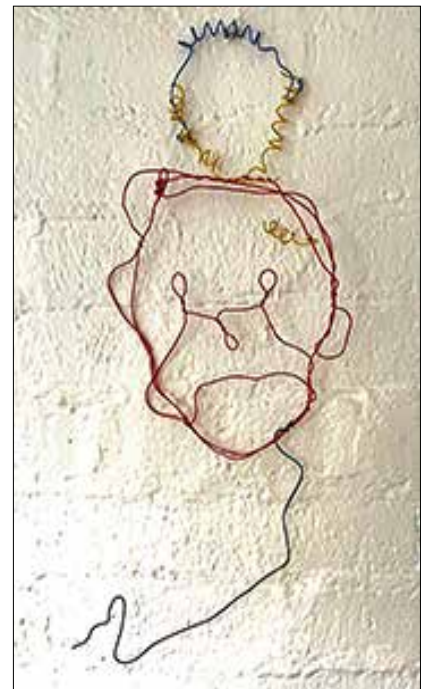
Young Creators



Kutshers Day Campers coloring a toy house they will assemble.



Emma & Aliza G. (ages 5 and 3, Main Road) hard at work painting magnets.



Lucien Ben-Gal wire drawing.

Have your kids produced some artwork over the summer?

Perhaps you'd like to share it with the town.

Contact Elizabeth Evans via email at evans.elizabethv@gmail.com.

Hippo

There's something about Egypt
Bangles sang a song—walk like an...
and then ride a carousel
round and round-good times
but then it stops-you get off
and the computer registers
your entrance and exit
There is a hippo watching you
Big mouth-big teeth
Hippo sees mud in your future
Yawns a big yawn
Ok, you can get back on the carousel
chipping paint and dull eyes
The computer is replaced
The hippo is a digital image
carousels don't throw you off
There is a chance to wonder and dream
slow, tedious—like a hippo

Butterflies and Tractors
Monarchs must have a sense of humor
Flying past the author of a book on migration
She jokes that she paid them to
As she speaks about research

A woman with a pearl earring oohs and ahhs
silly superfluous, sweet factual
And there is a tractor model called a Caterpillar
The Caterpillar tractor is parked at the camp
From delicacy to machinery
from mental intake to control
The monarch breeds, eats, flies
The tractor, parked, awaits
projects to complete. Eventually to
rust away in some junkyard

The monarchs had perched on tree branches
Fallen wings of the deceased blanketed the floor
color symmetry growth decay beauty
The author had traced the patterns-journaled results

There is the ironic crossover in language
the way words are used to identify
The march of time and progress
it is a harsh association
Monarchs must have a sense of humor

—Sara Rappaport

Who's Who Mickey Jervas

Mickey Jervas is a believer in libraries.

Growing up in Queens, Mickey and her older sister would receive two dimes from their mother to visit the neighborhood library, a dime for the bus fare to the library and a dime for the trip home. The sisters traveled to the library nearly every week, picking out books from the children's section and loading up their bags.

But instead of spending their last dime on bus fare, they carried their books home on foot.

"We would walk home because we passed a fish store where you could get french fries for the other ten cents," Mickey told me. "My mother didn't know that until she was probably 95, when we told her, and she said, 'You did what!'"

At age nine, Mickey's family moved to a post-World War II development on Long Island. They just built homes and roads but no infrastructure. She remembers riding her bike some three miles to the closest library and brought home to read every book in the children's section.

She recounts these stories standing in the basement of the Monterey library, a few weeks before the annual plant and book sale. After a lifetime of earning a living—including a few years operating the town's general store—and raising her three children, this is Mickey's work now: sorting donated books into government and history, biographies, fiction, gardening, cooking. The categories are as endless as the community's appetite for reading.

Soon after the annual book sale ends, Mickey is back in the basement readying for the next year.

An ebullient and resolute champion, Mickey has helped steer the library into the future, working alongside Mark Makuc and others to envision the new library that we all enjoy and to imagine what's next. That envisioning included advocating for paid sick time for the library's part-time workers which went into effect on July 1st.

As chair of the Board of Trustees, Mickey is a fierce defender of the library.

"I have been to more Select Board meetings and more Finance Committee meetings than you ever want to shake a fist



at," she told me one afternoon at her home on Swann Road. "And if there's anything on their agenda that I think will impact the library at all, I am there."

Between the new multi-purpose room and the new larger spaces in the library, and the construction of the community center, she has watched with some pride as residents come together for art openings, lectures, and activities. Hard work pays off.

"It's tremendous," she said.

During her decades of work and family life, Mickey says she barely kept track of what was going on in town. She and her then husband had moved to Monterey in 1962 from Nassau County in Long Island and bought the Monterey General Store. "We wanted to get away," she said. "The atmosphere there was not good. I could see where young boys were going, and I didn't want that for my kids."

The young family lived above the General Store, and Mickey ran the shop with her two young boys underfoot. The boys, age two and five, rode their tricycles out front, and summer camp counselors came down in the evenings to play the jukebox. Amid the idyll, Mickey never stopped moving. She gave birth to her daughter at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, and she was back selling bread and cheese to her customers days later.

Moving from suburban Long Island to Monterey came with a few culture shocks. Mickey remembers moving to their new home above the store in November and

soon learning that the first week of December was "Deer Week" and everyone, it seemed, had the week off from work. "I said, 'What do you mean you're not at work?!'"

