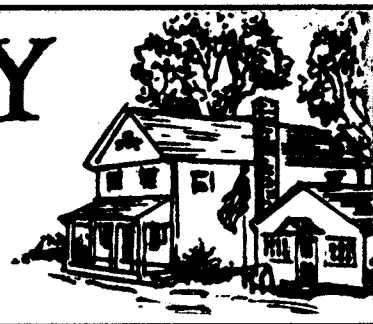


# MONTEREY NEWS

December 2022 Est. 1970  
Vol. LII · Number 12



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



*Lighting up the holidays last year at the beginning of Advent. They gathered outside at the sheep barn at Gould Farm. See page 14 for the "Season of Expectation."*

—Photo by Bev Larson

Meetings to consider budget requests for operations and capital spending will begin soon according to the previously agreed upon Procedures.

Finance Committee page 2

Since 2018, TRI has managed rehab projects totaling over \$3.9 million and served more than twenty-one homeowners in Monterey alone.

Housing Rehab Funds page 5

I would like to thank the townspeople for their trust and continued support of me and the police department.

Chief Backhaus Retiring page 12

We are targeting January/February for a board vote on a merger recommendation to the select boards of the eight towns.

8 Town RSDPB page 4

As one former guest put it, "The work program at Gould Farm gave me a sense of self worth that had been totally lost."

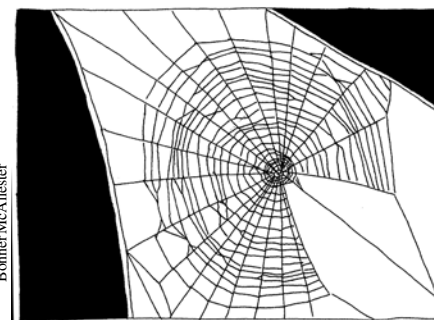
Gould Farm Yarn page 10

And in your chiaroscuro ...hands, red roses.

Who's Who- The Burkharths page 16

There is a large family of spiders, the orb weavers, with 2,800 different species.

Caving Matilda page 22



Bonner McAlister

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and all funds go to support our students, teachers, and our little red brick school-house.

Mill River School Holiday Fair page 8

All three of the world's great religions believe this work to be the responsibility of every individual to "repair the world"—a world that is broken but reparable through our efforts.

Pantry PickUp page 9

Only donate things that are *clean* and *working*—broken things belong elsewhere.

Keeping the Swap Shop Useful page 2

Over the past six to seven years, with the increased use of liquid pre-treating, Monterey has gone from 1,600 tons of salt a year to under 700 tons per year.

Highway News page 6

This table from 1859-60 lists the nine school districts in Monterey with details about the "scholars," winter and summer school terms, attendance, the teachers, and their salaries.

Schooling in the 1800s page 18

The elections for state offices were won by all the Democratic candidates from governor on down.

2022 Elections page 3

Here is the first truth: Nothing in the European mindset prepares Westerners for the Turtle island mindset.

Here's a Thought page 15

Any and all Monterey artists and friends are invited to submit work on the theme of "Common Threads" for our traditional wintertime community group show.

Knox Gallery page 14

## Finance Committee Planning for Capital Expenses

The Monterey Finance Committee has been meeting weekly as well as occasional joint meetings with the select board to finalize policies and procedures for submitting capital or large expense items for the upcoming year and beyond. With the additional complications from Covid, it has become even more apparent the Town of Monterey is facing large, new, and overdue investments in maintenance and infrastructure. The town administrator and department heads have been diligent in seeking grants and other funding mechanisms to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Initially the finance committee has compiled a list of anticipated capital projects and is working to outline what costs might be. It is important to keep in mind that we will have to make difficult choices to avoid tax increases.

One example of this is the condition of the town hall. Unfortunately, we did not receive a grant of \$50K which would have funded an assessment of physical needs for the structure and work place. We are working with the town administrator and director of operations on defining the upgrades the town hall needs and how to get a formal assessment. The opportunity to use ARPA funds for this has passed with the select board determination to award \$75K for the MCC pavilion and almost \$100K for a new playground. The finance committee had urged the select board to await a more complete picture of our capital needs and use the same standard for evaluating the requests we hope to incorporate into capital planning policy.

Meetings to consider budget requests for operations and capital spending will begin soon according to the previously agreed upon Procedures. The Finance Committee will be actively engaged in this process.

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

Currently there are twelve requests, not including road or culvert work, for capital items or one-time large expense items for 2024. In addition, there are seven road or culvert projects listed for 2024. One of the road projects on the list for 2024 is the upgrade of Beartown Road. We recently received a \$1 million grant to do this work, which is a significant win for the town.

The Finance Committee will keep you updated as we progress.

—Michele Miller, Chair  
Frank Abbott and Ilene Marcus

# UNTAMED GARDENS

. . .

Specializing in low-maintenance, native designs that bridge the gap between gardens and habitat. Practicing organic landscape management.

. . .

413-591-0040  
www.untamedgardens.com

. . .

Landscaping for living things  
Monterey MA

## Keeping the Swap Shop Useful

The Monterey Swap Shop is a wonderful resource for the town, both donators and reclaimers, but it is only as well kept as we can keep it. Please bear in mind that we have no permanent shop organizer, only some volunteers who help out. In the interest of keeping the swap shop accessible and useful, please try to follow a few simple rules suggested by the swap shop volunteers:

- Only donate things that are *clean* and *working*—broken things belong elsewhere.
- Try to place your items neatly where they belong, joining their pals among the kitchenware, lamps, toys, clothing, etc.
- Except books, which are best organized by a volunteer.
- Special clothing belongs on a hanger—other clothing or textiles should go into the clothing donation bins outside. Clothing and textiles for the bins should be in plastic bags to help keep them dry.

—Susan Cooper

*Correction: In Susan Cooper's column last month she stated that Kathy Fromme was "keeping things running smoothly." Kathy is a volunteer and not responsible for managing the swap shop.*

NMM PTA PRESENTS THE RETURN OF THE BELOVED

# HOLIDAY FAIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL SCHOOL  
44 HARTSVILLE- MILLRIVER RD. NEW MARLBOROUGH, MA



ONLINE AUCTION • SECOND HAND SHOP •  
HANDMADE CRAFTS • PHOTO BOOTH • KID  
CRAFTS + ACTIVITIES • BAKED GOODS • LUNCH:  
BUB'S BEANS & THE DOGS


11am-3pm

## Planning Board/Monterey Master Plan

On Saturday, November 12, 2022 the Planning Board held its third public forum at the Monterey Library. About twenty-five residents attended. The topic of discussion was "Cultural Resources, Facilities and Services."


Seth Jenkins, community planner of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, guided the participants through an interactive slide presentation and survey. The public opinion survey aids in the evaluation of the needs, attitudes, desires, and preferences of the community. The surveys and information regarding the master plan are posted on the town of Monterey website ([montereyma.gov](http://montereyma.gov)) under the "Master Plan" tab. To see results from earlier public meetings, go to "Master Plan Meeting Results" tab. The next public forum will be held Saturday, December 10, at 9 a.m., in the Monterey Library. This forum will be a wrap up of topics and kick off of the main survey for the town.

—Laura Mensi  
Monterey Planning Board, Co-chair



**Bottomline BUILDERS**  
Monterey, MA • (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.



PO Box 567  
155 Main Road  
Monterey, MA 01245  
(413) 528-1260  
[bottomlinebuilders.com](http://bottomlinebuilders.com)  
Scott Jensen  
[scott@bottomlinebuilders.net](mailto:scott@bottomlinebuilders.net)  
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864

## 2022 State Elections

### State Offices

Roughly 80% of Monterey's voters voted for Democratic candidates.

Maura Healey and Kim Driscoll, governor and Lt. governor; Andrea Campbell, attorney general; William Galvin, secretary of state; Deborah Goldberg, treasurer; Diana DiZoglio, auditor; Richard Neal, US Congress; Tara Jacobs, councillor; Paul Mark, state senator; Smitty Pignatelli, state representative; Timothy Shugrue, district attorney; and Thomas Bowler, sheriff.

### Ballot Questions

**Question 1.** Raises taxes on incomes above \$1 million. MA 52%, Yes; Monterey 71% Yes.

**Question 2.** Regulates dental insurance. MA 72% Yes; Monterey 80% Yes.

**Question 3.** Regulates retail liquor licenses and the sale of alcoholic beverages. MA 55% No; Monterey 51% Yes.

**Question 4.** Upholds state law allowing driver's licenses for those not living legally in the US. MA 54% Yes; Monterey 79% Yes.

*Note: Monterey percentages do not include blank ballots. Monterey Town Clerk Terry Walker supplied the vote tallies.*

—Stephen Moore

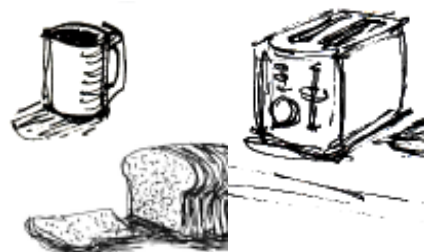
## Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee Election

The SBRSD school committee is comprised of ten representatives, with five of those seats up for election. Monterey has one representative, Sheffield has four, New Marlborough and Egremont each have two, and Alford has one.

At the November state election for the Monterey seat, Kim Alcantara received 193 votes, and outgoing Monterey representative Laura Rodriguez received 146. As previously published in both the October and November issues, Rodriguez intended to resign but was not able to have her name removed from the ballot. Monterey had the fewest blank ballots for the school committee election of the five towns in the SBRSD. Monterey Town Clerk Terry Walker provided the voting results.

If you wish to contact Kim Alcantara about school-related concerns, her SBRSD email address is [kalcantara@sbrsd.org](mailto:kalcantara@sbrsd.org).

—Stephen Moore



Winning winter combo—Maureen Banner



## sandisfield ARTS CENTER

★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 4 PM FREE  
CHRISTMAS POETRY FOR THE FAMILY

Read by **Ben Luxon** and others

Season's Greetings  
and best wishes for a happy,  
healthy, and joyous holiday season!

**FOR DETAILS AND COVID REQUIREMENTS, VISIT [SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG](http://SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG)**





## 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board

GET THE FACTS.  
BE INFORMED.  
YOU DECIDE.

Here is our most recent update (October 2022) on the work of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board.

### **Merger model under consideration:**

In April, the 8 Town Board voted (16 to 6) to continue to develop the merger model recommended by our research team—merging the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District into a single preK–12 district, maintaining the existing elementary and middle schools as they are, but creating a new merged 9–12 high school to be built on the Great Barrington campus.

**Enrollment trends:** The enrollment trends that spurred the merger discussions continue. October enrollment numbers show a decline at Mt. Everett high school of 8.3% from the year before, dropping from 180 to 165 students across grades 9–12. At Monument Mountain, the one year enrollment decline in the high school was 5.3%, dropping from 511 students to 484.

### **Work Planned for the Early Winter:**

Our three areas of primary focus now are: educational visioning, the drafting of an 8 Town regional school district agreement, and a more in-depth transportation study.

Our educational visioning will involve faculty/staff from both districts, as well as students, community members, employers, and parents. The goal is to consider options for how a combined eight-town district would deliver educational programming, create opportunities for the two districts to learn more about each other, and build a shared sense of ownership in creating an educational vision for an eight-town region.

