

# MONTEREY NEWS

April 2024 Est. 1970  
Vol. LIII · Number 4



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



*The tanker/pumper fire truck above is very similar to the vehicle the fire company has recommended to the select board to replace our twenty-year-old pumper. The ladder truck we received in 2016 is nearly paid off. See page 4.*

I've camouflaged my heart among  
leaves and damp ground,  
my voice, soft and tawny, my location  
unreadable. You've considered running  
in my direction, flailing, if only to  
watch me fly.  
Spring, Woodcocks page 17

I've been living in Monterey for over a  
year— my house is outfitted with a mul-  
titude of "shopped" treasures.  
Swap Shop FOMO page 29

I find it hard to write about Africa. As there  
is an unbridgeable gap between seeing a  
rainbow and describing one, so is the fu-  
tility of capturing the unique topography,  
the beautiful animals free in their world.  
Into Africa pages 18-21

They can take a peek up, eyes and nose only,  
get more air and ease under again. "Dive,  
dive!" whispers their inner commando.  
Frogster Eggs page 16

Later that month, on the recommendation  
of a friend, he called a girl to ask for a  
blind date. The girl liked him immediately.  
Hy Rosen page 24

Mornings, Dad was out the door, headed  
to coffee club; no matter what was hap-  
pening at the farm, he wasn't missing the  
daily gathering.  
Bill Bell page 27

Sue was a great walker. Well into her 90s  
she would often ride her bike to the Mon-  
terey General Store and then walk along  
Main Road, wearing a large hat and long  
white gloves.  
Historical Society page 13

Gould Farm is thrilled to announce the  
opening of the Roadside Café in May.  
We invite the community to join us for a  
ribbon-cutting celebration at Roadside on  
Saturday, May 11, at 4 p.m.  
Roadside 2.0 page 8

I am looking forward to meeting and  
serving you, and hearing your thoughts  
and concerns.

Letters page 6

We are reviewing current public meeting  
spaces, and conducting "due diligence"  
about the building condition. We are learn-  
ing from other local groups in neighbor-  
ing towns about their similar experiences.  
Meeting House Committee page 10

Besides helping out with keeping the  
summer reading program, and the summer  
program performances, we also encour-  
age the intern to lead a craft workshop or  
story hour.  
Library-Interns page 13

Each year, June through August, the mu-  
seum hosts three or four interns who are  
interested in learning about history and  
horticulture, giving tours, and helping  
with events.  
Bidwell- Interns page 26

Waiting. We all do it. Whatever events  
you're waiting for while you read this, be  
kind to yourself. Waiting is hard.  
Waiting page 22

An online archive of all the *Monterey News*  
issues from the very first one in March  
1970 up to the first digital version in 2005  
is now available. What was going on in  
July of 1984? Read the paper!  
Internet Archive page 22

Going solar is not just about installing  
panels—it is about empowering individu-  
als to embrace cleaner, more sustainable  
energy solutions while reaping long-term  
financial benefits.  
Installing Solar Energy page 14

## Town Elections 2024

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, May 7, from noon to 7 p.m., at town hall.

The election list below may not be complete. The names followed by (R) are confirmed nominations by the Republican party caucus. The Democratic caucus was held very late in the month and the *News* has not received their confirmed nominations.

Many of the Republican nominations may also have been nominated by the Democratic caucus. This is not unusual.

However some are reasonably certain based on information from other sources. Those listings are followed with a question mark (?).

### Contested Seats

Tree Warden (1 year)

Myles Pierce (R)

Kevin West (D)?

### Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)

Jonathan Levin (R)

Board of Assessors (3 years)

Teresa Steibel (R)

Board of Health (3 years)

Mort Saloman (R)

Bylaw Review Committee (2) (3 years)

David Myers (R)

Jeff Zimmerman (R)

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

Linda Thorpe (R)

Finance Committee (3 years)

Steven Pullen(D)?

Finance Committee (1 year)

Ilene Marcus (R)

Library Trustee (2) (3 years)

Nancy Kleban (R)

Cheryl Zellman (R)

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc (R)

Parks Commission (2) (3 years)

Thomas Mensi (R)

Tracey Brennan (R)

Planning Board (2) (5 years)

Thomas Sawyer (R)

Select Board (3 years)

Justin Makuc (R)

## Candidate Statements

If you have been nominated for an office, or filed independent nomination papers, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the *Monterey News*. The paper will be happy to publish candidate statements in the May issue.

Feel free to ad a photo to be publish along with the statement.

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

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

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

## Questions about Voting?

A comprehensive explanation of voting and voter registration options, including early voting, mail-in ballots, and absentee ballots, can be found by going to Mass.gov and searching for "voting." Click on the first result, "Elections Division."

Please feel free to reach out to the town clerk with any questions or further explanation of voting options.

To visit or contact the town clerk, on the town website, montereyma.gov, go to "Town Clerk" under departments. Office hours are posted. There is a link, "Email the town clerk," or call (413) 528-1443 ext.113.

—Chris Andrews  
Monterey Town Clerk

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## Candidate Statement

Jon Levin, ZBA

I hope you will consider supporting my candidacy for reelection to the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). I have served as an alternate and then an elected member of the ZBA over the past thirteen years, and chairman for over five years. As an attorney in private practice for over forty years, my primary expertise is in real estate development, land use planning, and small business. As a member of the board, I have always strived to balance the requirements of the town's zoning by-law with the community and homeowner needs, and I believe we have achieved that goal. I have the necessary experience and expertise to continue to serve on the ZBA and I would welcome the opportunity to also continue to serve the Monterey community. Thank you for your consideration.

—Jon Levin,  
30 Elephant Rock Road

## Candidate Statement

Myles Pierce, Tree Warden

Myles Pierce is interested in the tree warden position in Monterey. He was the tree warden in New Marlborough for about a year and a half; the only reason he left the position was because he moved to Monterey. He was the former tree warden in Monterey, but had some personal reasons for not running again that have since been resolved. Myles has worked for the Haupt Tree Company for seventeen years and he has worked for the Haupt Tree Company division of Bartlett for one year. Haupt was sold to Bartlett, but Myles stayed on and still holds the same position as a foreman. He has training and years of knowledge in proper tree care. He would love to get into the tree warden position again and serve the community keeping the roads safe from hazardous trees, where he and his wife are raising their family.

—Samantha Pierce

## In My View



### Town Administrator transition

As of March 7, the select board has selected Roger MacDonald to be the next town administrator of Monterey. While the board is still negotiating a contract with Mr. MacDonald, he began in his new role in town hall on March 15. Ms. Noe formally resigned her position effective March 9. We appreciate Ms. Noe's countless contributions and more than eighteen years of dedicated service to the Town of Monterey, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

This change in leadership will be an opportunity to review our procedures and practices to determine what works well and where there is room for improvement. The town administrator position is still relatively new to Monterey and now is an excellent time to review its duties and responsibilities, a process that this select board has been working on thoroughly during the past year, and will continue to do throughout the transition.