Two years later, after working eleven-hour days and unable to turn a profit, Mickey and her husband sold the General Store. Following a divorce in 1974, she landed a job as a secretary at Otis Woods Land, a new vacation home development with 250 untouched lots. She was there from the beginning before any homes were built earning \$3.50 an hour. She learned quickly, paying close attention to the lawyers and bankers that came into the office and brushing off the yawning gap in pay between her and the men in the office.

Years later, Mickey would buy the business. She remembers how she always addressed the bankers and lawyers she worked with as "Mr. So-and-So." The day after she bought the business, she said, "I was calling them by their first name."

Mickey retired in 2004, and soon after she remembers that Mark Makuc approached her about getting involved in the library.

She first won a seat on the Board of Trustees in 2007, a three-year position, and has run successfully for every subsequent term. The vision for a new library was beginning to come into focus when Mickey joined the Board, and by the summer of 2015 she wrote the library's "Request for Qualifications" to begin the project in earnest.

"I had no training in building, but I asked questions, and I knew when not to accept things," she said.

Eight decades after finding her way to the library in her Queens neighborhood, Mickey has no plans to leave our gem of a library in Monterey. On Sunday evening after the library plant and book sale, I caught Mickey on the phone at home. "How's your day been?" I asked, assuming she'd finally been able to relax after all her work sorting books in the basement.

She responded enthusiastically, "I just got back from the library sorting and weeding out books for next year's book sale!"

— Sarah Varney



Remembrance

Joan Finney Wing

Joan Finney Wing, a long-time summer resident of Monterey, passed away on May 25, 2023 at the age of eighty-eight. Joan and her husband Terry spent summer vacations in Monterey at the family cottage on Lake Garfield where their children, grandchildren, and countless friends remember happy times. They were summer congregants of the Monterey United Church of Christ.

Joan grew up in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ, and graduated from Ursinus College. She met her future husband, Arthur Kyle Wing III (Terry) when she was in high school. She and Terry were inseparable during summers when they were camp counselors at Episcopal camps, and later when they were Wynant volunteers in London. They married in 1957 after graduating from college. Joan's early married life was devoted to raising her family of three boys, Arthur (Robin), Daniel, and John, and volunteering in church and community activities while Terry served as a parish priest for Episcopal congregations.

When their sons were well into school age, Joan began her thirty-year career in teaching. She spent the majority of her career at Teaneck High School and Thomas Jefferson Junior High School in Teaneck, NJ. She taught English, history, and English as a second language, but her true love was teaching reading. She earned a master's degree at Teachers College, Columbia University and completed course work for her PhD, while working full time. She continued teaching in Teaneck even after the family moved to Montclair, NJ and later to Suffern, NY.

Joan retired from teaching in 1998 and devoted more time to volunteer work. She was Peep in the clown duo of "Beau and Peep" that she and Terry created for the Clowns 'R' Us Program of the Rockland County Senior Volunteers. She also served as a hospital ombudsman with the NY Statewide Senior Action Council, and on the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Suffern.

In 2017 Joan and Terry moved to Bristol Glen, a United Methodist continuing care retirement community, in Newton, NJ. In addition to caring for Terry, she



participated as a welcoming ambassador for new residents, wrote for the community newsletter, and served on the scholarship fund committee for seminarians.

Joan is survived by her sons Robin (Sharlene) and Dan (Yvette), grandson Adam (Harriet), granddaughter Sarah Wing (Brian Shoyer), her sister-in-law Delight Dodyk (Paul), and nieces Phebe Dodyk Kiryk and Michaela Dodyk Schulz. Her son John passed away in 2004 and her husband, Terry, passed away in 2022. A celebration of Joan's life was held in July at the Monterey Church. The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires.

— Delight Dodyk



Joan reading with Adam in Monterey.

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Remembrance Gerry Shapiro

Long-time Monterey resident Gerry Shapiro passed away a few weeks ago, aged ninety-four. She and her husband David, who survives her, had been married for nearly seventy years, much of that time spent in the Berkshires—in the 1950s they lived in Stockbridge where she led art workshops for guests at Austin Riggs. A one-time student at Black Mountain College, Gerry was an artist and an architect who contributed much to our community, including remodels of various local houses and an addition to the library. She also worked on the planning board, the Wilson-McLaughlin house, and as a town assessor. But perhaps she will as much be remembered for her warm smile and open presence—those who met her, even briefly, often had lasting and fond memories of her—she was that kind of a person.

Along with her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Monterey resident Julie, son-in-law Allan Dean, granddaughter Eloisa, and her son Ben of New York City. If you would like to make a donation, the family suggests Friends of the Monterey Library, or the Monterey Community Center.

—Julie Shapiro

Remembrance Doug McTavish

Douglas Graham McTavish, 79, was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, to Charlie McTavish and Mary “Bink” (Telford) McTavish on December 9, 1944. He was the youngest of four children and the only boy. He is predeceased by his beloved sister Mary McTavish, and is survived by sisters Nairne Brown, Elizabeth “Betsy” Vint; his wife JoAnn Bell; three children Rebecca (Jason Woliner), Emily (Charlie Eaton), and Charles (Lauren Bochicchio); as well as his three grandchildren Magnus, Roland, and Conway Douglas.

Doug attended McGill University and went on to spent his career working in the financial markets beginning across Canada. He and his future wife moved to New York City in 1979 while working for Dominion Securities. He retired as a managing director in bond sales at RW Pressprich.