Our plan is to begin with two groups—one for the high school, and a second focused on the expanded Career Vocational Technical Education and Career Pathways (CVTE) programs that a merged district could offer. A steering committee will research and evaluate possibilities, to be followed by the meeting of the larger community. We hope later in the school year to hold similar educational visioning forums for the elementary grades (prekindergarten–grade 4) and middle grades (grades 5–8).

We continue our other community outreach—including student-led forums led by the Southern Berkshire Community Health Coalition /Railroad Street Youth Project. We encourage those interested to attend our board and subcommittee meetings and visit our website at [www.8towns.org](http://www.8towns.org), which now has a video overview of our work to date. We welcome your thoughts, and we encourage your active participation in this important initiative.

**Funding the Work:** Our earlier state funding had to be expended by June 30, 2022. No funds were earmarked in the most recent budget cycle specifically for regionalization and so we have sought other funding sources. We have received a \$50,000 grant for the educational visioning work from the Barr Foundation, and, with additional support from BERK12, we now have sufficient funds to continue our work through 2022. In late August, we had asked each of our eight towns and two school districts to authorize up to \$15,000 to fund our work through June 2023 to the extent needed. As of this update, the towns of Sheffield, Alford, and West Stockbridge have provided that authorization, and the remaining towns have either placed the request on their respective special town meeting warrants or tabled the request pending further developments on a community compact grant application we have submitted. We expect to know by the end of the year whether we will need any of the town funds requested.

**Timeline:** We are targeting January/February for a board vote on a recommendation to the select boards of the eight towns, and, if the vote is to recommend merger, having the question put to the voters of the eight towns at the annual meetings in May/June 2023.

—Lucy Prashker, Chair  
Regional School District Planning Board

*Editor's Notes: For a comprehensive video from November 7 that explains the process, go to: [youtube/271RMgrcGYy](https://youtube/271RMgrcGYy).*

*For a perspective on enrollments, see "Shrinking Enrollments," page 8.*



## SunBug Solar

**Ned Wilson · New Marlborough, MA**

NABCEP PV Technical Sales # TS-102415-004308

NABCEP PV Installation # PV-041115-004308

**413 854 1453**

[ned.wilson@sunbugsolar.com](mailto:ned.wilson@sunbugsolar.com)

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

**Jerrold N. Raab, DDS PC**

**Dentistry For  
The Entire Family**

**New Patients  
Welcome**

**Emergencies Welcome**

**549 ROUTE 23  
MONTEREY**

**All Phases of Dentistry**

**528-6520**

# Housing Rehab Funds Still Available

## Monterey’s Housing Rehabilitation Program Update

The towns of Great Barrington, Egremont, and Monterey once again have funds available and are seeking applicants who would like to benefit from a regional housing rehabilitation grant program. The Resource, Inc. (TRI) is here to facilitate the program locally.

The funding is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and allows a 0% interest, deferred, forgivable loan to make critical repairs to your home. This program is designed to improve existing housing conditions of low- and moderate-income resident households. Eligible repair activities will include, but not be limited to, electrical, heating and plumbing work; minor structural repairs; roof and siding repairs; insulation and window replacement; lead paint and asbestos removal; and handicap accessibility improvements.

Since 2018 TRI has managed rehab projects totaling over \$3.9 million and served more than twenty-one homeowners in Monterey alone.

### Eligibility

Preliminary eligibility is defined as a homeowner who meets the initial eligibility requirements, as laid out in the pre-application, in order to qualify to begin the housing rehabilitation application process. Final eligibility is determined after the fully completed loan application and all supporting documentation is received, reviewed, and accepted by the program manager.

**Applicants:** This program is offered to owner-occupied single-family/multi-family and investor-owned units. If the structure is a single-family-owner occupied unit, the owner must meet income guidelines of low to moderate income. If the structure contains year-round rental units, at least 51% of all the households including rental units/renters must meet these income limits. The applicant must be the property owner of record for the proposed residential structure.

The income guidelines have increased significantly since 2018. Please refer to the table for income levels based on household size below.

Household Size	
1	\$52,750
2	\$60,250
3	\$67,800
4	\$75,300
5	\$81,350
6	\$87,350
7	\$93,400
8	\$99,400

### Construction

**Structures:** The primary purpose of the deferred payment loan program is to bring deteriorated residential units into compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local building codes. To be eligible, a structure or portion thereof must be residential and contain one or more code violations.

### Program Process

Funds are still available, so call TRI at (413) 645-3448 to request an application. Once you are accepted a housing rehab specialist will conduct a site visit with you and develop a detailed work write-up and cost estimate. The program staff will put your project out to bid, secure

multiple bids from pre-qualified local contractors, and then you will determine which contractor to use.

The housing rehab program will oversee the contractor and will pay them directly once you, the homeowner, have agreed that the work is done to written specifications.

### Deferred Payment/Forgiven Loans

The housing rehabilitation program offers deferred-payment loans (DPFL) to finance the rehabilitation of eligible projects. The maximum loan is \$40,000 per unit to address code violations. The DPFL is secured by a lien placed on the property for a period of fifteen years. The interest rate is 0%. The loan will be forgiven at a rate of 1/15th per year. *The loans do not require monthly loan payments.* If a property is sold or transferred within the fifteen-year period after rehabilitation completion, the funds will be recaptured from the proceeds of the sale at the closing on a prorated basis. After the fifteen-year recapture period expires, the loan is forgiven. This is done so that investors do not use these funds and then sell the home for a profit in less than fifteen years.

If you are interested in learning more, have questions, need assistance, or would like to fill out an application, please contact Dawn Odell Lemon, TRI program manager, at (413) 645-3448, or dawn@theresource.org.

—Dawn Odell Lemon  
The Resource, Inc.



Fine Garden Care | (413) 207-1281

Embracing the Native Beauty of the Berkshires

WWW.BERKSHIREGREENSCAPES.COM

## Highway News Winter is Coming

Nothing like an early snowfall to get one thinking about snow tires and winter driving conditions. I called Bob Seward at Seward's Tires and discovered I couldn't get my snows put on until mid-December. Seems like I'm not the only one worrying about the change in the weather.

The good news is that the Monterey Highway Department is ready to go—all the trucks and equipment ready and waiting, salt and sand ordered, and Jim Hunt, our highway superintendent, has even found a couple of back-up drivers for plowing in case illness strikes.

Last month's column on roads elicited a number of questions about snow removal, town policy, and, "What was that sweet smelling liquid sprayed on the roads last winter?" I met with Jim and we talked about the preparations going on now and how our highway department plans and conducts snow plowing in Monterey.

Monterey has five trucks used for plowing and sanding. One of the trucks is equipped with tanks used for pre-treating the paved roads. Every year, during the months of October and November, our highway department checks over all the equipment to be used, makes repairs where needed, and orders all the materials needed—sand, salt, and Magic Minus (Monterey's secret ingredient). As the materials

arrive our crew mixes the salt and sand using equations developed over the years to maximize effectiveness while minimizing cost and environmental impact. If you drive by the highway department you may notice the five-hundred-gallon vertical tanks. These are used to create a salt brine used with Magic Minus, to pretreat the roads. So, okay, what is Magic Minus?

"Magic Minus" is a molasses-based catalyst that is mixed with the salt brine in the tanks. The mixture of 30% Magic Minus and 70% salt brine is sprayed on the pavement, making the salt adhere to road surfaces longer, eliminating the need for reapplications. This application keeps snow and ice from bonding with the surface. Recent research in Wisconsin compared brine-cleared routes to those nearby cleared with a traditional granular rock-salt method. The data showed that brine-treated roads were clear (bare/wet condition) more than two hours faster on average, with a higher friction rating and a reduction in salt use of 25%. Over the past six to seven years, with the increased use of liquid pre-treating, Monterey has gone from 1,600 tons of salt a year to under 700 tons per year.

Each winter storm has unique characteristics and climatological factors such as storm intensity and duration, wind, temperature, and moisture content, which affects the total amount of snow/ice accumulation and influences the methodology

used to combat the resulting snowy and/or icy related road conditions. One of Jim's job is to gather all the weather information and determine the proper mixes that will be used to treat our roads. Temperature plays a critical part as different materials work best at certain temperature ranges. (Last month's column included information about the three sets of road sensors along Route 23 to help provide this necessary, real-time information.) Salting is cost effective down to a pavement temperature of only about 15° to 20°. It takes about thirteen times more salt to melt ice when the pavement temperature is 0°F than when it is 30°F. Brine to the rescue!

Pre-treatment starts twelve to twenty-four hours prior to a storm.

Without the brine applications we would still be using twice as much salt. As Jim said, "The key is to be smarter about this and use less by better management."

Sand is sometimes used to improve traction on ice. However, it only takes about thirty vehicles to blow the fine sand off the roadway. Through experimenting last winter, Jim's first as superintendent, he has increased slightly the size of sand/gravel this year for better traction on the gravel roads.

So—enough of the technical and now for a little practical and common sense.

When the snow starts flying Jim's goal is to have the trucks plowing when



Every Community  
Has At Least  
One REALTOR®  
Like Nancy Kalodner

*(In the Berkshires,  
it's Nancy Kalodner)*

413-446-1111

nancykalodner@gmail.com



COHEN + WHITE  
ASSOCIATES

DISTINCTIVE TOWN and COUNTRY PROPERTIES

www.cohenwhiteassoc.com

CHARLES J. FERRIS  
Attorney at Law



500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230  
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63  
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE  
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation  
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend  
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900  
FAX (413) 528-9132



an inch of snow is on the roads. The early emphasis is on the paved roads, especially those that are used by the school busses.

Jim's goal is to get to the gravel roads by the time snow reaches a depth of 3".

**If there is no emergency, please stay off the roads during a storm!** Let our snow plows do their work. Plowing during a storm is dangerous work and made more so when having to deal with cars or other trucks.

There is no parking on town roads from November through April. If you park in a driveway make sure the car is pulled far enough in to not interfere with road plowing.

If you are clearing your own driveway, do not plow or shovel snow onto or across the road.

Mailboxes that are installed within the town right-of-way are at the owner's risk. If you have a question about the location of your mailbox, please call Jim Hunt.

Winter sand is available for residents at the transfer station when open. Bring a container, shovels are available to use.

Reduce your speed and drive cautiously. Four-wheel-drive will help driving forward but is no help in stopping. Snow tires should be considered a winter necessity.

For winter storm emergency numbers, look inside the last page of each issue of the *Monterey News*.

Next month: the town recently received a million-dollar grant to correct problems associated with Beartown Road. If you have ideas or questions about roads, bridges and culverts, write me at [Kennhb@gmail.com](mailto:Kennhb@gmail.com). Happy Holidays everyone!

—Kenn Basler

## 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](mailto:MontereyNews9@gmail.com).  
 P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245



*Mahjong being played at the community center.*

—Photo by Maureen Banner

## Monterey Community Center

### Repeating Events

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

**Tuesdays:** Chair Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Tuesdays:** Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

**Tuesdays and Fridays:** Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.  
 Alternate Wednesdays: Diabetes support group, at 1 p.m., on December 7 and 21.