I hope all residents who would like to meet Roger have the opportunity to do so. Roger can be reached via email at [admin@montereyma.gov](mailto:admin@montereyma.gov) and via phone at (413) 528-1443 (ext. 111) – of course you can also stop in at town hall.

This town administrator transition is a pivotal moment for the town government, and Roger, the select board, and all of the town's dedicated employees and officials are doing our best to make it as smooth

as possible. If you have any questions or concerns about the transition, please feel free to email me at [justin@montereyma.gov](mailto:justin@montereyma.gov) or call me at (413) 429-5854.

### Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The select board is still working on finalizing the annual town meeting warrant which will be signed by mid-April for the Saturday, May 4 town meeting. Under consideration are the FY25 budget as well as a number of vehicle purchases and other money special articles. I want to use this newsletter to notify voters of two of the special articles that will be on the town meeting warrant, both of which have already been voted affirmatively by previous town meetings and ultimately failed due to procedural clerical errors: the "Recall Special Act" and the "Lake Garfield Tax District."

### Recall Special Act

The recall special act was tabled after lengthy discussion at the October 24, 2020 special town meeting, by a vote of 45-10. It was tabled again at the June 12, 2021 continued annual town meeting (article 24) along with the rest of the warrant articles due to the length of the meeting. It was voted on at the November 6, 2021 special town meeting, and passed by majority vote, 68-11. Although the select board forwarded the special act to our representatives in the state legislature, our state representative and senator failed to properly file and get approval for the legislation.

State representative Smitty Pignatelli informed the town in May 2023 that Monterey Town Meeting would need to approve the recall special act again for it to be re-filed in the state legislature. The select board is proposing language very similar

to that initially approved in November 2021, with minor modifications made by the select board and town counsel.

The recall process being proposed can be summarized in these steps:

1. Thirty (30) registered voters of the town may initiate a recall election to remove an elected official from office.

2. Fifteen (15) percent of the registered voters of the Town are required to support a recall petition by signing petition sheets.

3. After verification of signatures by the board of registrars, the town clerk submits the petitions to the select board.

4. The select board shall immediately give written notice of the receipt of the petition to the officer sought to be recalled. If the officer does not resign within five (5) calendar days of the date notice is given by the select board, then the select board shall promptly call an election.

5. Ballots used in a recall election will include two sections: (1) FOR or AGAINST the recall of the incumbent; and, (2) candidates for election if the recall is voted in the affirmative.

6. If the recall vote is unsuccessful, the incumbent remains the elected official. If the recall vote is successful, the candidate with the highest vote total is elected to serve the remainder of the term of office.

### Lake Garfield Tax District

The tax district was first voted on at the February 18, 2016 special town meeting, and passed by majority vote, 39-29. It was later identified that there was a procedural clerical error and the bill was never approved by the state legislature. The tax district was proposed again at the October

*cont. on page 4 >*

## Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local  
References



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with

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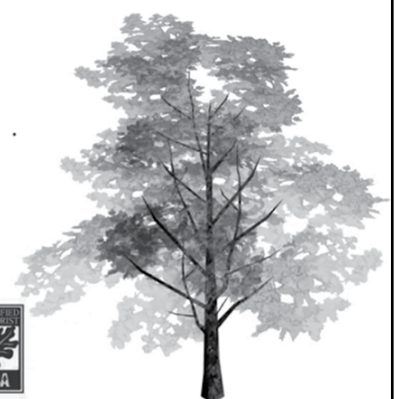
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*In My View, cont. from page 3*

6, 2016 special town meeting just eight months later. At this meeting, a motion to table the article passed by a single vote.

The select board will present a “Lake Garfield Tax District” similar to the one considered in 2016, with minor modifications suggested by town counsel and the Lake Garfield working group. A lake tax district is not new to Monterey because, as you may know, Lake Buel is already managed with its own tax district.

A Lake Garfield Tax District is arguably a more equitable and sustainable way of managing the lake science consulting and milfoil mitigation that is required for the upkeep of Lake Garfield. In each year since 2017, the town has allocated \$30,000 to \$50,000 to control milfoil and promote the health of Lake Garfield, primarily with diver-assisted suction harvesting. For the last several years, the tax burden for maintaining Lake Garfield has been shared by the Monterey tax base at large, including a number of Monterey taxpayers who are also part of the Lake Buel Tax District and consequently end up paying for the maintenance of both lakes.

I see compelling reasons for and against the Lake Garfield Tax District because on one hand all town residents have access to Lake Garfield via the public beach and boat ramp, but on the other hand those residents who live within the proposed Lake Garfield District do, in general, benefit from the lake in a more

direct and significant way. There is no perfect way to tax.

If the town meeting approves the article on May 4, it will begin a longer process of setting the tax district in place:

1. The article passes town meeting.
2. The document is presented to the attorney general for approval.
3. The document is then presented to the state legislature as a bill. The bill has to pass both bodies of the legislature, and then be signed by the governor.
4. The document establishing the district then comes back to the property owners in the proposed district and they have to pass the establishment of the district by two-thirds majority of the quorum present at the meeting, called by the select board.
5. The property owners in the district then vote for the members of the “prudential committee” that will supervise the district.
6. Each year the property owners in the district vote on the budget presented to them by the prudential committee, and then receive a tax bill based on the assessment.

We hope to have a strong attendance at the May 4 annual town meeting. If you have any questions about the warrant, please do not hesitate to contact a select board member.

—Justin Makuc, chair  
Monterey Select Board

## A New Fire Truck



On January 30, fire chief Shawn Tryon met with the select board to discuss the purchase of a new pumper/tank fire truck for the

town. The purchase of the new truck is to replace the current pumper truck that is now twenty years old. The process for getting a new truck of this size will take twenty-four to twenty-eight months to be built once ordered. So, by the time we receive a new pumper truck the one we have will be well past the guidelines. The Monterey Fire Department uses the NFPA-1911 as their guidelines for replacing fire equipment including fire trucks.

During the select board meeting fire chief Shawn Tryon led a discussion about the possibility of rebuilding the current truck versus buying a new one. The new truck, at current pricing, will cost approximately \$1.1 million (including extra equipment). There was a scheduled price increase of 4.5% beginning February 1. A delay in confirming the town’s intent to order the truck might have added an additional \$50,000 to the cost.

He estimated that to have our current truck rebuilt would cost approximately \$500,000 and take up to a year to do the work. The rebuilding of the current pumper truck was not considered the best choice because of the logistical problem of not having a pumper truck for the time it would take to rebuild it. Furthermore, according to NFPA-1911 standards, a rebuilt truck has a life span of only an additional ten years versus a new truck life span of twenty years. There is a resale market for older trucks, possibly even locally.