Doug leveraged his charisma and considerable skills as a conversationalist throughout his career and built many friendships that lasted a lifetime. He was renowned for his outgoing nature, always capitalizing on every opportunity to strike up a friendly conversation with a stranger. He enjoyed skiing, good food, sailing, and regaling anyone who would listen regarding his children’s accomplishments.

After retiring to his home in Monterey which they bought in 1986 he built a new, beloved community; greatly enjoying his time with the local Monterey Coffee Club, where he enjoyed the final morning of his life among friends. He will be remembered fondly for his generosity, sense of humor, loyalty, openness, and kindness. He found his greatest joy in the last years of his life spending time with his children and



grandchildren, his beloved dog, Magnolia, and his loving wife JoAnn.

Eulogy for Doug McTavish

Editor’s Note: At a memorial service for Doug McTavish, his son gave the eulogy. Below are some portions from it.

My father was a master of friendship, conversation, and caring which he utilized throughout his career and throughout his life. I have historically described my father’s personality as “Pathologically outgoing.” Walking around any public place, eating a meal in a restaurant, or taking any form of public transit was a surefire opportunity to experience the way that my father viewed the world—as an endless opportunity to meet new people. I always said that my father’s idea of heaven would be a cocktail party filled with strangers, preferably good-looking women, with whom he could chat, charm, and discover what he would describe as an “incredible” web of coincidences and connections between people’s lives.

His constant habit of beginning a conversation with every single person, cab driver, waiter, cashier was renowned and >



perhaps even infamous, driving his family crazy if we were in a rush or trying to move from one activity to the next. There was the time when he encountered a Chinese food delivery driver stuck, trying to drive up a snowy hill in Westchester; he stopped, gave the man a ride in his four-wheel drive car to his delivery destination and then brought him back to his car safely. The delivery man attempted to give my father the tip money, but he demurred.

I was worried about my Dad when he retired to Monterey after commuting into midtown Manhattan five days a week for decades; concerned that this supremely gregarious man would become isolated and lonely. But my anxiety was unfounded—he built a warm community of fellows and friends in the Berkshires, taking great joy in the local Monterey coffee club, lift/lunch/and crunch bunch, and weekly dinners at the Old Inn on the Green with his compadres. He was famous for his storytelling and the now lost art of telling jokes—many of which I didn't hear as a child as they were usually quite off-color.

Another quirk of his personality was that although he had dined in some of the finest Michelin-starred restaurants in

the world and had a discerning palate, he would also take great joy in more humble food, such as the lobster roll from Price Chopper, which he thought was “absolutely incredible.” When drinking became, as he called it, “a corrosive element” in his life, he chose to relinquish that habit and it certainly extended his life and the quality of that life, setting a great example for his family on how to continue to change and evolve as an adult into healthier modes of living.

When I became involved with the non-profit organization Road Recovery, a music therapy program harnessing the arts to help young people facing adversity and addiction, he became an incredibly active member, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the organization and attending countless trips as a chaperone including three memorable benefit concerts at the Nokia Times Square theater that were headlined by the likes of Slash, Guns and Roses, Rage against the Machine, and Jane's Addiction. True to form, this experience once again demonstrated my father's ability to talk to anyone. At one concert he befriended “Sen Dog” of the hip-hop group Cypress Hill, known for such masterpieces as “Hits from the Bong.” He struck up a long conversation with this rapper and enjoyed meeting him so much that he even played the song “How I Could Just Kill a Man” on repeat for the next few months.

Another exemplar of his poise, charm, and guile was when we were attending a comedy show at Carnegie Hall. Dad got separated from our group. He had no backstage pass or credentials to the area where celebrities such as Kanye West and Jon Hamm were hobnobbing, yet when the rest of the family arrived he was already in the backstage area. He told us something to the effect of, “I just chatted up security and let them know I'm with the performer and they let me right in.”

I think we can all take note of my father's approach and I hope to incorporate his worldview into my own life. I hope to take the time to say hello to passersby, say a kind word to a grocery store clerk, and remain curious about the lives of people who come across our paths, even if briefly. Perhaps I can bring some sense of warmth, kindness, and curiosity in what can otherwise be a transactional world.

My father was a fiercely loyal friend and remained in regular contact with his

friends via prodigious use of the telephone, spending hours chatting almost every day. He was a thoughtful man and somehow documented an exhaustive list of birthdays with alarms set on his phone and would oftentimes reach out to his children to make sure they wished close friends of theirs a happy birthday, people who he barely knew but we would have otherwise forgotten. He fiercely loved his children, their spouses, and grandchildren, and took parental pride to its apex waxing eloquent about his three children and their partners to all who would listen. Every time one of his children would call him he would expound on how much it meant to him that we called him, how it uplifted his day, and how proud he was of us, every time; he left it all on the table, he always let us know we were loved.

In the last years of his life, having lived with open heart surgery as a teenager, blocked arteries, lymphoma, a stroke, heart failure, and prostate cancer, he extolled my mother's virtues and thanked her constantly for her partnership. Without her energy, drive, pragmatism, and steely resolve my father would have died many years before his time, and words will never express the gratitude we all hold for the way she took care of him. And she was with him at the end. My father passed away on our back porch in this beautiful town of Monterey that he loved so much, with his wife by his side, holding him as he took his last breaths. As heartbroken as I am, I am so grateful fate afforded my father a beautiful death at the conclusion of such a beautiful life.