**Thursday, December 1:** Darn Yarners, at 10 a.m. First Thursday of the month.

**Alternate Thursdays:** Chorus, 4:15 p.m., on December 1, 15 and 29.

**Fridays:** Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email [james-boneparth76@gmail.com](mailto:james-boneparth76@gmail.com).

**Saturdays:** Coffee Club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

**Alternate Saturdays:** Art sessions for painting and drawing with Margaret Buchte, on December 3, 17 and 31, 1 to 2:15 p.m. See the MCC website for more information, and please register by emailing [calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org), or calling (413) 528-3600.

**Saturdays:** Ping Pong, 2:30 p.m.

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

### Special Events:

**Sunday, December 4:** Wreath making with Catherine Hurst, at 1 p.m.

**Sunday, December 11:** Cookie swap, from 1 to 3 p.m. Swap cookies and shop some locally-made goodies for the holidays. Please call 528-3600 or email [calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org) if you are interested.

### Coming up in February:

Winterfest! Good food, music, crafts and more!

You can find more information on events at [ccmonterey.org](http://ccmonterey.org) by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing [calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org).

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator  
 and Nancy Kleban



<b>Christopher Blair</b>	
DESIGN AND PLANNING	
Residential Design Kitchen/Bath Design	Construction Management Project Representation
413.528.4960 623 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230	

## Mill River School Holiday Fair

The beloved New Marlborough Central School Holiday Fair is back, hosted by the New Marlborough Parent Teacher Association. We welcome the Monterey community to join us on Saturday, December 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the school located at 44 Hartsville Mill River Road, in Mill River, less than half a mile west of the Mill River General Store. The event is free of charge and will feature a secondhand pop-up shop, book sale, bake sale, kids crafts made by students to purchase and crafts to make, a photo area, snacks, activities, and our awesome online (and in person) silent auction with some amazing items donated from near and far. Go to [givebutter.com/c/BYj1PE/auction](https://givebutter.com/c/BYj1PE/auction), or read the QR code at right for the auction items.

The young entrepreneurs of Bub's Beans & Dogs from Sandisfield will be with us to fill all your hot dog lunch needs; enjoy Farm Country Soups and a hot cocoa bar to warm your soul; plus a few more surprises! Unfortunately no Christmas trees for sale this year, but so much to enjoy.

We need your support—it takes a village! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and all funds go to support our students, teachers, and our little red brick schoolhouse. Thank you for celebrating with us.

Those who wish to contribute items (decorations, second-hand goods, last-minute auction items/services) are asked to contact [nmmpta01244@gmail.com](mailto:nmmpta01244@gmail.com) by Monday, December 5. We welcome dona-

tions, which are tax deductible, from the community and local businesses.

### Our PTA

Did you know the New Marlborough Monterey Parent Teacher Association (NMMPTA) is the longest continuously running PTA in the state? After a few low-key years due to Covid, the PTA is happy to be back hosting school and community events and fundraising for our beloved elementary school, serving approximately seventy students, pre-kindergarten through third grade, from the district's five towns (Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield, Alford, and Egremont), plus those from surrounding towns who choice-in to the district.

This year we aim to raise funds for class field trips, school supplies and books, cultural events at the school (such as live musical performances, birds of prey, and a student gallery show), and other community-building events.

For the 2022-2023 school year, Arla Downing of New Marlborough is president, Kevin Fish of Sandisfield (and soon to be Monterey General Store fame) is treasurer, and Elizabeth Evans of Monterey is secretary. We have an amazing group of parent and teacher volunteers. Our "Fall Pumpkin Social" for school families in October kicked off our school year—thank you Monterey Fire Company for the use of the pavilion.

Stay tuned for details in the spring about our Family Literacy Day—another chance to support/sponsor students in our community.

—Elizabeth Evans, Monterey Secretary, NMMPTA



## Shrinking Enrollment

*Editor's Note: I came across this article on Vox.com recently, and I thought this paragraph below puts the potential consolidation of our two local districts into perspective.*

"The Incredible Shrinking Future of College," by Kevin Carey, November 21, 2022:

"In four years, the number of students graduating from high schools across the country will begin a sudden and precipitous decline, due to a rolling demographic aftershock of the Great Recession. Traumatized by uncertainty and unemployment, people decided to stop having kids during that period. But even as we climbed out of the recession, the birth rate kept dropping, and we are now starting to see the consequences on campuses everywhere. Classes will shrink, year after year, for most of the next two decades. People in the higher education industry call it "the enrollment cliff."

Go to [vox.com](https://www.vox.com), and search for "college enrollment."

—Stephen Moore



**PRECISION  
AUTOCRAFT<sup>INC</sup>**

Perfecting the Art of Collision Repair Since 1979

1939 N. Main St. Sheffield, MA 01257

BBB Accredited Business  
Eco-friendly Waterborne Paint  
Open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

[www.precision-auto.com](http://www.precision-auto.com)  
[precisionautocraft@gmail.com](mailto:precisionautocraft@gmail.com)  
(413) 528-1457

**Barnbrook**

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



**DAGMAR KUBES**  
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

Home Services

Licensed Real Estate Broker

★

Superior Real-Estate Service  
tailored to your needs.

★

**413 528-6485**

E-mail: [dagmarrealty@verizon.net](mailto:dagmarrealty@verizon.net)

**SELL \* BUY \* RENT**



## News from Pantry PickUp

As you begin your holiday shopping, consider purchasing a bit extra for the Monterey Pantry PickUp which, as you know, distributes food weekly to those in the southern Berkshires who are food insecure or house-bound. Specific needs this month include: canned fruits, canned corn, jams (not jelly), oatmeal, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo).

Our neighbors' food needs are always present but especially so as the year-end holidays approach. Montereyans have been remarkably generous all year long; and your continuing commitment to Pantry PickUp's endeavors is deeply appreciated. Purchasing these foodstuffs and lugging them to the United Church of Christ in the center of the village, week after week, and month after month, may sometimes seem a bit routine, even a pain in the neck. Consider that all three of the world's great religions believe this work to be the responsibility of every individual to "repair the world"—a world that is broken but reparable through our efforts. In short, far from being a pain in the neck, your donations verge on the sacred.

## Volunteer Highlight

This month we highlight one of our volunteers for his outstanding work for the Pantry week after week, **Joseph Enoch**,

who almost every week over the past year has done a great deal of the heavy lifting that's essential to our work.

## Food Donors

A special "thank you" to Gould Farm's bread bakery and to Butternut Ski for their significant contributions throughout the past year, and to our many individual donors who are too numerous to list here, many of whom prefer anonymity in any event. And a super "thank you" to our team of volunteer workers who do the hard work of preparing the foods you donate for pick-up and delivery week after week: the Pantry PickUp Team of over thirty volunteers!

## Food Donations

As always, all food packages, jars, and cans must be unopened and within their "best by" dates. Donations may be dropped off at the basement of the Monterey United Church of Christ, 449 Main Road, Monterey, MA seven days a week during daylight hours—but please avoid Saturday mornings between 10 and 11 a.m. The church basement door is open and there's a table just inside where you can leave your donations.

## Financial Contributions

Financial support may be made via the website of the Monterey United Church of Christ (write "Pantry PickUp" in the notes) or by check payable to the order of, and mailed to, the Church, P.O. Box 182, Monterey 01245 (write "Pantry PickUp" on the memo line of your check).

Happy holidays to you all!

—Stacy Wallach  
for the Pantry PickUp team

**Think Ink**  
**Michelle Arnot**  
through December 3




**Common Threads**  
a community exhibition  
December 10 - January 21

**KNOX GALLERY**  
Monterey Library

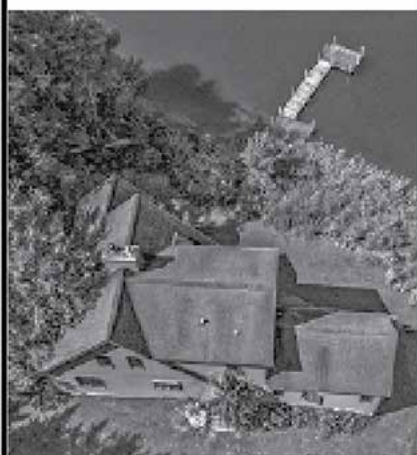
Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

*Innovative Icelandic*  
*Horse Programs*  
**Solstice Farm**



in Monterey  
[www.solsticeicelandics.com](http://www.solsticeicelandics.com)  
(508) 873-9489

**Barnbrook**  
[www.BarnbrookRealty.com](http://www.BarnbrookRealty.com)  
**DAGMAR KUBES**  
**JUST SOLD ON LAKE GARFIELD!**



**JOHN FIELD**  
TREE SERVICE, INC.

**QUALITY TREE CARE...SAFELY DELIVERED**  
[fieldtreeservice.com](http://fieldtreeservice.com) 413-329-6519



CTSP MEMBER ISA MEMBER T.C.I.A. MEMBER ISA



## The Gould Farm Yarn

*Harvesting Hope, Promoting Recovery.*

A “yarn” is a story. The Gould Farm story has been woven into the fabric of Monterey since 1913. This column is a way for Montereyans to feel more connected to Gould Farm, what we do, and how our mission promotes recovery for people with mental health challenges. We hope you find the stories of life at Gould Farm and the people we help to be an inspiration. We invite you to read our new monthly column, and support our work. Welcome to the Gould Farm Yarn!

### Farming as Relationship

At Gould Farm, “guest” is the term we use for someone coming to us for residential treatment. When they first arrive at Gould Farm, they have a choice as to which work team they will join. A combination of factors influence their decision, but the most important factor is finding out what lights up their sense of curiosity.

Due to the impacts of mental illness, our guests often come to us feeling disconnected from their sense of purpose. That is why we ask each guest: what are you interested in doing with your hands? What work would give you the greatest sense of purpose? Do you want to work with animals, plants, bread dough, trees, or ingredients?

In offering this choice from day one, we center the guest in relationship with



*Colby Wadel and Natana Roots demonstrating the milking process at Gould Farm.*

their environment. The message is subtle and has been at the core of our work for over one hundred years: every individual who is a part of this community has purpose, has value.

Whether you’re the guest who fills the half-gallon milk jugs, washes the kale, makes the lentil dahl, refills the napkin boxes, stacks wood in the sap house, or shapes bagels, your work is integral to the smooth running of this community.

As guests settle into their work here, mastering new skills and building relationships with people, animals, plants, and land, they hopefully begin to see all the ways they are connected, needed, and appreciated. Hence our tagline, harvesting hope, promoting recovery.

In this first edition of our *Monterey News* column, we focus on the garden team

and farm team, taking a look at the ways they blend agricultural practices with the work program to create opportunities for deep connection and healing.

### Life Cycle on a Farm

Ask anyone what they love about Gould Farm, and you will get a beautiful variety of answers. Ask those same people what Gould Farm would be without our connection to this seven-hundred-acre landscape of pastures, forests, and fields, and you’ll get a lot of head scratching!

If this community is like a tree, and the branches and blossoms are the many individuals who spend time here, then the roots are our close connection to the life cycles of plants and animals.

Working in close relationship with that life cycle is a daily occurrence for Matthew McMahon and Mel Hochstetler, farm manager and garden manager respectively.