Chief Tryon and deputy chief Chris Tryon have been considering all the different options for the fire truck that

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



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would best serve the needs of the fire company and the town. This includes the new pumper's dimensions making the truck more maneuverable, only a slight decrease in water capacity (2,000 gallons), firefighter's use, and lower maintenance costs. They have been talking to two vendors and have started conversation with a third vendor. Tryon said that an important factor is that the fire company has been working with KME since 1996 and they provide the best mobile service and are very responsive in comparison with the other alternatives. The cost of the truck would be essentially the same from any of the other companies.

By the time of the meeting, the chief and deputy chief had spent over eighty hours talking to vendors, understanding their numerous options, and deciding what direction they should go.

After the discussion the select board agreed "to tell the sales company that the town is seriously considering the tanker truck in order to hold the December price," as stated in the minutes.

—Frank Abbott  
Monterey Select Board

## Selecting a Town Administrator

On Thursday, March 7, the select board conducted interviews for the town administrator position. This was the culmination of a many-months-long process, which began last August.

The existing TA contract with Melissa Noe called for a six-month notice of non-renewal. This was a necessary step if the board was to later decide on conducting a search for candidates when the current contract ended in late February. Therefore in August the board sent a notice of non-renewal to Ms. Noe, which some interpreted as her being terminated, which was not the case.

During the fall and into winter the board had extensive conversations about the town administrator job description aided by advice from our human resource officer and town counsel.

The board also conducted a thorough evaluation of the town administrator with input opportunities by both the board members and the town administrator. The board members did not see each others' evaluations, and all the material was sent to Mary Aicardi of the Collins Center (see "Collins Center," page 11) who provided a summary of all the evaluation materials for review by both board members and Ms. Noe.

Once the board made a decision to conduct a search for candidates for the position, they again turned for guidance and support to Ms. Aicardi. Her role with the Collins Center includes executive recruitment. Aicardi drafted a job posting which was approved by the board; she arranged for the posting to be done across a large area; all responses were sent to her office for review, and recommendations of candidates to be interviewed. There were four responses, and Aicardi recommended two. As confidentiality throughout the process was important, the board only learned the names of the applicants two days prior to the interviews.

### The Interviews

Ms. Aicardi provided the structure for the interviews. The candidates were to be interviewed separately in one-hour allotments; there was a set list of questions that board members took turns asking of

both candidates; there was opportunity for followup questions to dig deeper into the responses and for clarifications; and the interviews ended with opportunity for more open-ended conversation.

The questions concerned:

- Experience and responsibility in municipal finance and budgeting;
- Thoughts on regionalization of services;
- Working as a manager or a leader, and describing human resource and supervisory experience;
- Approaching issues of affordable housing;
- Researching and analyzing data, presenting recommendations to the select board, and grant writing experience;
- Approach to communicating with select board, other official groups, and the community;
- How to best support the select board goal of civility and political discourse in the community;
- Ensuring transparency;
- What questions the candidate wished had been asked, and how they would answer.
- Finally the candidates were given a few minutes to speak to why they feel they should be selected.


An obvious difference in the responses by the two candidates was that one was speaking from direct experience in the town and the other as someone with related municipal experience elsewhere.

After the second candidate departed, the board opened the meeting for questions and comments from residents, limiting each to two minutes apiece. Following this half-hour comment period, the board considered next steps in the process. A motion was made to hire Roger MacDonald, currently then a member of the Monterey Finance Committee, as the next town administrator. A vote was taken and MacDonald was unanimously approved.

—Stephen Moore

*Editor's Note: If you would like to read both Ms. Noe's and Mr. MacDonald's cover letters and resumes, go to montereyma.gov. Under "Select Board" look on the right-hand sidebar for "Agendas" and find the agenda for March 7. Links for these documents are on the agendas.*

**Christopher J. Tryon**  
& Associates




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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)

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## Route 23 Culvert Project Zoom Questions for the Engineer

The Town of Monterey and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission are hosting a final outreach event to hear your questions and comments on the Main Road/Route 23 culvert designs on Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m., over Zoom (registration link below). On this call GZA, the engineers working on the plans, will present background to the designs and answer any questions you may have.

The new culvert designs will increase flood capacity by 50 to 100% and can accommodate future 100-year storms. This will ensure that Route 23 remains open and unfloded in this location during emergency storm scenarios when access is most crucial.

The new culvert structure will have an open bottom structure mimicking upstream and downstream river conditions and have an arch shape which aids in structural integrity of the walls. Designs also include an ADA-compliant sidewalk installation over the Konkapot from town hall to the post office via a crosswalk. The sidewalk provides the extra bonus of additional insulation and flood protection for the Monterey Water Company (a private company serving buildings and residences in the village area) water line without compromising water pressure. A full set of current designs can be found on the town's website under "Climate Resiliency." The plans are nearly complete and will go out for permitting and review this April.

To register please go to: <https://bit.ly/Rte23ask>.

— Courtney Morehouse  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

## House Number Signs

Whether you are previously signed up or not, you can now order a number sign for the end of your driveway so emergency services can quickly identify where you are. The Monterey Police Department now has a revolving account approved and set up to accept monies for the house number signs. The cost for each sign is \$25.

We can accept checks or cash. Checks can be made out to the Town of Monterey. The checks or cash can be dropped off at the town hall during business hours, put in the drop box alongside the town hall entry door on the street side, or mailed to:

Monterey Police Department, PO Box 942, Monterey, MA 01245.

Please include your name and your street number you are ordering with your payment.

Thank you for helping to make our community safe.

In Pride and Service,

— Officer Jen Brown  
Monterey Police Department



Mary Makuc

## Letters

Hello! My name is Roger MacDonald, Hupi Road. Last month I was hired by the Monterey Select Board as the new town administrator.

I worked for the Town of Needham, MA, for about twenty-three years, fifteen of those as the director of information technology. I've been around Monterey for about eleven years now, and plan to make this my final stomping ground. I became a full time transplant over a year ago. I've spent years living in all size cities and towns from Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. This includes Pittsfield being the largest, and Langdon, NH the smallest which at the time had about six hundred people. Yes, at one point I had a donkey, chickens, and sheep. But that's another story.

I am looking forward to meeting and serving you as the days go by. I'm interested in hearing your thoughts and concerns. I can promise that I will listen and do my best to help in any way that I can. I know that change is never easy, and we'll probably have our bumps and lumps. It will be a learning curve, us getting to know each other, but how steep a curve we can only wait and see. I appreciate whatever you might pass on, your patience, and your support. Stop by town office sometime and say "Hi!"

Thank you.

— Roger MacDonald  
Town Administrator

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## Monterey Welcomes... Roger MacDonald

A week after Roger's appointment as our town administrator, we sat down over coffee and cookies to get to know each other. I was under the mistaken impression that Roger was relatively new to Monterey, and to the east end of Hupi Road, but in fact he's been coming here for quite a few years.