Thank you.

His son, Charles

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New Neighbor: A Treasure

This neighbor is a plant, completely and truly new in my life. I walk a favorite path every morning early before the sun is up, looking all around, listening. Suddenly I spy a plant never before seen by me, never imagined. It is taller than I am! Up a slim stalk, up and up, with curling tendrils spiraling up and away, and gleaming green leaves. Where the leaves come out from the stalk there are also long strong peduncles sticking up with balls of many buds on their own slim stalks. Some buds are open, white-yellow teeny flowers, and some lower down around the ball or pom-pom are still tight buds. That five-inch peduncle holds up a ball of about fifty teeny buds and flowers on their little stems. It makes a sphere. There are many of them on this plant, waving above my head, with its main strong stalk about three-quarters of an inch across but seven feet tall, slimmer at the top.

I take pictures with my phone. There are drops of dew gleaming on the little buds, also along the stems, some drops hanging in perfect rows, all like jewels. The sun is coming up.

When I get home we look it up and find it is called "smooth carrion flower." What an odd name for such a marvel! More research and I find it is felt to have a terrible smell like carrion. Thoreau is said to have compared its odor to that of a "dead rat in a wall."



Maybe it only gives off this remarkable odor when specialist pollinators are about, maybe in the hot broad sunlight of day. Or maybe only at night. Who are its pollinators, and what do its seeds look like? I am in for long-term study. I read more and learn it makes dark blue-purple berries, one at the end of each little flower stalk, and that if I wait long enough and if the pollinators have found my plant, I can try eating them. Some bird must have done this and brought a seed here to my morning walk, but according to the books, this plant

has separate male and female plants, it is dioecious. Two households. There would have to be an individual of the other sex within smelling and flying distance of this one for fertilization to occur. One of my human neighbors thinks she has seen this kind of plant at her place. Maybe hers is one of the other sex and we'll get fruit. As the days tick by and more blossoms open, all I see visiting are very small ants. I hope they will do the trick, but they may have had to walk a long way on their short legs. And their motivation is just a meal, not distribution or continuation of a species, not genetic mixing.

After a few weeks, the blossoms and their little stalks have all dropped, leaving a small textured green ball where fifty of them grew from the end of the peduncle. Is this the thing that could transform itself into a lot of berries, meant to attract more players: birds, me? We can be the agents of distribution, but only if there is fruit for us to eat. We are still waiting. Maybe the little green ball left on my new neighbor plant is just the attachment place for all those teeny flowers. Maybe they were male flowers giving pollen to the story but not ovaries. You don't get fruit without those.

Meanwhile, the plant has not been standing still. It has gotten so tall it has leaned over and clasped a nearby oak sapling with its irresistible curling tendrils. This is not a choke hold, just hanging on and keeping off the ground, not blowing away. Will the same smooth carrion flower be back next year, right here, from the same roots, up from the ground? Will it make

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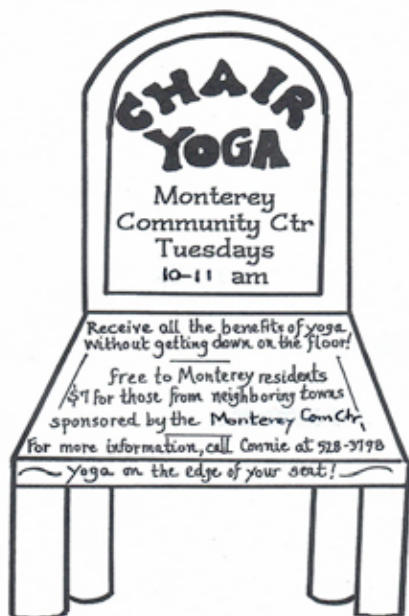
it through the winter above ground hanging onto its oak tree, and keep on getting longer and growing up with the oak next summer? Will the carrion-smell-loving insects come to find it and take its pollen to fertile ground, or bring pollen to it? I will be watching.

I will also be reading and asking around. So far I have learned it is referred to as “smooth” only because its close relatives are thorny: the catbriers. Our plant here is described by one early botanist as being “unarmed.” The catbriers often grow around the edges of fields and seem impenetrable. But there is a bird that appreciates them and nests there. Even this bird is described as being “skulking.” This is the yellow-breasted chat, which issues “a bizarre series of hoots, whistles, and clucks, coming from the brier tangles.”

We folks have a tough time describing newcomers and mysteries without displaying our disapproval. Words like “bizarre,” “armed,” and “alien.” Not to mention “invasive.” Is this some downside of language, or are we really so scared, defensive?

If my new plant from another world settles here, I will dream of the yellow-breasted chat with its burbles and clucks. My 1970 *Birds of Massachusetts* uses words like rare, uncommon, very uncommon, but does report them in the 1950s and 1960s in South Egremont and Sheffield. They may come to Hupi Road. Meanwhile I will appreciate the plant and its tiny ants.