For Matthew and the farm team, the life cycle of grass in our pastures informs the movements of the dairy and beef herds through intricate rotational grazing plans. And the health of those grasses and cattle influence the nutrient density of the milk, cheese, and yogurt produced in our creamery for community consumption. Food is one of those things that brings people joy and the quality of the food we eat matters. It all begins with caring for the grasses our cows consume and ends in our community dining room. From grass to cheese, one might say!





For Mel and the garden team, one could say the life cycle begins with the compost that is delivered from our kitchen to the worm bins at the garden. The industrious appetites of those worms convert compost quickly into a probiotic soil-like substance that is used to inoculate the garden with a microhabitat of helpful bacteria. That helpful bacteria, alongside strategically planted cover crops, strengthens our topsoil and allows the garden to use no-till practices, encouraging deep roots for our produce and discouraging the growth of weeds.

The variety of innovative farming and gardening techniques our teams employ are based on a reciprocal relationship with the land and animals. This ethos of sustainable stewardship permeates our work teams because of something we all know to be true: healing and growth are not linear and can't be rushed.

Whether you endeavor to heal the land or heal yourself, the possibility for healing and growth happens best when a

**No-till practices** allow the soil structure to stay intact and protect the soil. This leads to retention of soil nutrients, better absorption of rainwater, and the flourishing of beneficial microorganisms, fungi, and bacteria—which are all critical to soil health.

**Rotational grazing** is the practice of moving animals through pastures to improve soil, plant, and animal health. Resting grazed paddocks allows forage plants to recover and deepen their root systems.



*Ella Duncan and Claire Orner harvesting microgreens at Gould Farm.*

combination of rest and activity, addition and subtraction, and individual and collective efforts are taking place within a given cycle. At Gould Farm, the cows and the plants are there to keep us company and teach us all what it takes to have deep roots, rich soil, and a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

As one former guest put it, "The work program at Gould Farm gave me a sense of self worth that had been totally lost."

### Connect with Gould Farm

Join one of our seasonal tours for Monterey residents; email [emailsmcmahon@gouldfarm.org](mailto:emailsmcmahon@gouldfarm.org) for more information. A winter tour is in the making, so

stay tuned for more info in the January *Monterey News*.

Share your Gould Farm story! Many residents of Monterey came here because of Gould Farm and decided to settle in the area. If you have a Gould Farm story, we'd love to share it!


— Stephanie McMahon

**KWIK<sup>Color</sup> PRINT**  
INCORPORATED

**EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY**

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Full Color Envelope Printing
- Large Format Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Laminating
- Inline Bookletmaking
- Perfect Binding
- Folding
- Perforating
- Mailing Services
- Graphic Design Services

35 Bridge Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220  
[typesetting@kwikprintinc.com](mailto:typesetting@kwikprintinc.com)  
[www.kwikprintinc.com](http://www.kwikprintinc.com)

**MERCIER  STONE**

FINE STONE MASONRY  
BRICK OVEN  
FIREPLACE  
HARDSCAPE  
RESTORATION



**508.560.7844**  
**MERCIERSTONE.COM**



## Letters

### Chief Gareth Backhaus Retiring

To the townspeople of Monterey:

After thirty-four and a half years on the Monterey Police Department, twenty-nine and a half of those as the chief of police, my tour of duty has come to an end. Though there have been many ups and downs along the way, I cherish the time served. During that period of time, I tried to be fair and give second chances while maintaining the safety of the community. I helped people get into their locked cars and houses, found their pets, and comforted them during some of the darkest days of their lives. I hope I have helped change some people's lives for the better, improved the quality of life for others knowing they were living in a safer community, while guiding some in the right direction.

What has meant the most to me are the people who came to me, or who wrote me letters, thanking me for saving them, sparing them from public embarrassment, or helping them turn their lives around. For me, that's what it's all about, helping people, keeping them safe, and trying to make a difference. I have made many connections with our town's people and employees, and made friends, all of whom mean the world to me.

I would like to thank the townspeople for their trust and continued support of me and the police department. It has made the sacrifices worthwhile. I especially would like to thank Peter Brown, former select board chairman, for considering the future needs of the community and having trust in me when he asked if I would consider becoming the chief of police on a full-time basis. I considered it an honor. I leave the town in good hands with our next chief of police, Brian Fahey. Brian, who for the past five years has been our sergeant, is an honest, kind, caring, and dedicated person



Melissa Noe

*Incoming police chief Sgt. Brian Fahey with Chief Gareth Backhaus.*

who will make a wonderful police chief. I have confidence in him to lead the police department into the future and to protect the community that I live in and love.

Thank you,

—Gareth J. Backhaus  
Monterey Chief of Police

in Tyringham Woods  
dry snow sifting and blowing  
on bare gray trees

—Laura S. Denman

## Letters

### The Highway Department

A big thank you to Jim Hunt and the Monterey Highway Department from Harmon Road for your careful attention to the upkeep and maintenance of our road. I know it is your job, but you all do it with a friendly wave and great attention to detail.

Sincerely,

—Erica Stern



Lin Saberski

### Council on Aging Rocks

On an unseasonably warm and sunny late October afternoon, twenty-five or so Montereyans ignored the weather and assembled in the community center to hear Peter Poirier sing and play familiar tunes from times long past. Peter had the crowd with him from the start, with Elvis and the Everly Brothers opening the show. Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buck Owens and the Beatles followed as the concertgoers swayed, tapped, clapped, and often sang a bit, too. But what finally got the crowd on their feet were a few of Peter's wonderful original compositions. The concert was Covid-delayed two years. We will not wait that long again. The council is already planning for 2023. Stay tuned.

—Lin Saberski

## Letters

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

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



### South Berkshire Kids Playgroup

Monterey Library

**Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.**

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



## Council on Aging New Outreach Coordinator

As I get acquainted with my job for the council on aging I am once again so moved by our wonderful community of Monterey. The council sponsored a beautiful and very touching Veterans Day event at the library with fresh coffee, donuts, and cider. If you missed it, I hope you will join us next year for this special event.

I am thankful that a dedicated group of people in our town are planning events that make the process of moving through time one of community and fun together. As we experience the wonder and wisdom of our advanced years, Montereyans can be proud to have a council dedicated to having an active calendar that covers a variety of interests. Please stop by the council on aging office at town hall to pick up one of our surveys. We look forward to your input and getting to know you better.

Below is our monthly listing of new and ongoing events, featuring a return of the Mt. Everett High School holiday lunch. In January, look for a return of lunch at the Barrington Brewery.

To reach me with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call (413) 528-1443, extension 112, or email [coaoutreach@montereyma.gov](mailto:coaoutreach@montereyma.gov). Messages are picked up once daily Monday through Friday.

— Kathryn Roberts  
Outreach Coordinator

## Contributions in November

Peter & Linnea Grealish  
Pat Nourse  
Anonymous  
Lisa Gelbard LePack  
Margy & Frank Abbott  
Rodney Palmer  
Louise Amstead  
Marilyn & Philip Lombardo  
Janet Jensen  
Jodi Clarin

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing support for this town resource.



## December Events

**Friday, December 9:** Seasonal Intergenerational Concert at Mt. Everett High School. A luncheon will be served by culinary students with seasonal music and singing. This lovely and much loved event is returning after a two-year absence. To reserve your spot at the table call the Sheffield Senior Center at (413) 229-7037.

**Wednesday December 14:** Movie night, 7 p.m., in the Monterey Library showing *To Sir With Love*, starring Sydney Poitier. Note the change from Tuesday to Wednesday. This is permanent. Going forward, movie night will be the second Wednesday of every month.

## Ongoing Services

**Parkinson's Support Group:** This month's meeting is on Thursday, December 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call the CoA at the number above if you'd like more information about the program. Also see page 26 about the Parkinson's support group.

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

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

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

## Karen Shreefter Landscape Design

*Working with clients to create captivating landscapes & gardens*



### Gift Certificates Available

413.528.1387


[karen@kslandscapedesign.com](mailto:karen@kslandscapedesign.com)

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

**JARED KELLY**  
LICENSED ASSOCIATE RE BROKER  
[JARED@BROCKMANREALESTATE.COM](mailto:JARED@BROCKMANREALESTATE.COM)  
413.854.1504

THE  
**BROCKMAN**  
GROUP

**CHAPIN FISH**  
LICENSED ASSOCIATE RE BROKER  
[CHAPIN@BROCKMANREALESTATE.COM](mailto:CHAPIN@BROCKMANREALESTATE.COM)  
413.528.4859



*A Local Landmark, Now Backed  
by a World-Renowned Brand*

BROCKMAN REAL ESTATE, A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
OVER 45 YEARS, WITH OVER \$1 BILLION IN SALES, JOINS  
WILLIAM PITT SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY.

[BROCKMANREALESTATE.COM](http://BROCKMANREALESTATE.COM)

Great Barrington Brokerage  
306 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
Source: Berkshire MLS and Broker's Off Market Sales Records in MA & NY 1/1/95 - 10/31/22  
Each office is independently owned and operated. ©

## Knox Gallery Community Group Show "Common Threads"

Our traditional wintertime community group show will be back this month. Any and all Monterey artists and friends are invited to submit work on the theme of "Common Threads." The exhibition will open on December 10 and be on view through January 21, 2023. Work will need to be dropped off at the library Monday evening, December 5, from 7 to 9 p.m., or Tuesday morning, December 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. Maximum overall size accepted is 18" x 24", and work must be ready to hang.

We hope that the "Common Threads" theme is a useful jumping-off point for new work, whether you approach the concept as subject matter, medium, technique, or any other inspiration. We look forward to seeing exciting and innovative new work from our community!

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; [MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery](http://MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery); [Facebook.com/KnoxGallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery).

—MaryPaul Yates

## The Season of Expectation

I'm writing this before Thanksgiving, but I'm already imagining myself eating leftover pie for breakfast for a good week after the holiday, with coffee and a bit of creamy plain yogurt on the side (because, obviously, that is what makes it breakfast and not dessert). And it will be time then—not before!—to begin thinking about Christmas.

After all, this year Advent comes early. Advent marks the four Sundays leading up to Christmas and so, Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, the first Sunday of Advent comes as early as it possibly can, right on the heels of Thanksgiving. When I was a child growing up in New Hampshire, this meant driving home from our holiday travels earlier than usual so that we wouldn't miss the Advent Workshop at church, which I adored: we made Advent wreaths and Christmas ornaments, garlands to tear off one ring a day until Christmas, balsam kissing balls, strings of popcorn and cranberries, and more. It started the official countdown to Christmas.

In church, on Sundays in Advent, sometimes our family would get to light the advent wreath. My two sisters and I would be on our best behavior, dutifully taking turns to read our parts and light the candles of hope, peace, love, or joy. But when we lit our Advent wreath at home before dinner, all bets were off. Inevitably, screaming fights ensued over who got to light the candle of peace.

Nonetheless, Advent stands out in my memory as a special time of waiting and



anticipation—looking ahead to the Christmas Eve service when children would stand wriggling in their itchy angel tinsel and shepherd cloaks as all the candles in the wreath were lit and then, finally, the Christ candle, and we'd pass the flame among us in the dark sanctuary until it glowed as we lifted our voices to "Silent Night." Somehow, every season, year after year, it happened—the waiting, the culmination. By the time I was a teen, the *a cappella* verse of "Silent Night" made me choke up with the unlikely beauty of it all.