Roger's early years began in Illinois. His father was an electrical engineer involved in some defense-related industries and moved a few times during Roger's growing up. From Illinois to Ohio and then to Pittsfield, where Roger graduated from high school.

He earned a degree in geography from Keene State College, in Keene, NH. He went to work as a geographic information systems (GIS) specialist in a private company. In 2000 he began working for the town of Needham, MA doing similar work for seven years. He became the director of Needham's municipal information systems in 2007 and worked in that position until January 2023. He supervised a department of five employees, created annual budgets, and worked with other members of the finance department on budget matters.

### "Facebook Romance"

A member of his Pittsfield high school class of four hundred students worked to organize a thirtieth class reunion using Facebook. As the group coalesced, he discovered a mutual connection to a former classmate, Gillian Ryan, whom he barely knew at the time.



Stephen Moore

Gillian works for an art and antiques auction house in New York City, and inherited and has maintained the home on the east end of Hupi Road, initially belonging to Gillian's stepfather Jim Secundy, who passed away in 1994, for almost thirty years. Gillian's mother, Patricia Ryan, now ninety-one years old, lives in Great Barrington. The house in Monterey served as a halfway meeting point for Roger and Gillian and they began spending time together in Monterey. In 2022 they married after which Roger decided to leave his job in Needham and relocate to Monterey.

He spent the first half of 2023 trying to clear his head from all the hustle and bustle and distractions in Needham, and decided he wanted to be active in town. When Frank Abbott was elected to the select board last year and resigned from the finance committee, Roger took note

and applied to be appointed to the committee, until the spring elections this year. He didn't make it quite that long because with his recent appointment as town administrator state law requires him to resign from the finance committee.

Roger said he is working at becoming acquainted with how the town functions through all the boards and commissions and committees. He is attending as many of the meetings of both public and private organizations as he can to meet folks and understand the various responsibilities.

While he'd only been in the town offices for a week he was finding his way around, and the other folks in town hall are very open and helpful. My impression is Roger meets people very easily, enjoys interacting, and wants to help in anyway he can. He also has experience from his job in a much larger municipal organization (Needham has an annual budget of over \$200 million) in the area of collecting and analyzing data for effective, efficient, and accurate budgeting, which he thinks will help our much smaller town organize each year.

As of this writing a contract is still not finalized.

—Stephen Moore

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# Community Center Calendar

## April 2024

### Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly activities:

#### Mondays:

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

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

**April 22:** Cook book club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com.

#### Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

Vikki True, 11:30 a.m.

Bridge and pitch, 1 to 4 p.m.

Ping-pong, 4 to 6 p.m.

Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

#### Wednesdays:

**April 24:** Council on aging's "Game Time!" 2 to 4:30 p.m. Board games with coffee, tea, and snacks. Fourth Wednesday of the month.

Tai chi with David Crowe, at 10 a.m. \$8 per class, or \$30 for the month.

**April 3, 10, and 17:** Theatre workshop with Maggie Barkin, 3:30 to 5 p.m. For information email maggierobertsbarbin@gmail.com.

**April 17:** Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Please send an email if you are interested to Lindarneilson@gmail.com.

**April 24:** Transformational breathwork, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Suggested fee \$30.

#### Thursdays:

**Thursdays, April 4 and 18:** Essential Exercise with Annie Rye at the Community Center from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. See council on aging calendar.

**April 4:** Darn yarners at 1 p.m. First Thursday of the month.

**April 18:** Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m. Third Thursday of the month. With Tritown Health nurses. Flu vaccines and checkups including blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. No charge for Monterey residents. Please RSVP to Jill at (413) 717-7209. Minimum of five people required.

**April 11 and 25:** Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 p.m.

#### Fridays:

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

Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays:

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

Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m.

Sundays:

AlAnon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. April 7 and 21, 6 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments, and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

**April 12:** Journey Dance/A somatic journey through the body, mind, and spirit. Sliding scale donations accepted.

#### Special Events

**Friday, April 19:** Yoga Nidra with Nancy Monk, 6 to 7 p.m. By donation. Register by emailing nancyamnk@gmail.com.

**Saturday, April 20:** Chestnut Champion Planting Workshop, 11 a.m. Demonstration planting outside at the MCC plus seed distribution.

**Sunday, April 21:** Native American flute, 1 p.m.

**Thursday, April 25:** Living After Loss. Grief support, co-sponsored with the council on aging. An open discussion around grief and loss, 2 to 3 p.m.

#### Coming Up

Moving Life Stories, Berkshire Pulse, in June.

This listing is based on information we had as of March 20. You can find updated information on events on our website, cc-monterey.org, or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com.

—RJ Supa, MCC director,  
and Nancy Kleban



Bonsai Cox

*Sap buckets along Gould Road.*

## Roadside 2.0 Coming in May

Gould Farm is thrilled to announce the opening of the Roadside Café in May. We invite the community to join us for a ribbon-cutting celebration at Roadside on Saturday, May 11, at 4 p.m. Tentative plans are to open to the public in mid-May. Our hours of operation will be Wednesday to Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Leading up to the opening, the staff and guests will be training on the new equipment, learning the restaurant point-of-sale system, setting up the market, and preparing to welcome the public. You may see people coming and going as the Roadside team practices serving our farm guests, staff, board members, and special donors. We can't wait to put up the official "Open" sign. For updates, follow @RoadsideStoreandCafe on Instagram and Facebook!

—Lisanne Finston  
(pronouns: she, her, hers)  
Gould Farm Executive Director

	<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



## Catching Up with the Council on Aging

The big news for this month is that Annie Rye's Essential Exercise class is starting up again. Dates for April are Thursdays, April 4 and 18. Details below.

Advance Notice for May: Peter Poirier and his band will be returning to play at the church on Thursday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. We hope you will join us. Great music and dancing for everyone with Monterey's movers and shakers!

And remember: Van transportation in Monterey is now available for everyone, with expanded hours and new towns added. The phone number to book a ride is (413) 591-3826.

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

—Kathryn Roberts  
CoA Outreach Coordinator/  
Administrative Assistant

### Coming Events

**Monday, April 1:** Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website. All are welcome.

**Thursday, April 4:** Essential Exercise with Annie Rye at the Community Center from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Annie's back by popular demand. Don't miss a chance to improve posture and balance with our master teacher. \$10 per class.

**Wednesday April 10:** Movie night at the Monterey Library at 7 p.m. Our April movie is *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, about a man with Down syndrome who runs away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler, and befriends an outlaw who becomes his coach and ally. Starring Shia LaBeouf. Critics consensus on Rotten Tomatoes describes the movie as a "feel good adventure brought to life by outstanding performances. *The Peanut Butter Falcon* finds rich modern resonance in classic American fiction." Get

there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

#### Wednesday, April 17:

CHP van at the fire house pavilion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wellness checks and vaccines available.