—Bonner McAllester



Bidwell House Museum Late Summer Events

Between the almost daily thunderstorms and air quality alerts, the weather has felt quite unsettled this summer. All of us at the Bidwell House Museum are keeping our fingers crossed for sun and low humidity for our “Party Gras” fundraiser on Saturday, August 19. Our theme this year is mardi gras and we have such a fun night planned for all of our friends and supporters! Planet Zydeco will be onsite playing bayou-inspired dance music and we will have a selfie station with a fantastic mardi gras backdrop. Kate Baldwin’s catering will be serving up their delectable hors d’oeuvres and cocktails; and we have some great auction items to bid on. There may even be a king cake! Our honorees this year are Delight and Paul Dodyk, long-time friends of the Bidwell House. Join us as we thank them for their many years of generosity, enthusiasm, and dedication to the museum. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and all proceeds from this annual event go towards maintaining the beautiful house and collection, supporting and growing the education programs, and stewarding our 194 acres of open space. For more information and tickets, head to the museum website, bidwellhousemuseum.org/, under the “Events” tab.

Coming up at the end of August, we have our final history talk of the season. Saturday, August 26, at 11 a.m. Dr. Kenneth Minkema, Director of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University will speak. His talk, “Religion and Slavery

in Colonial New England,” discusses the significant extent to which the peoples of New England participated in—and profited from—enslavement and the slave trade. This lecture will be held on Zoom and pre-registration is required through the “Events” tab of the museum website (above).

Don’t forget that the Bidwell House is open for house tours by appointment on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The tours last about an hour and they are a great way to learn the history of the eighteenth-century Berkshires! Tour tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior, \$5 for students and free for kids 12 and under. Call the museum at (413) 528-688, or email us at bidwellhm2@gmail.com to book your tour.

You could spend a whole afternoon at the museum exploring the gardens, hiking the trails, taking a house tour, and even enjoying a packed lunch at our picnic tables. As always, the museum grounds are open all year free of charge. You can also take the “Outside the House” tour or walk the Native American Interpretive Trail. Maps of the trails can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the website. The program of events can be found on the museum’s website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Hope you are all having a great summer!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Monterey Softball Open Call

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Monday Night Supper Club

August Theme: Fruitful Harvest

Our July supper club was themed “Take A Dip,” and it was a hop, chip, and a jump away from one of my favorite supper clubs I’ve been to. After seeing muffin tin after muffin tin filled with batter throughout my life, seeing the metal cups filled with salsa, tzatziki, hummus, guacamole, artichoke dip, and even fondue (just to mention a few) was the refresh I needed to reframe those awkward-fitting pieces of bakeware.

Speaking of bakeware, it may come in handy for our August supper club, because the theme is “Fruitful Harvest.” Despite the late frost that devastated so many of our local orchards’ blossoms, let’s be grateful for and celebrate what we do have. Pies, compotes, coulis, clafoutis, I will not go on...but I could. If you would rather be creative on the savory side of things, there are many delicious dishes that celebrate fruit, whether it be fresh, dried, preserved, or juiced. There is no need for your dish to contain native fruit, just fruit in general—even if it’s simply lemon juice.

Our dinner is Monday, August 14, at 6 p.m. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to supperclubmonterey@gmail.com for further details.

—Hanna Jensen

Cookbook Club

August 28: The New Rules

The monthly Monterey Cookbook Club met for the second time on Monday, July 24, at the community center. There were seven of us with Elaine Lynch and Susan Johnson hosting. The featured cook book was *The Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook*. We had a wonderful lunch of several soups, a bean stew, a watermelon feta cheese salad and finished with four desserts. The conversation was lively and informative and the meal was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 28, at 11:45 a.m., at the community center. The featured cookbook will be the Milk Street book, *The New Rules*. Copies will be available at the library. Please mark the recipe you have chosen with your name on a post-it, available at the library desk. Wendy Jensen and Susan Johnson will be hosting this meeting. Twelve spots are available, so please register with Wendy Jensen by her email wendygj@gmail.com.

—Susan Johnson

Foxtail Legacy

Author Events

There are two upcoming events for the novel, *The Foxtail Legacy*. In the February *Monterey News* Laura Litwin wrote up an author’s interview for an article about *Foxtail*.

Saturday, August 12, noon to 1 p.m., I’ll be giving a book talk about *Foxtail* at the Monterey Library.

Saturday, August 19, noon to 2 p.m., I’ll be at The Bookloft on Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington, signing copies and chatting with readers.

You can purchase *The Foxtail Legacy* at The Bookloft, and I will be happy to sign a copy at their venue. Hope to see you!

—David Abromowitz



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Monterey Historical Society Gould Farm—Development of a Dream

Thursday evening on July 20, Bob Rausch gave a wonderful and moving talk entitled “Gould Farm and the Development of a Dream” telling how Agnes and Will Gould came to Monterey in 1913 and founded Gould Farm after many other adventures. The following is part one of a synopsis of Bob’s talk.

Bob brought dozens of old photographs and other memorabilia about Gould Farm, which the audience thoroughly enjoyed. After the talk, there was a lively Q&A with the audience.



Will Gould was born in 1867 and raised in Schroon Lake, NY, in the southern Adirondacks. His father was a farmer and Congregational preacher, but died when Will was only six years old. At this early age, Will became the main support for his mother and four sisters, learning how to make do and prosper through hard work deeply rooted in Christian faith. This work ethic served him well throughout the rest of his life and career.

In 1894, Will and his family left Schroon Lake and moved to Whately, MA. Will attended Bangor Theological Seminar for one year and did very well, but he decided his path led elsewhere. He worked very successfully at a camp for maladjusted adolescents in Freeville, NY. He had learned much but “felt the urge to explore additional approaches to healing from the pressures of modern stress.”