This Advent, here in Monterey in 2022, has a little extra anticipation built into it. On Christmas Eve, we will gather in our sanctuary again after two pandemic Christmases. The first of those years was a rainy, windy night on the church steps when the few of us there couldn't even get our candles to light. The second was a beautiful service in Gould Farm's sheep barn. But this year we will be together again inside our beloved church, holding our candles, singing the familiar carols. Since we may be packed in somewhat tightly, we'll ask that everyone wear a mask, but underneath we'll be smiling. Are you looking forward to it? I am. As much as my breakfast pie.

Christmas Eve Service, Monterey UCC, 7 p.m. Regular worship on Sundays, 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.

—Hannah Fries

## Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local  
References



Sliding  
Scale

with

**KIT PATTEN**

Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." —E.D.,  
Monterey

**413-528-3798**



## MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Sunday Service · 9:30 a.m.  
in the Meeting House**

**Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor**

**For Information and Assistance:**

**413-528-5850**

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

Find us on Facebook too.



## Here's a Thought...

*Here is the first truth: Nothing in the European mindset prepares Westerners for the Turtle island mindset.... Here is the second truth: The only way to grasp Turtle is to take Her on Her own terms.*

—Barbara Alice Mann,  
of the Seneca People

Mainstream American-speak is a language born of the European mindset that Ms. Mann mentions in the quote above. And language tends to both grow from, and define, the way we think and construct our world. So what is this Turtle Island, anyway? What kind of mindset does she provoke in those who actually grasp the truth of her?

We English speakers tend to interpret the name Turtle Island as a description of the tectonic plates that make up the North American continent and the land above them. After all, names in English are nouns, labels. So, if I'm asked where I grew up, I'd say Lancaster, New York, and maybe add Erie County. If I use geography instead of political boundaries, I'd say, east of Lake Erie, southeast of the Niagara River, and due south of Lake Ontario. If I take a stumbling attempt to use words indigenous people used (and use) to describe the land underfoot and the water around that place, I'd say I grew up on land due east of Erielhonan (Long-Tail Lake), southeast of Onguiaahra (The Strait) and due south of Oniatari: the Lake of Shining Waters.

At twenty-two, I left for Manhattan, the Dutch colonists' adaptation of the island's Lanape name, Mana-hatta, Island of Many Hills. From there, by some inexplicable blessingway, after a brief sojourn in central Connecticut and a year near Springfield in Feeding Hills, I came home to the Berkshires.

Here in Monterey, you and I walk on land once occupied by the Mahican People, whose self-name, Muh-he-con-neok, translates to People of the Waters That Are Never Still. The name refers to their deep connection with what we call the Hudson River and the broad area surrounding the river that they commanded. And, of course, the much smaller river that runs parallel to, and under, Route 23 in the center of town is named for the Mahican sachem Pophnehonnuhwoh (John Konkapot).



Mary Kate Jordan

Substitution of Native place names in sentences constructed according to English grammar can bring valuable awareness, remind us that things have not always been as they are and will change again in the future. But it's no way to begin to comprehend what's meant by the phrase, Turtle Island mindset.

Barbara Alice Mann says, "The only way to grasp Turtle is to take her on her own terms." Without an extended apprenticeship under the guidance of a living wise Native Elder willing to take on a non-native apprentice, how can any of us European-based language speakers begin to recognize Turtle, let alone aspire to grasp her? Perhaps the teacher to ask for help is Turtle Island herself.

Perhaps Turtle Island is more than the land of this continent, as we English-speakers understand the word "land." Perhaps Turtle Island is the living presence of the Earth around us, a home we inhabit

side by side with "all our relations." Maybe Turtle Island is the living presence of the Earth within us, too. Maybe they aren't as separate as we suppose. Could be the way to begin to grasp Turtle is to meet her where she is: in the here and now. To even meet her, it seems she requires we put our feet on the ground, in body in the present moment.

For any of us outdoors in December that, of course, means with feet in thick socks, weatherproof boots, and warmly clad all the way up to the top of the head. But when outdoors isn't possible, maybe gestating a Turtle Island mindset includes remembering that a house rises from a foundation which rests on dirt that's part of the Earth. Maybe we can connect with Turtle that way, too. Could be we aren't as separate from the Earth, and each other, as we usually tell ourselves we are.

Maybe Turtle Island isn't a noun, after all. Maybe Turtle Island's a verb. Could be those who lived here before us were onto something.

Want to know more about Monterey as-was? Check at the Monterey Library to see what's available there; what's available for delivery to the library from libraries elsewhere in the state. Find out at the library, too, when the Monterey Historical Society's collection housed there is available to the public. And for a virtual expanded look at our local Native history, explore Heather Kowalski's Bidwell Lore articles for December 8 and 15, 2020 at the Bidwell House website, [bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org), as well as material posted on the Berkshire Museum website, [berkshireremuseum.org](http://berkshireremuseum.org).

—Mary Kate Jordan

Serving Monterey for over 30 years      Call 413-329-2054

## JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating  
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

## Who's Who

### Donna and Wayne Burkhardt

Were you to ask the average Montereyan what is special about our town, my hunch is that Gould Farm would be high on their list. It is for me. Similarly, when I think of Gould Farm, it's the Burkhardts, Donna and Wayne, who come to mind.

Small wonder. Put together, their work at Gould Farm, which began in 1984, is approaching forty years. For the first decade, Wayne, who grew up in a farming family, was manager of gardens, grounds, and forestry. But inevitably, farming claimed him again and he ended up as director of agriculture. Donna began at Gould Farm as the executive director's assistant. She later assumed the role of admissions director and then, client services director. Most recently, Donna filled in as executive director until Lisanne Finston was hired. Donna is still active at Gould Farm, driving and serving as a part-time house advisor, leading a couple of groups, and interacting with guests in less structured settings.

The Burkhardts' lovely home, whose original structure dates to 1764, is set on Fairview Road. Their farmette of some thirty acres abuts Route 23, allowing Wayne to think he's still a farmer. He still has an eighty-acre farm that he bought in Michigan just after high school. Most



Bob Cutick

of the cows on the farmette belong to his nephew Joe Burkhardt. Their house is still a work in progress, with son Shaylan remodeling parts of it when visiting along with daughter-in-law Vanessa and grandsons Wyn, 14, and Isaac, 4, in tow. Shaylan's family lives in Nova Scotia near Halifax. Visits to them were more frequent when Wayne, a licensed pilot, was able to fly there.

Their journey to Monterey and Gould Farm, a long and interesting one, had everything to do with their Mennonite faith, two core principles of which are a simple faith and life, and service to others. Donna, who grew up in Delaware, and Wayne in Michigan, were both members of Mennonite communities in their youth, a faith which has been integral to their lives ever since. Their paths crossed at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisburg, Va. How they came to be a couple, each offering a slightly different account, is less important than the wonderful bond they've shared for fifty-three years.

Soon after Donna graduated from college, they married and moved to Michigan where Wayne was a high school teacher and continued to farm. Donna also taught school. In 1976, Wayne's younger brother offered to take over the entire farming operation. Wayne looked at his draft deferments and his high number in the lottery. He and Donna decided they could best

serve God and country by moving with one-year-old Christopher to Zaire—now Democratic Republic of the Congo—to serve in an agricultural development role with the Mennonite Central Committee.

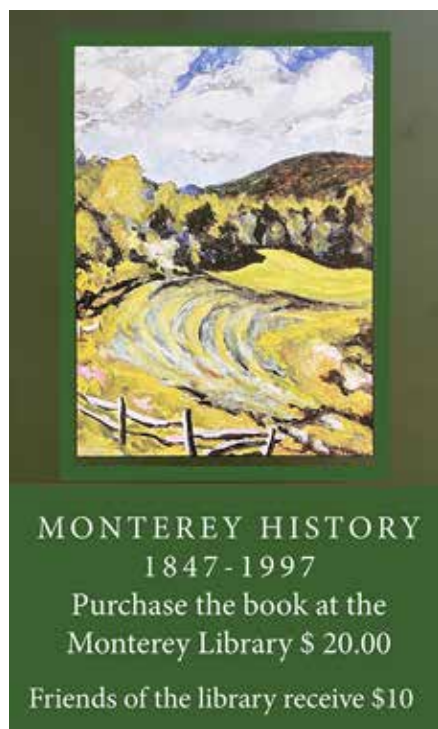
After four-plus years of service there, with five-year-old Christopher and Shaylan just one, they packed up and flew back to the states. Three years later, Wayne saw an ad in the *Mennonite Weekly Review* for a position in agricultural development at a place called Gould Farm. Donna thought

### Blossom Story

Wyn  
loves the tale of Fletcher the fox  
and his springtime amazement  
at a late snow. Alerting  
woodland friends, they caper,  
scamper, scam, to catch  
not snow but pear and apple blossom  
flakes

like these  
that storm down on me in this early  
morning's  
cavorting wind, freshness, and  
wistful missing of  
Wyn.

—Donna Burkhardt  
From June 2013



this would be a short-term experience for the family. She earned a masters degree in English with a specialty in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), and then taught ESL at Berkshire Community College for a few years before joining the staff at Gould Farm.

In 1997 the family suffered the tragic loss of Christopher. He was a bright, sensitive young man who, years before he was diagnosed with schizophrenia, had a premonition of this illness. He asked Donna if he was “going to be schizophrenic.” She reassured him that it wasn’t going to happen. Sadly, he was right. It is hard for anyone to imagine the depths of suffering and alienation, both from self and others, that mark this illness. Christopher was just twenty-two when he took his own life. Wayne and Donna, working at Gould Farm and suffering this crushing loss, could easily have succumbed to a crisis of faith and confidence. In fact, Donna’s initial reaction was, “We can’t do this work.” She credits Wayne with helping her through this, encouraging her not “to push away but to embrace what you can’t bear.” Donna also finds solace in Shaylan’s belief that “the best parts of me I got from Christopher.”

Perhaps no better evidence of the wisdom of Wayne’s encouragement and Donna’s manifesting it was her belief that “we have had many sons.” To this day, many former guests have stayed in touch with the Burkharths, their bonds of community sustained over years. Not only did they and other staff work together on the farm, they also worshipped together at the United Church of Christ in the village.



*Rachel Jo Arnow March 2014*

In keeping with their spiritual and civic commitments, the Burkharths’ service to community was not limited to their work at Gould Farm. Wayne volunteered to serve as Monterey’s representative to the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission in the 80s; then served on the Monterey Planning Board; and later still, was elected for three terms to the select board. When their children were in school, Donna served on the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee.

Gould Farm was well known to me years before I came to Monterey. My career as a clinical psychologist began when the concept of community mental health, sometimes called “the third revolution of psychiatry,” gained a foothold. Because it had an excellent reputation as a community treatment facility, I had referred some of our patients to Gould Farm when their treatment at my unit ended. This coincidence was one of many I shared with the Burkharths. But more about that at another time.