Documentary film in the Monterey Library at 2 p.m. Our March documentary will be announced closer to the date on email. Stay tuned! Light refreshments will be served.

**Thursday, April 18:** Essential Exercise with Annie Rye. See above on April 4.

**Friday, April 19:** Lunch at Agave at noon. Call or email Kathryn at the number/email above to reserve a seat at the table.

**Wednesday, April 24:** Game Time! at the community center from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite games or play one that's new to you. Fun for all ages and a great way to spend an afternoon with friends or make new ones. The council will serve light refreshments.

### Ongoing Services

**Parkinson's Support Group:** This month's meeting is on Thursday, April 4, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Monterey Library. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call Kathryn at the number above if you'd like more information.

**Transportation:** For trips to Great Barrington, Sheffield, Egremont, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield (Pittsfield is for medical only, Mon & Wed). Call (413) 591-3826. Hours are M-F 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat and Sun 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Priority is given to seniors and people with disabilities.

**Peter Poirier Band**  
At The **Monterey Church**

Nick Toscano  
Shinichi Otsu  
Peter Poirier  
Brad Hallett

Thursday May 9th 7:30-9pm  
449 Main Rd Monterey, MA  
01245  
Bring your dancing shoes! This will be fun!

*Come to the concert with Peter Poirier's band, Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.*

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

**Free Safety Vests:** Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running, or biking are available in town hall.

—Lin Saberski, chair,  
Council on Aging

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## The Future of the Monterey Meeting House

As reported last month, the Monterey Church congregation has voted to sell the building in the village. In response, a steering committee has been formed by volunteers to explore acquiring the historic church building in the village, preserving the building, and keeping it open for public functions. Steering committee members include Rob Hoogs, Mort Salomon, Wendy Germain, Shannon Amidon Castille, Maggie Barkin, Linnea Grealish, and Kyle Pierce. Virgil Stucker is helping with options for forming a new nonprofit, and Wayne Burkhardt is liaison to the congregation. Other volunteers are already coming forward to help the steering committee as it moves ahead.

The committee has met several times to explore the many details. First: how should the meeting house be reused? What are the opportunities? What are the community's needs? In our conversations, we have found that the community center and library meeting rooms are very heavily used, and booked up near capacity with existing programs and events. The community center has a practical seating capacity of about twenty to twenty-five people; it's possible to squeeze in about thirty-five seats. Since programs there turn over every few hours, no permanent seating or fixtures can be installed in order to retain flexibility of use. The library multipurpose room can comfortably seat about forty to sixty. And it also needs to remain flexible for multiple uses. The

walls are well used for the monthly artist exhibits. At times, events at these two town buildings exceed their capacities. Recently, attendees had to be turned away from the American chestnut program and the recent coffeehouse.

The meeting house has the capacity to work in cooperation with the community center, council on aging, library, and others such as the Bidwell House Museum, to handle programs that they cannot practically handle. The meeting house has two excellent spaces with capacity for larger events: the basement community room is a flexible meeting space—did you know that it was used for town meetings until the 1990s? There is a large kitchen (which the community center and library do not have). And this space is already well used by the coffee club and supper club, as well as hosting the food pantry. The steering committee thinks it is important to retain (and hopefully expand) these functions—and other public uses—in the center of Monterey, enhancing the vitality of the village.

The main floor—the existing sanctuary—is a wonderful space that can seat about 130 people as presently configured with fixed seating. It is used now for church services but also for concerts and other events. It has beautiful acoustics and natural light from the large windows. There are great opportunities—and challenges—for adapting the space to have a flexible area for performances and other functions while preserving the historic character. Events that need to have fixtures—such as backdrops, stage sets, etc.—could be accommodated here. We

recognize that the church building has no off street parking, but large events at the church have always been accommodated with on-street parking and we expect this will continue.

The steering committee is learning from other local groups – New Marlborough Meeting House, Sandisfield Arts Center, Otis Preservation Trust, etc.—about their similar experiences converting historic buildings into cultural centers.

We are also conducting “due diligence” about the building condition. So far, the building itself seems to be in good condition; more detailed inspections will be performed. But we need to anticipate future preservation needs as well as upgrades to the building that future uses might require.

There is much yet to work out, including fundraising and potential structure for a nonprofit that might acquire and operate the meeting house. But we are optimistic and energized by the reactions we have received so far.

We will keep the community informed and expect to hold another public forum in a month or so. Please let us know your thoughts, questions, comments, pros or cons.

Thank you.

—The Monterey Meeting House Steering Committee



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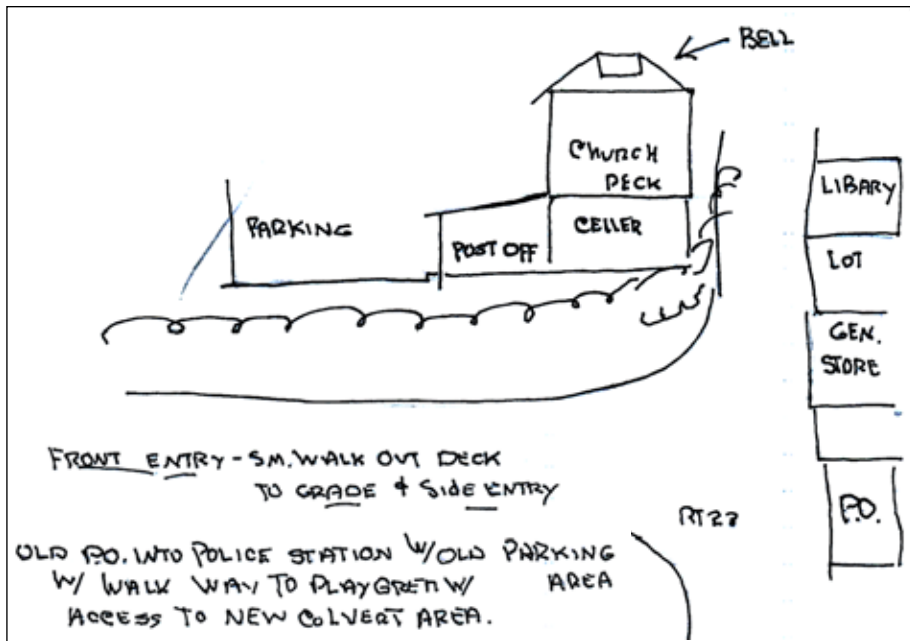
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## Collins Center

The Town of Monterey has employed staff from the Collins Center for services for several years on an as-needed basis. The select board turned to the center this fall for assistance with the process of searching for town administrator candidates. Below is information from their website about both the center, and Mary Aicardi who helped with this process. See [umb.edu/cpm/about](http://umb.edu/cpm/about), and [umb.edu/cpm/about/staff](http://umb.edu/cpm/about/staff).