Will’s odyssey next led him to Becket, MA, where he and his three sisters established a Boy’s Camp providing a homelike environment.

In 1903, Agnes Goodyear moved to Becket with her invalid mother to live

with her aunt and uncle. She attended the Becket Congregational Church where she met Will Gould. Agnes was a granddaughter of Charles W. Goodyear who discovered the process for vulcanization of rubber. (Charles Goodyear was a successful inventor, but had chosen not to “secure an immense fortune” from his invention; Agnes’ family was well-to-do, but had lost most of its money by the time she married.) Will and Agnes were married September 14, 1905.

Soon, Will and Agnes moved to another farm in Conway, MA. He “took his herd of cattle and walked the fifty long miles ... taking some of the boys with him. The rest came later.” Bob Rausch explained that “despite Agnes not being accustomed to the rigors of country life, before long they were just like any team that works together. They needed to work together with strength and patience, for there were many moves yet before reaching Gould Farm.” These moves included: East Brookfield and Spencer, MA; Port Monmouth, NJ in 1909; to Bethel, CT; to Delanson, NY, where, according to Agnes’ cousin, Eleanor Goodyear, they “picked up the nucleus of the family that established the work” that eventually became Gould Farm.

In 1911, the extended family moved to Winsted, CT and began taking in patients from New York Hospital, Bellevue Hospital, and others. While the patients were medically ready for discharge, the individuals were not ready to go home. Working on Will and Agnes’ farm and in the kitchen worked wonders, and the individuals returned to the city with a “new outlook on life.” Will and Agnes’s family grew to fifty during their second summer in Winsted. But not enough land was available to satisfy the need. “Will was convinced,” Agnes later recalled, “that a gathering of people in the home was what appeared to be most important ... so we had to find another location.”

Consulting with a real estate agent in Great Barrington, Will toured several old farms in south Berkshire, including the former Shaker property in Tyringham. Finally Will saw a “deserted farm near Monterey Village. The original house had been well built in about 1800 but in recent years a rather poorly constructed extension had been added so that the whole building



William J. Gould & Agnes C. (Goodyear) Gould

could serve as a boarding house.” This was called “Echo Stock Farm.”

Although the house was in poor condition with a tar paper roof and peeling paint, Agnes recalled that Will “went down cellar, stuck his pocket knife in the timbers, and found them solid, so the die was cast.” Mr. Barbey of New York Hospital had been so impressed with Will’s work in Winsted that he loaned him funds to further his work. Will sold all the vegetables at the Winsted farm to finance the family’s move. Just before Thanksgiving 1913, Will and Agnes Gould purchased the 105-acre farm and the family relocated to Monterey by cart and train.

The Town of Monterey embraced Will and Agnes and their farm family. The general store offered use of the telephone; other neighbors assured a supply of ice cut from Lake Garfield. Catching Will Gould’s enthusiasm and learning of his reputation, notes were paid off and expenses were finally met. Will wanted to own all the land next to him and gradually acquired five other abandoned farms to support the physical and spiritual nourishment of the growing farm family.

Gould Farm had finally found its home in Monterey.

Next month will conclude this synopsis of Bob Rausch’s talk.

The next third Thursday History Talk will be on August 17, at 7 p.m. in the library. Rob Hoogs will reprise his illustrated talk “Monterey in Pics.” The last time, we had technical issues with the projector. Hopefully this time, the audience will be able to see the pictures.

Thanks for your interest in the Monterey Historical Society.

—Rob Hoogs

Wildlife in July

Deer, Frogs, Beavers, Bears, Bugs, Birds, and More

This has been a wonderful month in the wilds of Monterey. Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road has been keeping an eye on the robin's nest under his deck, where a first brood hatched and departed and now there is a second clutch in incubation. Lin Saberski sent an account and photograph (below) of a turkey family on their way up the driveway from her and Bob's place. There were youngsters of two different sizes, or ages. It is not unusual for turkey families to join up like this. As the car slowly came along behind them, the turkeys first walked faster, then took to the air, bigger ones first, and finally the last two smallest ones. Lin says it was as if they suddenly realized—we, too, can fly!



David Abromowitz took a remarkable photograph (front page) of a Green Heron in a beaver pond down the road, and Karen Williamson Quenneville came upon a Barred Owl on a sign. She took a photograph (above right), and we can assume the owl has written permission from the owner to be hunting in this place. Maybe the owl is the owner.

Al and Myrna Schneiderman happily announced the birth, or hatching, of their nearby “grandbirds.” These babies are off on their own now, having left their nest in the hemlock tree near the Schneiderman's place, in early July. Myrna also reported a visit from a young bear who came by as Myrna sat on her deck, writing to me. The bear ran off.



Near the end of June, Nancy Kleban on Beartown Mountain Road saw a small bear in her yard and took a photograph (top right), also a video of the bear striding along at a purposeful walk. Ann Higgins saw a young bear more recently, the last week in July. She writes, “I went out for my morning walk and as I was about to start down New Marlborough Road a very young bear cub ran across the road a few feet in front of me towards the community garden.” Ann continued her walk, on high alert for the mama, who was not seen. Earlier Ann saw “an antlered deer, grazing on the slope above our house.”

Kari Weil saw a graceful doe near the sign for Brewer Pond Park, and Sharon Edelstein took a photograph (right) of a sweet young doe in the woods near her house.