A core principle of community psychiatry holds that treatment milieux be designed to flatten the status and power hierarchy of professional staff and patient. The implicit diminution of status in the label “patient” is a major barrier to achieving mental health. As one way to address this, many psychiatric settings established “patient government” as a way of increasing patients’ say in their treatment. At Gould Farm there are guests, not patients. “I have always advocated for stronger guest involvement in most areas at Gould Farm, especially in the farm department,” Wayne said. Nonetheless, Donna and he both feel

that Gould Farm has “become more institutional.” Wayne frames his concern thus: “Gould Farm has not totally escaped the insidious taint of ‘officialization’ which the modern world paints on all our adult endeavors—state licensing, labor department rules...all of it.” That said, the Burkharths expressed gratitude for the many ways the town has supported Gould Farm’s mission.

## At the Farmer’s House

Tuesday Night  
At the Farmer’s House  
On Gould Farm

I hear  
you coming,  
stomping off the snow  
inside the kitchen door.

I call: “I’ll warm your supper;  
why so late  
this frigid night? Everything  
OK down at the barn?”

It’s minus three degrees.  
I’ve worked late too  
but still  
got home an hour ago.

I forgot (or did you even say)  
you had a meeting  
all the way in town?

I shuffle in my slippers  
from the warmth of fire  
and crossword comfort;  
turn on the kitchen light.

There you stand  
on the rug, inside the door,  
jacket, boots and hat but no  
gloves.

And in your chiaroscuro  
hands,  
red roses.

—Donna Burkhardt  
March 2014

Donna’s way of framing the relationship between guests and staff captures both the essence of Gould Farm’s mission and the Burkharths’ Mennonite ethos: “All of us together, learning to manage our vulnerabilities, working together as a community to get things done.”

—Bob Cutick





## Monterey Historical Society Schooling in the 1800s

One of the benefits of the Monterey Historical Society is browsing through the collection and running across wonderful goodies. It's like opening your stocking on Christmas Day; you never know what you'll find but it's going to be good! My "stocking find" this month is the following table dated 1859-60 listing the nine school districts in Monterey with details about the "scholars," winter and summer school terms, attendance, the teachers, and their salaries.

The proprietors of Township No. 1 started laying out the town with good intentions: they reserved Lot #20 for a school. This would have been along the main highway (now Art School Road), near the first Meeting house and first Minister's lot.

The first schoolhouse in Tyringham (Monterey) was actually built c.1766 at what is now the corner of Beartown Mountain Road and Fairview Road, and is called the "Old Center School" (#1 in table).

After independence, the founders of the new republic aspired to educate a "literate and informed population"—at least

even when they wanted to educate their children, getting them to the school was challenging; in winter working on the farm was not as critical, but walking to school in the snow was difficult. And illnesses were also a deterrent to regular school attendance.

Child labor laws enacted in 1838 required that no child under the age of fifteen could work "unless he had attended school for three months."

Despite the difficulties, the 1859-60 table shows that there were at least 130 students attending school in the summer session, and a remarkable 203 in the winter term. The 1860 US Census for Monterey lists a total of 284 children in town up to age fifteen (including ages up to five who were not yet in school). So a very high percentage of school-age children attended at least some school in the nine school districts.

In 1869, Monterey changed from the school district system to a system of town schools directed by an elected three-person school committee.

In the 1885 town report, the school committee reported that there were 118 students between the ages of five and fifteen, 68 of whom were between eight and fourteen. It appears that five schools operated that year: for the summer term, Corashire had 7 students and the "stone school house" had 12. Consideration was being given to merging these two schools. Harmon had only two students and was closed. Others in operation were Center, #4 (Stone?), and #8 (?). (We're not positive of the names of #4 and #8. Even though the school district system had been replaced, they continued to use the old district numbers to describe the schools.)

In terms of expenses, then as today, education was the largest town expense, followed by highway. In the period 1877-1891, the average spending for schooling in Monterey was \$1156 per year (43% of the total), and for highway, \$754 (28%). The total annual town expenses averaged \$2703. Interestingly, the third most expensive spending category was for support of the poor, averaging \$456 (17%).

Now, a bit more about the numbers, names and locations of schools. Prior to 1847, Tyringham (including Monterey) had as many as fourteen school districts! Eight of these became Monterey schools with

District.	No. of different scholars of all ages.		No. under 15 years of age.		Average attendance of all ages.		Length of School in Months.		Average m'thly wages, board included.	TEACHERS.
	Sum.	Win.	Sum.	Win.	Sum.	Win.	Sum.	Win.		
1	8	11	1	4	4	8	3	3	\$13.00	Miss T. A. Minor.
2	26	39	1	2	22	28	3	4	14.00	Misses A. E. Langdon and M. Langdon.
3	19	32		10	15	22	4½	3¾	15.00	Misses S. J. Brett and J. E. Sumner.
4	12	23		7	9.4	18.8	4	3½	15.79	Misses E. W. Hyde and H. L. Brewer.
5	8	19	2	1	5	8.6	4	3½	9.33	Misses S. M. Johnson and R. J. Pixley.
6	5	10	1	1	3	5.5	2½	3	12.28	Miss M. L. Morrison.
7	31	25	8	1	18	17.3	2½	4½	13.63	Mrs. R. E. Branning and Miss L. M. Thomson.
8		13		3		10		4	18.00	Miss F. M. Underwood.
9	21	31	3	8	16	21	3½	4	15.66	Misses F. A. Bentley and E. W. Hyde.

Since the Report was made out all the Registers have been returned, and the Table is filled out.

This nugget leads to all kinds of questions: *Nine Schools in Monterey? Really? Where were the schools? Who were the teachers and what were their qualifications? And what about the average monthly wages, board included?*

In this article I can only begin to scratch the surface about schooling in Monterey. But here goes... (Note: Kathy Page Wasiuk wrote an excellent essay about the schools for the 1997 Monterey History book, and some of this article is taken from it.)

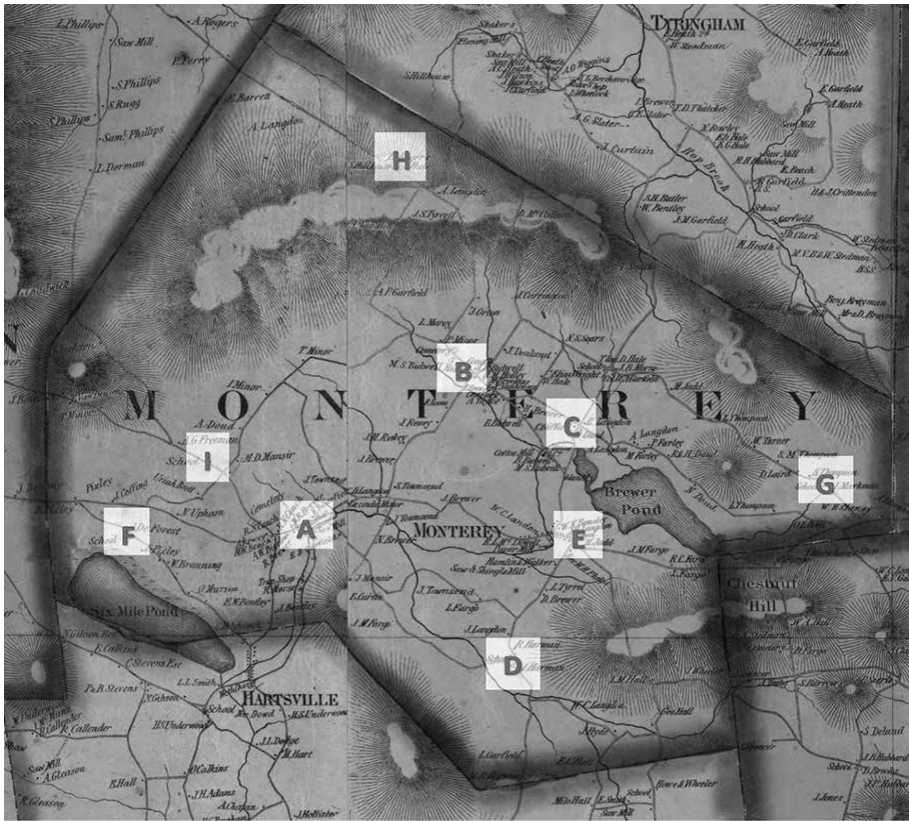
First, a brief summary of how schools were organized and run. Prior to American independence, schooling was hit and miss: sometimes, a woman would "keep school" in her home for her children and neighbors. Rarely was a formal "schoolmaster" engaged or paid by a colonial town, and certainly not in this hinterland settlement.

for males who would be enfranchised to vote. Not so much for girls.

In Massachusetts, towns with more than fifty families were required to "support a regular school for a total of six months of the year." In appears this law was rarely implemented.

School districts were established in the towns. "Each district had a committee-man responsible for the school property, and for hiring and paying a teacher. Standards were inconsistent from one district to another; truancy and tax collection (voluntary until 1828) [emphasis added] were constant problems."

As a practical matter, families ran subsistence farms and every person—including young children—had to work. Many families felt they could not afford to send children to school and lose their labor, especially during spring planting, summer haying, and fall harvesting. And



**Annotated Map of Monterey showing Schools.** Map is a portion of 1858 Map of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, by Henry F. Walling. Courtesy Digital Collections Library, Harvard University.

#### Table of Monterey Schools 1850-80s

\* indicates that building is labelled "School" on 1858 Map. + labelled "School" on 1876 map.

Lack of mark indicates building is not labelled as "School" on map.

Key SD# Name

(not necessarily listed in the same order as the School District numbers "SD#")

- A+ 5 Corashire School, SD#5, Rt 23, now a residence.
- B+ 1? Old Center School, the first schoolhouse built in Tyringham/Monterey ca 1766 on Lot #43, corner of Beartown Mountain Road and Fairview Road, now part of a residence (formerly Bob Donelan's house). Wallace Tryon called it the "Uptown Schoolhouse." This is probably SD#1.
- C+ - Morse Schoolhouse, corner of Tyringham Road and Art School Road, now part of a residence
- D\*+ 9 Harmon Schoolhouse, School District #9, corner of New Marlborough Road and Gould Road (Tryon property, now a residential rental cottage), note: this school house may have been established by New Marlborough prior to this area being annexed to Monterey in the 1850s.
- E\*+ 2 Center School, School District #2, Rt 23 village, vacant as of 2020
- F\*+ - "Pond District," aka "Pollywog School," Rt 57 near Lake Buel. A new schoolhouse was built in 1892, discontinued about 1910. It may be a different location from the one shown on 1858 and 1876 maps.
- G\*+ - Mount Hunger School, Mt Hunger Road, east of the cemetery, discontinued before 1894 and used as a pigpen by Henry Rogers; it's now a foundation in Beartown State Forest "Monterey Cobbles" property.
- H - "The Rock or Stone Schoolhouse," or "Stone District", Beartown Mountain Road, west of Brett Road, on property formerly known as the "Ariail Place," now Don Coburn's property; building is long gone, but the boulders remain
- I\*+ - Schoolhouse on Blue Hill Road, west of Brett Road

## SUSAN M. SMITH

Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1  
Great Barrington  
Massachusetts 01230

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

the incorporation of Monterey in 1847. A ninth school, the Harmon schoolhouse, was added when the north section of New Marlborough was annexed to Monterey.

The 1858 map is annotated to show the locations of the nine schools referenced in the 1859-60 table. The table of schools gives more information about the schoolhouses. There's a lot more to this story, left for another day.