### The Center

The Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management is dedicated to improving efficiency, effectiveness, governance, and accountability at all levels of government, with a particular focus on local and state government. The Center's aim is to enable public entities to provide high quality services to the people they serve on a sustainable basis.

### The Center's History

Since its establishment by the state legislature in July 2008, the talented staff of practitioners at the Collins Center have provided a comprehensive set of services to scores of the Commonwealth's cities, towns, school districts, and state agencies, as well as to a growing number of municipalities in other states.

The Center has built a strong reputation in municipal performance management, organizational studies, executive recruitment, and many other services.

### Mary Aicardi

Mary Aicardi, Senior Associate; Team lead for human resources practice team, training and professional development practice, executive recruitment.

She brings nearly thirty years of experience in public sector human resources administration and labor relations to the Collins Center. She served for more than eight years as the personnel director for the town of Watertown, where she negotiated numerous collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the town.

— Stephen Moore

## Church Proposal

*Editor's notes: This was left for "Stephen Moore" in the town hall News pickup box, with no name. It is the policy of the Monterey News not to publish anonymous content, but an exception is being made as this is simply a set of suggestions, and there's no direct opinions being expressed. To the author—this has been passed along to the steering committee for the meeting house effort.*

*This seems to suggest a variety of possibilities versus a fixed plan.*

- Convert to new post office. Bump out the cellar into parking lot.
- Remove tower and convert main church to meetings and or recreation building.
- Leave bell town to preserve the church history.
- Convert old post office to new police station.
- Convert police station to much needed space in town hall and new post office parking lot.
- Landscape church to complement the corner lot as the second entry.
- Buy the church for \$0 with rights to use the church for their services.
- Use parking lot (*old tea house lot*) next to side of church as post office and town parking.
- New police station with parking for police.

- More town parking, less fender benders at existing post office parking. Better access to all town buildings.

### Costs to Town

- Church- Bid \$0 with rights to services.
- Post office renovation ?
- Parking lot- Tryon?
- Walkway to town hall?

Note: Steve Pullen, church member, would be a good supervisor.

—Anonymous

*Split Images*

James McNamara/Barbara Woike  
Drawings / Photographs

thru April 27

*The Crystalline Image*

Rod Lamborn

May 3 - June 8

Opening Reception: May 3, 5:30-7pm

**KNOX GALLERY**  
Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

## Chestnut Champions Seed Distribution and Planting

It's time to start planting chestnut trees!

Last November, more than a dozen residents signed up to become Chestnut Champions—stewards of hybridized, somewhat blight-resistant nuts that could help reintroduce the legendary tree to Monterey.

John Meiklejohn and John Occhialini, volunteer orchard managers at the Granville chestnut seed orchard, and board members of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will be returning to Monterey on Saturday, April 20, at 11 a.m., at the community center (rain date the following Saturday), for a demonstration planting of germinated nuts at the community center. They will also be distributing fifty or more of the nuts that have resulted from three generations of backcross hybridization.

They will explain in detail how to nurture the young plants, from site selection and spacing to protection and fertilization. They will also answer any questions you may have about raising the trees, which should be planted about twenty feet apart in an area with full sun and good drainage—chestnuts don't like wet feet. Southern or southwest facing slopes are ideal. The researchers will also provide plastic six-inch tree tubes for each plant to prevent critters from eating them, along with printed instructions.



In caring for these nuts and giving them a chance to thrive, “chestnut champions” will be extending the work of the Granville research orchard and others like it around the state, said Meiklejohn. “We don’t have space to plant all these seeds ourselves,” he added. “Recipients of them will essentially become our extension agents.”

The seeds that are being distributed have moderately increased resistance to the chestnut blight, but they are not immune to it. “Be prepared to lose some,” Meiklejohn cautioned. Hybridization programs, like the one in Granville and another on the border of Monterey and Sandisfield, are

continuing to select, generation by generation, for hybrids that combine the blight resistance of Chinese chestnuts with the many outstanding characteristics of the American chestnut.

At this point, about fifty germinated hybrid seeds are available, but it's possible more can be procured if we have significant demand. Those who signed up for them last November will be on the priority list to receive at least three each. The researchers will also be bringing a few germinated nuts from pure American chestnut trees found growing wild around the state. The ongoing research by TACF requires maintaining the genetic material of pure American chestnuts for future breeding efforts.

If you plan to come to the April planting and receive seeds, please let us know at [Pollinators01245@gmail.com](mailto:Pollinators01245@gmail.com). Please get in touch as well if you did not sign up previously but want to receive seeds. If you are not able to get seeds this year, we anticipate more will be available next spring.

The planting demonstration and seed distribution is part of the Backyard Ecologist series sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group. It's also a step toward creating more diverse forests in our area. All are welcome to attend.

—Janet Jensen



## Library News

### July Book Sale

Please save the date, July 27, the last Saturday in July, for our annual book sale. The Friends of the Monterey Library will be looking for volunteers in the coming months to help out. We are also asking if you can bring your donations in now so we have time to sort them before the sale. We accept donations until the middle of July, but the sooner you bring them in, the easier it is for our sorter to organize them. Donations should be in good enough shape that you would want them on your bookshelf. We don't accept damaged or mildewed books, text books, foreign language books, or magazines.

### Summer Intern

For the past two years, The Friends have sponsored an intern for the summer to help with our summer reading program and programming. There will also be opportunities to help with library projects if time and scheduling permits. The time period for the internship is flexible, starting before or on the first Saturday of July, and continuing at least through the third Saturday in August. The actual time spent each week is also flexible. The most important time required will be to help out with the Saturday morning programming for the first three Saturday mornings in July, and the first three Saturday mornings in August. For the past two years we've had high school teens as interns. Besides helping out with keeping the summer reading program, and the summer program performances, we also encourage the intern to lead a craft workshop or story hour. So there is plenty of opportunity to be creative with making posters or coming up with ideas to encourage children to use the library in the summer, and learning about what goes on behind the library circulation desk.

To apply, please go to the library website, [montereymasslibrary.org](http://montereymasslibrary.org) and click on "Summer Internship Available," or use the following link: [montereymasslibrary.org/new-page-38](http://montereymasslibrary.org/new-page-38).

The Library will be closed on Monday, April 15 to observe Patriot's Day.

—Mark Makuc  
Library Director

## Monterey Historical Society News

We had a terrific group for the talk by author Gail Gelburd on March 21 about her upcoming book: *Slaying the Dragons: The Liberation of Sue Moody*. We had twenty-seven people in person in the library and another twenty people watching via Zoom. This talk was presented in collaboration with the Otis Preservation Trust. We were very pleased to see so many of our Otis neighbors.

Gail told a thrilling story that was both sad and exciting about Sue Moody's life and experiences in Paris in 1939-40 during Hitler's occupation of the city. In later life, Sue lived on Route 23 in Otis just over the Monterey line, having been invited to Monterey by her sister Ruth Burkholder. Sue was an active poet, contributing dozens of poems to the *Monterey News* between 1987 and 1993. (See page 17, "To Each: A Spring, A Fall.")