We have fox reports and photographs from Stacy Wallach, of a grey fox and from Carol Edelman, a red one (top left next page). Carol says they see this fox or one just like it almost every afternoon. In related news, perhaps, they are not seeing many chipmunks or squirrels this summer.

Still in the mammals department, there is a family of otters in Lake Garfield, seen often by Delight Dodyk. Delight says there are trees knocked down along the >



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Gray fox above, red fox below..



> shore thanks to erosion caused by the wake of fast motorboats (below). The upturned roots have made a good home for the otters. An otter's home is called a "holt."

Colleen Johnson went for a walk early one morning and watched a beaver moving along a shallow stream. The stream went under a bridge and so did the beaver. And thanks to Roberta Weis we have a charming photograph (bottom) of a "very fluffy skunk family on the lawn next to Town Hall. Mama and two babies."



As for insects, we are lucky to have so many. Maureen Banner sent a close-up of a bee on the flower of an onion ally, maybe a chive (above left). Ed Salsitz found a Red Admiral butterfly on a screen in New York City, at the hospital where he works (left). Ed also found a Waved Sphinx Moth (top), and a Tiger Swallowtail on a red lily (above).

Bonsai Cox took a great photograph (below) of a green dragonfly which is a female Eastern Pondhawk. If it were a male, it would look blue as the thorax and abdomen of the males are dusted with a white waxy coating. This is called "pruinosity," and the green shows through a bit on the thorax. Why the females do not develop pruinosity is a good question. It is somehow protective.

There's more, next page! >



Thai Yoga Bodywork

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More wildlife from previous page

Maureen Banner sent in a photograph (right) of a striking beetle, which is shiny metallic green with long yellow legs. My guess is that it is one of the many species of “tiger beetles,” in the family Carabidae, all of which are said to be “fleet of foot.” Pat Arnow took a photograph of a bumble bee and a Great Spangled Fritillary butterfly sharing an echinacea flower (below).

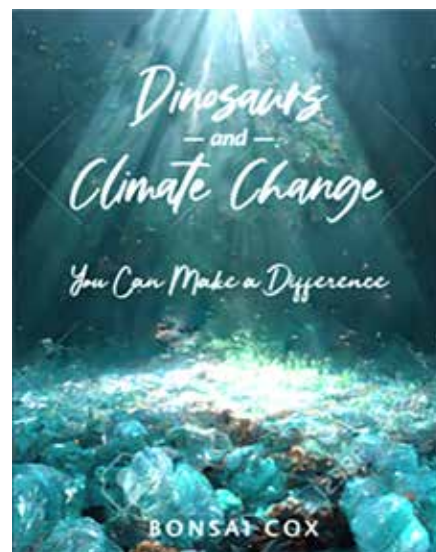


Pat also sent in one of the frog photographs (right, upper) this month, clearly an amphibian as it is both in and out of the water. The other one we have comes from Alyssa Lovell on Hupi Road (right), who reports “peepers abounding in the shrubbery” recently. This one she calls a “cabbage peeper.” That is a napa cabbage.

Thank you, for your photographs and sightings, for your love of the wild world around us.

—Bonner McAllester

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Books in Brief

Dinosaurs and Climate Change

Bonsai Cox

As it says on the back cover, “Thor is a triceratops. He dreams of a world far in the future where all the dinosaurs are gone. New creatures called humans live there instead. And the human world is in trouble.”

Though this is a book with dynamic illustrations, it’s not a picture book. While it’s about climate change, Thor and his friends share their daily adventures. They help a friend in trouble, spend time with another friend who writes songs, and encounter a younger dinosaur who’s being bullied. And while it’s child-friendly and child-intriguing, it’s for readers of all ages and the people they love. Or, as readers have already said,

“You hit many relevant topics. Your writing was very visual, the art work is gorgeous and I love the texture of the paper!”

“Wow! I just finished reading *Dinosaurs and Climate Change*! What a powerful message told in such a creative fashion. Thank you for your book, your words, and the inspiration that we can all make a difference.”

Dinosaurs and Climate Change is available from The Bookloft or Williams & Sons Country Store in Stockbridge, and available to borrow from the Monterey and Mason libraries. Maybe Thor’s dreams will make a difference in your life, too.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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The Ornerly Fisher Cat

The fisher cat, a weasel (which does not fish, nor is a cat) has a typical weasel anatomy with a long slender body, short legs, and a fuzzy tail. It has a long pointed face with large rounded ears set close to the head. The males are considerably larger than the females. It is well adapted for climbing with sharp retractable claws similar to that of a domestic cat. Their rear paws have the unusual ability to pivot almost backwards letting them climb down trees head first, one of the few mammals that can do this. It is generally a rich brown-to-black with grizzled graying on the head and shoulders. Females may have large white patches on their chests and lower abdomen, camouflage left over from late spring winter blizzards.

Breeding happens in March or April shortly after birthing a litter. The fertilized egg is not implanted until almost ten months later. As in my illustration, the females produce only one litter of three or four kits per year. After several months they are moved from the maternity den to a larger cavity located high up in a hollow large tree. Then after more months they are transferred to a nest in the ground as the kits are shielded from that time on until they can fend for themselves. At about five months they are pushed from the nest to fend for themselves.