We hope that you will join the Monterey Historical Society and help us dig out more of these nuggets of history. It's easy. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An Individual Membership is only \$15, Family Membership is \$25. Memberships received during December will apply to 2023 as well as the rest of 2022.

Thank you.

—Rob Hoogs



### Transportation

For Seniors and  
People with Disabilities  
Call (413) 528-1881  
48 hours notice requested

Only \$10 round trip to  
GB, Stockbridge  
& New Marlborough  
\$15 round trip to Pittsfield

*Monterey Council on Aging*



## Monterey School Houses – Then



**Old Center School  
Beartown  
Mountain Road**  
Left: c. 1890s  
Teacher:  
Elihu Harmon

Right: Old School  
House may have  
been removed or  
incorporated into  
modern residence



**Center School  
Main Road**  
Built c. 1850s  
Left: c. 1979  
The second floor  
was used as Town  
Offices into the  
1990s. School use  
discontinued 2020.

Right: 2022;  
building is vacant  
and future use  
remains to be  
determined.



Left: Monterey Center School Class 1932:

Teacher: Emma Heath;

back row l-r: Marion Thomson, John Hartnett; 3rd row: Bruce Smith, Ted Everett, Nathan Smith, Orville Heath; 2nd row: Marion Davis, Flora Kimberley, Lois Thomson, Frederick Kimberley; front row: Arnold Smith, Elery Heath, Bob Everett, Dick Tryon, Dan Everett



Left: Monterey Center School Class 1903:

Teacher: Amy Loom

Back row (l-r: Teacher Amy Loom; Irwin Rogers, Clarence Kinne, Bertha Deland, Nina Tryon, Mary Deland, Mable Gregory, Etta Bills, Julia Martin, Erving Hall, Allie Campbell; front row: Orville Heath, Francis Harmon, Munson Twing, Edwin Benton, (Bertha Deland), Alton Gregory, Harold Hall, Delmor Tryon, Wallace Tryon, George Deland, Thelma Gregory, Eleanor Smith

*All historic photos are courtesy of Monterey Historical Society; Rock School house drawing courtesy of Berkshire County Historical Society  
Current Photos are courtesy of Rob Hoogs*





**Corashire School**  
Main Road  
Left: c. 1985  
Teacher:  
Bea Phillips  
Right: Town  
School  
discontinued 1962;  
later used as  
private Avalon  
School; now a  
residence



**Harmon School House**  
New Marlborough  
Road  
Left: c. 1890s  
Teacher: not  
identified  
Town school  
discontinued  
c. 1914;  
Right: building  
remodeled and now  
used as rental  
cottage



*The Rock School house.  
Newbury  
Mass.  
24 August  
1861*

**Rock School House**  
Beartown  
Mountain Road  
Left: 1861  
(drawing by M.S.  
Bidwell)

School  
discontinued in late  
1800s and building  
removed.  
Right: Boulders



#### **Morse School House**

Corner of Tyringham Road and Art School Road  
No images have been found showing old school house building;  
it was reportedly discontinued before 1914.

Right: current residence on site. The old school house building may have been  
removed or possibly incorporated into modern house?



## Caving Matilda

“Once a jolly caver sat beside a sinkhole...” That song from an old spelunkers’ songbook was a takeoff on Waltzing Matilda. I was a spelunker some decades back and we liked that irreverent songbook which contained many a parody adjusted for cave exploring. There were stalactites and bottomless pits, carbide lamps and such. I liked “Oh, Little Town of South Bethlehem,” which is a place in Pennsylvania known for its caves. “Beneath thy deep and dreamless streets, the silent streams flow by.”

We caving kids went underground, in our coveralls and hardhats. There were tight places down there, often with brooks running through. We took climbing gear because sometimes there was rock-climbing, into or out of big caverns. We got deliriously muddy and couldn’t possibly care, coming out blinking and proud to the world above ground. I visited a friend in California and went with her

and her spelunker group on an overnight caving trip. We were down under, for real. We took meals and bedrolls. We totally turned out the lights.

Some critters besides spelunkers spend time underground. Some bats for instance spend the winter in caves, taking advantage of the geothermal advantage down there. I learned as a kid that caves are 56° pretty much anywhere, but I don’t think we got chilly. Even in hours underground, often wet and muddy, we human animals keep our body temperature up.

Little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) are winter hibernators in caves. Their temperature drops to that of the air around them. Their metabolism slows way down, and they sleep deeply. They are safe from freezing and don’t need to eat. In spring once the insects are flying, bats end hibernation, come out into the world of light.

Some animals are so adapted to life underground that they never leave it. There are the Texas blind salamanders,

for instance, which have no eyes. There are crayfish, millipedes, certain rat snakes, and something called Tumbling Creek cave snails. Bats spend part of the year in a cave and part above-ground. This surface habitat is called “epigean.” A cave-dwelling animal is a “troglobite,” but my mother’s 1937 Webster’s Collegiate doesn’t give this word, only “troglo-dyte.” The definition includes a regrettable profile of folks who live in caves, which I won’t quote here.

Of course, it turns out the cave fish and snails and such are endowed with sensory abilities that are much superior to those of their epigean near relatives. When I was a kid we had human neighbors whose relatives lived in a cave. This was an adult couple, geologists as I recall, and I saw a photograph of them grinning by the opening of their cave home. They were clearly somewhat epigean and may even have been university professors.

There is a large family of spiders, the orb weavers, with 2,800 different species. Some are garden orb weavers who make a fluffy cocoon for an egg sac and leave it attached to vegetation. Some are bolas spiders who put out a line of silk with a sticky blob at the end which they use to grab an insect. They can then reel this in. One species in this family is the cave orb-weaver. This one is sub-terranean and she hangs her egg sac from the roof of her cave. See Steve Snyder’s photograph in the Wildlife Report, page 25.

Researchers in Tennessee have somehow studied cave orb-weavers to see what their daily rhythms are like, in the absence of periods of light and dark. They found that the circadian clock in these spiders of total darkness does follow the 24-hour light cycle. The spiders’ periods of activity and inactivity correlate with the day they do not see.

This is our cold, dark time of year here in the Northeast Bioregion. One way or another we all make adjustments and continue our species. Some of us make up songs, some go down in caves and some do both. Here is the last line in “Oh, Little Town of South Bethlehem,” to that old familiar tune.

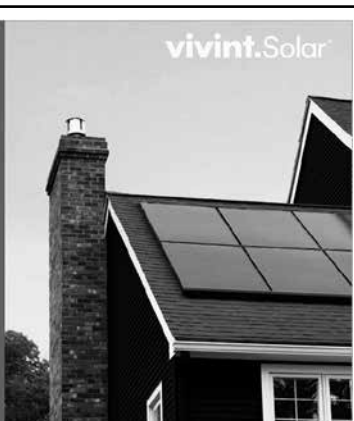
“But in thy dark caves shineth, the glow of carbide light, for Boston Grotto Spelunkers are caving here tonight!”

—Bonner McAllester

See how much you could save  
by going solar. Call or text  
today for a free consultation.

**CHARLEY GIAIMO**  
(212) 495-9945  
charley.giaimo@vivintsolar.com

Copyright © 2020 Vivint Solar Developer, LLC. All rights reserved. Vivint Solar Developer, LLC (EIN: 80-0756438) is a licensed contractor in each state in which we operate (Massachusetts License: 170648, 15688 A; SS-002342)



**Call to see if your home qualifies for a zero cost  
installation and equipment. Go green to save green!**



*I'm happy to do the small jobs!*  
**(413) 528-9323**

**CORASHIRE CARPENTRY  
and HOME IMPROVEMENT**

*A Lifetime of Experience - Professional Results*

**Repairs • Sheds • Coops • Decks • Windows  
Doors • Storms • Drywall • Taping • Painting**

Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner

**HIC #199222**



## The Eastern Harlequin Duck

The eastern harlequin duck is one of the most brilliantly decorated creatures you will ever see as a birdwatcher, for their both graphic design and flaming colors. Like the wood duck, it is an exotic example of how nature paints the males of most bird species with brighter, more visible colors for the breeding phase. The male is an attention getter, not unlike the crowing barnyard rooster, or the drumming partridge, beating to announce the dawn of a new day. The females, as in my illustration, are cloaked in a monotone earthly brown, camouflaged to secretly and invisibly nest out of sight to predators.

At this time of year the harlequins may come into passing review along the coast as they migrate from the remote peninsular outcroppings of Newfoundland and Labrador southward along the Maine coast, with some even passing Buzzards Bay all the way to the southern tip of New Jersey where they will spend the winter along the rough-watered coastline. Their return migration is to their breeding areas in the north where they follow fast-moving rivers inland to nest in isolated destinations.



The male and female first breed at two years of age, pairing up as winter approaches, when several males may court one female, surrounding her on the water, with raised tails, stretched necks, and ritualized head bobbing movements. During spring migration the hens lead the drakes back to her natal river waters to breed.

In the spring the hens choose the nest sites, usually on the ground, well concealed under bushes, or in tree hollows, close to calmer woodland rivers. Like the wood duck or the freshwater merganser, as soon as her chicks break their eggshells to hatch out, they are already preprogrammed to quickly depart the nest, flapping their small wings and striding rapidly to reach the watery safety. Once the chicks become proficient swimmers they move to ever rougher waters. Some of the adults may begin migration even before the chicks learn to fly.

They feed by diving for aquatic invertebrates, insects, small fish, and can use their beaks to pry food off the sides of submerged rocks. Their adult lives are spent in very active waters year round, which is rough on their bodies. Many harlequin ducks endure broken bones from this precarious lifetime being tossed around by pounding waves in the rough waters of their preferred habitats.

As a result of a number of factors, the population of the eastern harlequin ducks, which is estimated in the 5,000 to 20,000 range, has been considered endangered by both the US and Canada for thirty years. Their range has been slowly shifting northward and may soon no longer be present in the further southern parts of their historic range.

—George B. Emmons



### Christopher J. Tryon & Associates



Perc Testing

Septic Design

Sewer & Water System Design

Residential & Commercial Site Design

Drainage Design

Structural Evaluation & Design

Retaining Wall Design

Foundation Design

Construction Layout

Driveway Design & Permitting

Scenic Mountain Act Permitting

Wetland Permitting

Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction  
Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road  
P.O. Box 61  
Monterey, MA 01245  
413-429-4888  
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

### DOWNING LANE, PC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

623 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040  
FAX: (413) 528-5095

COURTNEY S. LANE  
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM



## November Wildlife Report

November has been a fine month for mammals. One friend saw two wolves at his place near Stevens Pond and showed me his photographs. Though taken from some distance, they were good ones and I think he was right about them. Another friend knows the young man who shot a wolf over in New York State recently and got it conclusively identified. And then there were the two that Roberta Weiss wrote to me about, walking down Route 23 past Stan Ross' place in September. And a few years back Valerie Costas had a visiting wolf out in her back yard, seen clearly through her glass storm door, prospecting around, and stopping to look carefully at her as she stood inside her kitchen. Thank you, Valerie, and all, for bringing us wolf awareness, at a time when we maybe thought they were gone from these parts for good.