Sue was also a great walker. Well into her 90s she would often ride her bike to the Monterey General Store and then walk along Main Road, wearing a large hat and long white gloves. Gail and several others in the audience recalled seeing Sue Moody at Monterey's 1992 Memorial Day Parade, and several people in Monterey recall her walking along Main Road in the '80s and '90s with her large stylish hat, visiting her sister who lived in Monterey.

Gail's talk in March was particularly satisfying, sharing with our Otis neighbors about our common history, family connections, and community. We are planning to have more collaborations with historical societies from surrounding towns.

This will be even more evident over the next few years as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, listening for echoes of the footsteps, hoofbeats, and grunts of oxen who lugged the fifty-nine cannons from Ticonderoga to Boston along the Knox Trail through Great Barrington, Monterey, and Otis. We look forward to "walking in the footsteps" of our forebears.

We welcome everyone to participate in our programs. Our monthly talks and events are usually free, although we hope you will become a member to support the historical society. It's easy—membership forms are available at the historical display in the Monterey Library.

We have also just set up a page on Facebook: "Monterey Historical Society—Monterey, Mass." Check out the great story about the old clock in the Monterey Library and its connection to the Conley Inn in Torrington, CT. You are welcome to share your photos and memories.

Thank you for your interest in Monterey's history.

—Rob Hoogs, President  
[montereyma.historical.society@gmail.com](mailto:montereyma.historical.society@gmail.com)

Board of directors: Lauren Behrman, Wendy Germain, Cindy Hoogs, Laura Litwin, Paula Moats McNay, Mort Salomon, Robert Rausch, Barbara Swann

a farm clothesline  
at the edge of the bare woods  
early Spring colors  
—Laura S. Denman

### FREE Science and Art Workshop at Flying Cloud Farm

Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math for children grades 1-6  
Ceramicist and Science educator Jane Burke - Artist Scotty Salame  
Saturday April 13 - 9:30 to 12:30—Pre-registration is required.

At the Flying Cloud Farm in New Marlborough.

Contact Jane at [janesburke@gmail.com](mailto:janesburke@gmail.com) or text 413-429-6103



FREE thanks to the Cultural Councils of Monterey,  
New Marlborough, Sandisfield, and Sheffield.

## Installing Solar Energy— What's Involved

*Editor's Note: In January a solicitation was sent to the two solar advertisers in these pages to provide information on the process for getting solar energy systems installed, to be published in the Monterey News. Sunbug Solar happily engaged with the idea.*

The journey to solar is a very rewarding one. However, with more and more solar panels going up on roofs or ground mounts in our neighborhoods, many people assume that installing a solar project is a simple, quick process.

At ReVision Energy (recently merged with Sunbug Solar), we take pride in designing and installing clean energy projects that are tailored to each customer's specific home needs and energy goals (we've installed just over one hundred projects in the southern Berkshire county region!). While each project follows the same steps and timeline, they can each face unique obstacles for our team to navigate.

To help you know what to expect when going solar with ReVision, we have created this six-step guide to solar installations. We want to transparently educate the solar-curious on what the process of going solar realistically looks like, from start to finish.

**Getting Started:** You will have an open and informative conversation with our solar advisors to determine the best solar and electrification options for your home.

**Exploring your options:** A solar design specialist will conduct an evaluation of your home, learn about your energy goals, and discuss your system options.



Courtesy of Sunbug Solar

**Designing your system:** Our solar design team will help you lock down financing options and available incentives (state, federal, and utility), and plan the most cost-effective system for your budget.

**Preparing for install:** Before scheduling your install date, our experienced operations team will help get your project permitted for installation and connection to the grid.

**Installation day:** Our professional installation crew will build your solar project from start to finish, and ensure it is set up for maximum output.

**Turning your system on:** With our service team prepared to keep your system running smoothly, sit back and enjoy years of savings, energy independence, and a lower carbon footprint.

### My Payback Period?

Put simply, your solar payback period is the amount of time it takes for you to “break even” on your solar investment. This means calculating the time it takes for you to save as much on your electric bills as you spent on your solar energy system.

Most payback period calculations are based on averages, assumptions, and don't tell the full story. For example, we do not include the added resale value to your solar home in any of our financial calculations, even though it has been proven that solar strongly increases the financial value of your home.



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Let's look at an example: you receive a proposal from our solar advisor team for a solar project with a payback period of seven years. That means that it will take only seven years for you to receive enough savings from lower electricity bills to cover the amount you paid for your solar power system, after factoring in the 30% federal tax credit and potentially including other incentives like Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs).

After those seven years, you will enjoy nothing but electric bill savings with no more payments to make. From year eight to year twenty-five (or thirty, or even forty) you will accumulate tens of thousands of dollars in savings as long as your panels are producing clean, sweet, solar energy.

Consider a 6.4kw solar project scheduled to be installed on a sunny site in Massachusetts. Here is how we calculate the solar payback period for that project:

- Initial Cost: \$28,480
- 30% Federal Tax Credit: -\$8,544
- Homeowner Cost: \$19,936

This system is calculated to generate enough energy to save the homeowner \$2,208 a year (at current rates) by reducing the monthly payment on their energy bill. Using their cumulative energy savings per year we can find solar payback period with the following formula:

Homeowner cost / savings per year = payback period

Using the example above: \$19,936 / \$2,208 = 9.02 years

In nine years, this system will have generated enough solar savings to cover the cost of the entire system. After reaching the nine-year breakeven point, every dollar saved on your electric bill is the growing value of your solar investment.

Going solar is not just about installing panels—it is about empowering individuals to embrace cleaner, more sustainable energy solutions while reaping long-term financial benefits. With ReVision Energy as your partner, you can embark on this journey with confidence, knowing that we are committed to delivering excellence every step of the way.

—Lydia Berry, Sunbug Solar, a ReVision Energy Company

## Knox Gallery

*James McNamara / Barbara Woike: Split Images, Drawings/Photographs* opened on March 15 and will be on view (during library hours) through April 27. The couple moved to Stockbridge after retiring from prominent jobs in digital media.

McNamara works in a variety of mediums—graphite and charcoal, oils, acrylics, and watercolors. He favors working from photographic images of people and some landscapes, and uses “loose realism,” in which brushstrokes and lines are purposely left visible in the finished work. As the artist puts it, “Loose realism encourages the observer to find interest or meaning in the details.”

Photography is Woike's medium. She sees her work as an interaction with her subjects. She appreciates the people she photographs and strives to portray them in a way that would please them.