Problems with fishers may sometimes arise but are usually restricted to predatory attacks on domestic birds, rabbits, and rarely, free-ranging house cats. If you want to make your property less attractive to fishers, keep the ground around your feeders clean as seed feeders attract many small animals like squirrels that fishers prey on. Remove any exposed garbage, compost, and pet food that attract small animals. Don't hesitate to apply water sprayed from a hose with loud noises to frighten them away. Be sure to protect your pets and poultry because they view them as food. Poultry especially should be kept inside. Fishers are also known as one of the few animals that will kill a porcupine, which they do primarily by attacking their faces with so many bites the weakened porcupine simply can no longer defend itself.



Their smaller weasel cousin, the ferret, is famous for killing every chicken they can locate. The fisher's larger relative, the Michigan wolverine, is even more aggressive than any other members of the weasel family.

This article may seem like a tall tale with fisher cats an unlikely backyard visitor. But they are real, and very feisty, as are all weasels. I hope you can one day have a personal opportunity with the Ornerly Fisher Cat.

—George B. Emmons



Axelrod's accordion, and Martin's violin and viola. Photo by John Touwsma.

Martin/Axelrod Concert

On probably the most beautiful afternoon of the summer of 2023, ninety-plus people attended a wonderful concert by Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod at the Monterey Community Center. Considering that Tanglewood was having a free concert for Berkshire County residents at the same time, it appeared that the Martin/Axelrod duo were stiff competition. Martin, on fiddle, and Axelrod on keyboard and accordion, delighted the audience under the tent with music from England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, as well as the US. While there were some quieter tunes and a lovely waltz, much of the music set the audience's feet tapping. At one point, Axelrod asked the audience to try not to

smile during the upcoming piece and while people tried valiantly to remain grim, it was a losing battle after a few bars. Their music just made people smile.

A surprise addition to the duo was the presence of Eric Martin's student, Sadie Honig-Briggs from Tyngham, who played along in several numbers. Having the two fiddles playing created a richer sound and Sadie charmed the audience with her musical ability. Overall, it was a delightful afternoon, with perfect weather, incredible music and an audience who appreciated both. Many thanks to the Monterey Cultural Council for their grant to the MCC for the summer concert series. And mark your calendar for the next performance on Sunday, August 20, featuring Peter Poirier.

—Laurie Shaw



Select Board Corner

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

MontereyMA.gov

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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Frank Abbott
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(frank@montereyma.gov)



Roadside 2.0, as of July 28, 2023.

Photo by Stephen Moore

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

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528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

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Community Center: 528-3600

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montereylibrary@gmail.com

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528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

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montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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



Thursday evening, July 22, Monterey's Peter Poirier (at left) held a concert in the church with his friend Hash Brown from Texas, center, and other band mates. The music was excellent, there was room for folks to get up and dance. The band was paid by passing a collection basket.

Photo by Lin Saberski



Coffee Has Come to Town

The "BestDamn Espresso" truck was parked in the village a few times in July. No general store, no roadside, but BDE! To check their schedule, text "BDE" at 844.659.1203.

Coffee drink photo by Denise Carnese.



Calendar

Monterey Community Center (MCC) list of events on page 8.

Council on Aging list of events on page 9.

Sundays: Monterey softball begins again. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30 as weather permits.

Friday, August 4: Artists talk, Midori Curtis, 5 p.m., with reception to follow. Knox Gallery. See page 15.

Wednesday, August 9: Movie night at the Monterey Library, 7 p.m. Showing *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. See page 9.

Thursday, August 10: Monterey Master Plan: Goals and Implementation Forum, 6 to 7 p.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, August 12:

Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Berkshire National Fish Hatchery. See page 31.

Book talk, *The Foxtail Legacy*, noon to 1 p.m., library. See page 24.

Monday, August 14: Monday night supper club, 6 p.m., community center. See page 24.

Tuesday, August 15: Traditional music performance with Hunter Andrus, 7 to 9 p.m., library. See page 16.

Wednesday, August 16: Daytime book group, at 1:30 p.m., in the library. *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. See page 10.

Thursday, August 17: Monterey Historical Society, "Monterey in Pics," 7 p.m. See page 25.

Friday, August 18: Defending the Dark Skies, film and talk, 7:30 p.m., library. See page 7.

Saturday, August 19:

Bidwell House "Party Gras" fundraiser. See page 23.

Lenox Contra Dance, 7:15 to 10:30 p.m., 65 Walker Street, Lenox. Live music, all dances taught. LenoxContraDance.org.

Wednesday, August 23: Documentary film at the community center, 2 p.m., showing *Twenty Feet From Stardom*.

Saturday, August 26: Bidwell History Talk, Dr. Kenneth Minkema, "Religion and Slavery in Colonial New England." See page 23.

Monday, August 28: Cookbook club, 11:45 p.m. See page 24.

Tuesday, August 29: Main Road culvert presentation, 6 p.m., at the Monterey Library. See page 5.

Saturday, September 2: Desperate Catskill Mountain Band, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free concert under the tent, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council.

Wednesday, September 6: Main Road culvert presentation, 7 p.m., on Zoom. See page 5.



Fish in a tank at the hatchery.

Photo by Natalie Manzino

Berkshire Fish Hatchery 2022 Fishing Derby Dates

Only two more derbies this year. All events are on the second Saturdays, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., for children thirteen and younger.

The remaining dates are:

August 12

September 9

The derby is held at the lower pond at 240 Hatchery Road, New Marlborough (go down River Road in Monterey).

Sponsored by Friends of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

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

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 29; Colta Ives, p.24;
Bonner McAllester, p. 22.*

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