The foxes are here, too. We were driving out our road on Thanksgiving Day and thought we had come upon a dog sitting in the road. It was a handsome fluffy red fox, in no real hurry to rush away. After we passed it by, it trotted along behind us, still in the road, though I don't think it really was following us.

Julie Kern reported a visiting black bear in early November. We who enjoy luring the birds in close with bird feeders have been holding off until we think maybe the bears have gone to sleep. But it has been so warm we don't know if they ever will go down. Our feeders are just out, here, and we are not ashamed to say how we enjoy having those old pals close outside the kitchen window. This includes squirrels, of course. Marc Holzer sent in a



photo of a well-fed grey squirrel, posing part way up a tree (above).

Steve Moore was visited by a possum that did not look so well, with injuries or irregularities especially around one eye. In the end, though, this critter managed to walk away though who knows how far. By now it may be transformed by the carrion beetles into other forms of life and compost. Or maybe it got well and is still a possum (below).



We have a porcupine photograph from Matt Vella, and otherwise have not heard much from folks about the quill pigs. On a Thanksgiving Day hike to explore the Ridge Trail and the abandoned Beartown Ski Area in South Lee we went to see the old lodge, or remains of it. This is not far from the Hurlbut Paper factory, and all that remains are two chimneys with fireplaces, at either end of the foundation. I doubt the skiers have been taking the train up from New York, getting off in South Lee and heading for the Merrell Inn or for the old rope tow at Beartown ski area. There is life in the old lodge yet, though. Porcupines have left their calling cards in both of the fireplaces, so we know they have climbed up inside the chimneys for safe winter lodging.



In the insect world we have monarch sightings from Carol Edelman in November and Kit Patten took a photograph (above) of a black swallowtail caterpillar munching on a carrot flower, which was going to seed. The critter is unusual in that its spots are more orange than yellow. Maybe Kit will get a look at one of its offspring next summer.

In the plant world of wonders, we saw both skunk cabbage and pipsissewa the day after Thanksgiving, over by my cousin's house in Berlin, Mass. I am not used to seeing skunk cabbage coming up until February in these parts. Pipsissewa is handsome and evergreen, and my old book says it can be used to cure hysteria.

Besides this, Cora and I went on our annual walk around York Lake looking for cranberries. We found some and took a photograph. The foliage is handsome, the berry is big, shiny, and dark red (at right, above). One year we explored the swampy end in our canoe, had our lunch down there, and found lots of cranberries. The next year, not a single one. It's a mystery.

**W**  
**WEBSTER**  
design landscape horticulture

websterlandscapes.com 413-229-8124 Sheffield, MA



Thanks to Steve Snyder, we have a remarkable arachnid story to tell, that of the cave orb-weaver. Steve came to a place where a big tree had gone over in the wind, turning up its root pad and some big stones. There, hanging from what had been an underground roof, were several white orbs or egg sacs, almost spherical but pointed at their upper ends where they had hung from the underside of the roots of the big tree. Not knowing what exactly these were, Steve took a couple of photographs and put one of the treasures in his pocket, thinking whatever it was, it would not be likely to survive the winter, tipped up now to the elements. Sometime later he found many tiny spiders had emerged in his coat pocket.



Stay tuned as we keep an eye on things, as in *Horton Hears a Who*, by Dr. Seuss, 1954. And remember, "A person's a person, no matter how small." There is more about these small spider persons in this issue of the *Monterey News*, on page 22, "Caving Matilda."

Thank you for all your stories, photographs, questions, and observations.

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

Open Year Round

SUMMER CAMPS · WINTER CAMPS · WEEKEND RETREATS

## Sharing The Gospel Of Jesus Christ

**HUME**  
NEW ENGLAND  
CHRISTIAN CAMPS

413.528.3604 · [hume.org/newengland](http://hume.org/newengland)  
73 Chestnut Hill Road · Monterey MA, 01245

## H&H Builder & Shade

### BUILDER, RETRACTABLE AWNING & WINDOW

413 . 429 . 5134	50 Pixley road
hhbuilder7@gmail	Great Barrington Ma. 01230

## J.J. Harrigan

Owner

# BIZEN

---

Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables  
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes

## On the Cutting Edge

備前

**"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.**

*The New York Times*

**Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar**

17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.

## 413-528-4343

**Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10**





## 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 Scott Jenssen  
Monterey Select Board  
(justin@montereyma.gov)  
(susan@gmail.com)  
(scott@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click “Contact Us” at [www.montereyma.gov](http://www.montereyma.gov).

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

## Parkinson's Support Group- One-Year Milestone

The Southern Berkshire Parkinsons Support Group, an initiative of the Monterey Council on Aging, celebrated its one-year anniversary in November. They marked the occasion by all contributing to an anniversary party held at the home of group members Richard Pargament and Ray Norrell. Everyone present enjoyed the chance to socialize informally with fellow members of the group, and the day's celebration led to the strengthening of the bonds among them.

A second milestone took place on November 12, 2022, when Richard Pargament and Roberta Weiss, co-facilitators of our local support group, attended a very informative American Parkinson's Disease Association (APDA) conference in Worcester. Sponsored by the Massachusetts chapter of the APDA, the conference focused on practices that can be used by Parkinson's support group facilitators to help strengthen their supportive communities.

Networking with experts in the field, Roberta and Richard found the exchange of ideas and discussion of the challenges faced in leading support groups to be extremely valuable. Their in-person contacts may also prove helpful in bringing

future presenters to our local monthly group. While not unique in this respect, our Monterey Parkinson's Support Group pays equal attention to the needs of caregivers and people with Parkinson's. Richard, serving on a panel of facilitators, responded to questions from the moderator and audience about this topic. The challenges caregivers face in their critical role in the management of the illness can often be overlooked.

The Southern Berkshire Parkinsons Support Group meets at the Monterey Library on the first Thursday of every month for two hours starting at 2 p.m. The meetings are open to people diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and to their caregivers. Members of the group come from Monterey and surrounding towns, including Pittsfield, Sheffield, Otis, Great Barrington, Hillsdale (NY), Tyringham, Lee, and other locations. As the only APDA-affiliated Massachusetts support group west of Springfield, we get many phone queries from western Massachusetts.

For further information about the Southern Berkshire Parkinsons Support Group, contact Kathryn Roberts, outreach coordinator, Monterey Council on Aging, at [coaoutreach@montereyma.gov](mailto:coaoutreach@montereyma.gov), or by calling (413) 528-1443, ext 112.

— Lin Saberski  
Council on Aging co-chair

## Police Emergency Contacts

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

**[dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us](mailto:dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us)**

- Police dispatch service number:  
**(413) 236-0925.**

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

**528-3211**

**Get IT Solutions**  
Software  
Hardware  
Networking  
Smart Home Systems

**Fiber Connect**  
Data @ the Speed of Light

**support@bfcma.com 413.429.4555**  
**bfcma.com**



## Bidwell House Museum

The year is drawing to a close and the staff and board of directors of the Bidwell House Museum want to express how grateful we are to all of our neighbors in Monterey. We see you hiking the trails, attending programs, and volunteering in our gardens, and we feel so lucky to be a part of such a supportive community.

Our seasonal house tours came to an end in October and after some lovely "candlelight" tours in November, a winter quiet has settled over the museum. Inside, the staff and board are hard at work planning for our winter lecture series on Zoom and our 2023 programs. To continue that work throughout the winter, we need your help. Our annual appeal campaign letter, with an update on the museum and images from the year, went out in late November and we ask you to please consider donating to this end-of-the-year fundraising campaign. The donations from this campaign allow us to keep sharing our trails, the Bidwell story, and history education with the community.

The first lecture in our online winter lectures series will take place on Wednesday, January 18, at 7 p.m. Misty Cook of the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe of the Mohicans will discuss Mohican medicines for the winter months and the history of herbal medicines throughout the Stockbridge-Munsee band of the Mohicans Tribe. Registration for the talk will open on the museum website in December.

## Calendar

**MCC events** listed on page 7.

**Friday, December 9:** Luncheon at Mt. Everett High. See page 13.

**Saturday, December 10:**

Gould Farm Holiday Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 10.

New Marlborough Monterey PTA Holiday Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mill River school. See page 8.

**Wednesday, December 14:** Movie night, 7 p.m., library. Showing *To Sir with Love*. See page 13.

As always, don't forget that the museum gardens and trails are open year round for hiking, walking your dog, or even snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps along with information about our two self-guided outdoor walks can be found on the front porch, the parking kiosk and on the museum website at [bidwell-housemuseum.org](http://bidwell-housemuseum.org). Winter is a great time to visit the beautiful Bidwell property.

Stay warm!

—Heather Kowalski  
Executive Director

## Monterey News

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

## Town Contact Information

### Emergency! 911

#### Town Administrator:

528-1443 x111

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

(for town boards and misc. questions)

#### Assessor: 528-1443 x115

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

#### Building Department: 528-1443

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

#### Community Center: 528-3600

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

#### Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136

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

#### Highway Department: 528-1734

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

#### Library: 528-3795

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

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

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

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

#### Post Office: 528-4670

**SBRSD (Schools):** (413) 229-8778

#### Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

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

(for questions about your tax bill)

#### Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

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

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

**BERKSHIRE  
PROPERTY  
AGENTS.COM  
413 528 6800**

**PLEASE CALL US SO WE MAY  
HELP YOU PURCHASE  
OR SELL PROPERTY.**

**12 RAILROAD ST GREAT BARRINGTON  
BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS LLC**

**SMART SERVICE  
AND TARGETED  
MARKETING MAKE US  
A TOP-SELLING  
REAL ESTATE  
AGENCY**



## MONTEREY NEWS

PO Box 9

MONTEREY, MA 01245-0009

### Transfer Station Holiday Hours

**CLOSED** Christmas & New Years,  
**OPEN** following Mondays.

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
GREAT BARRINGTON MA  
PERMIT NO 95

*Change Service Requested*

### Transfer Station

#### Fall thru Spring Hours

(Until Memorial Day weekend)

Sunday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

### MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7-9 p.m.

Tuesday.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.

.....& 1:30-5 p.m.

Thursday.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.

.....& 4-8 p.m.

Friday.....4-8 p.m.

Saturday.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.

.....& 7-9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

MontereyMassLibrary.org

## Rick Mielke

### Seasonal Caretaking

Professional Year-Round Maintenance  
of Your House and Grounds

**(413) 329-0331**

• Fully Insured

roadmaster333@yahoo.com

P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Copyright © Monterey News 2022

email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore

Copy Editor.....Kateri Kosek

Mailing Labels.....Joe Baker

Treasurer.....Cindy Hoogs

*Contributions from local artists this month:  
Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 17; Maureen Banner, p. 3;  
George Emmons, p. 23; Bonner McAllester, p. 1.*

### Corashire Realty

Assisting Buyers & Sellers since 1966



Deborah D. Mielke  
(C) 413-329-8000  
corashirealty@gmail.com



Nancy Dinan, founder

215 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Call for an appointment to see our Monterey listings

Member of MLS.

## FiberConnect

### Broadband Drawing

FC Customers Automatically Entered  
to **WIN**

**One Month Free Internet Service\***

Residents & Businesses Eligible

Random Drawing Starts Jan 1, 2022

Free Month Applied to the Following Month

\*Applies to Internet Service Only