She notes that she is particularly grateful to Katherine Wells, whose image appears on the exhibit's poster. “When I was a child, she was an imposing figure—the first transgender person I'd ever encountered,” the artist reports. “The townsfolk mockingly nicknamed her ‘Sissy’,” she continues. “Wells bravely remained in Middletown for her entire life, supporting herself as a hairdresser. There she turned heads while quietly inspiring many of her friends and acquaintances to follow their hearts.”

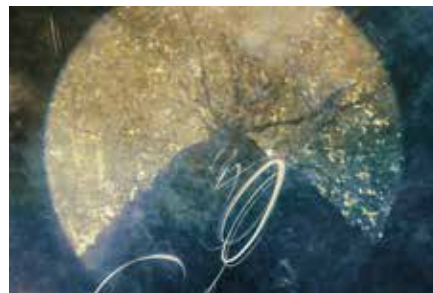
### Rod Lamborn

*The Crystalline Image* is set to follow *Split Images*, and will open on Friday, May 3, with a reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This is a chance to meet the artist, as well as to visit with your Monterey neighbors and friends. And don't forget the snacks that are provided for your enjoyment.

Lamborn, who lives in New York City, began to spend more time in Monterey, where he has family, during the pandemic. His early career as a cinematographer took him to conflict zones—Chechnya, East Congo, Liberia, and Afghanistan, from which he and his work emerged “as a testament to the power of storytelling.” His current project evokes landscape, with time, space, and light, “captured in a single moment.”



Above: Rod Lamborn  
Below: *Untitled*, by Rod Lamborn.



In addition to the opening reception, Lamborn plans a special event, which is “a sound bath activation” that will take place at the library during off-hours, when the library would otherwise be closed “to allow for an uninterrupted visualization journey.”

A facilitator who works for Kripalu will perform a sound journey. Participants will bring their own yoga mats and blankets, and will be invited to lie down for the experience. Lamborn will present briefly to prepare for the experience with the facilitator. Group shares and journaling will follow. (Check May issue of *Monterey News* or the Library website for the date.)

Lamborn asserts that, “This is truly in the spirit of how I have been presenting my work through moments of a relaxed mental state. It's sublime!”

Please join us for the opening reception of *The Crystalline Image* on May 3 and view *Split Images* during library hours anytime through April 27.

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

—MaryPaul Yates

## Frogster Eggs Due to Hatch

We have a clutch of eggs due to pop right on Easter. Maybe the fact that they are under some ice will set them back, or maybe protect them in ways they count on. If they hatch under the ice, the varmints will be kept out for a while including us and our dog who like to mess with that pond on warmer days.

This is not a true vernal pool, rather an old stock tank sunk in the ground in our garden, kept topped up by us during the summer so we have someplace to rinse off the carrots, also visit the frogs that keep coming back to it over the years. This year the ice was off the pool in the middle of March and for the first time this spring there was a splash as some creature headed for safety down under.

This was a wood frog, and though I never saw her, she left her calling card in a sparkling cluster of eggs. Each one is a black bead set in the center of a small clear marble of gelatin. If you were to pick up this mass, which is about the size of a softball, each egg would be an individual package in its own clear ball. The mass is usually attached to an underwater anchor, a stick or some leaves.

After a while, the little black bead starts to look lumpy. Then it will even move a bit, and finally after about two weeks' gestation, out comes a tiny black pollywog. Because this is an isolated pool,



fish have never yet shown up here. We have had salamander eggs sometimes, over the years, but so far this year the wood frogs have it all to themselves. As they get a little older, they will wiggle up to the surface, and then race away deep if a moving shadow comes over them, or if a critter of any kind is discernable, up in the terrestrial world. Down go the pollywogs, to vanish under the old leaves at the bottom. There are rocks down there, too, provided as a further safe hideout for temporary residents.

By mid-July the pollywogs will have resorbed their tails and sprouted legs. Further magic occurs internally so they can enter their second life. They move from aquatic to terrestrial homes. These are the two "sides of life" of the amphibian. As pollywogs they have gills, but as wood frogs they now have lungs.

New terrestrial wood froglets are only about half an inch long. They head for the woods and get under cover. They don't reach their full size for another year or so when they are about two inches long. These frogs are handsome, tan with black masks and creamy underparts. They spend their adult lives in the woods, invisible thanks to their outfits, but come back to natal pools for mating. At this time, they do a lot of singing which sounds just like quacking ducks. Hikers may get out their binoculars and creep up on a woodland pond hoping to see a flock of ducks. The closer they get, the more the ducks quiet down. No flock of birds erupts from the surface. All is silent.

The wood frogs have interrupted their mating chorus and slid down out of sight. They can take a peek up, eyes and nose only, get more air and ease under again. "Dive, dive!" whispers their inner commando.

This is spring in the woods, new life, with age-old systems and strategies for success. If we are so lucky, all we have to do is hold still and listen.

—Bonner McAllester

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## Into Africa

*Note about the photographs: Lin submitted a huge selection of beautiful photos and it was not possible to publish them all. Many of her photos showed the magnificent, huge herds across large expanses of land. An image search for “Ngorongoro” will quickly show similar scenes. Be on the lookout should she decide to present a show of her photos someday.*

Shortly after my wife Lin and I returned from our African safari, I watched wind-driven whitecaps marching across Lake Garfield for two days, imagining them as the herds of millions of wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles on their “great migration.”

I find it hard to write about Africa. As there is an unbridgeable gap between seeing a rainbow and describing one, so is the futility of capturing the unique topography, the beautiful animals free in their world, the orange-yellow sunrises silhouetting the acacias. “The dark continent.” Why dark? There is mystery there, something lost to the “civilized world” we yearn to recover. Eden before the fall. Mother Nature unsullied by man. This is what drew me into Africa.

Approximately two to three million years ago, an enormous volcano towering nineteen thousand feet exploded and eventually collapsed upon itself creating the largest unbroken volcanic caldera on the earth’s surface, its perimeter enclosing some one hundred square miles, encircled by ridges two thousand feet above it. Knowing these facts about Tanzania’s magnificent Ngorongoro\* Crater couldn’t prepare me for what I felt at my first glimpse of it.



As our safari vehicle cleared the forest at the top of the ridge, we came to an observation point. Walking toward the viewing area, I caught my first sight of the expanse below and experienced a literally jaw-dropping sense of awe and amazement. Though hardly an experienced world traveler, I’ve seen many of nature’s imposing, magnificent sights. None evoked the visceral, mind-blowing reaction that the crater did. This was our last full day of the safari, the crater being the place where we’d be most likely to see some of the most elusive animals.

When Lin and I decided to go to Africa, we asked our Lake Garfield neighbors, the Heimanns, for advice, knowing that Lara’s mother, Harriette Frank, had been there eighteen times! We asked her: “If you had only one opportunity to go to Africa, what would you do?” She recommended where, when and with which tour group to travel. Harriette couldn’t have chosen better: Natural Habitat Adventures: “Great Migration and Ngorongoro Crater,” in mid-February.

The “Great Migration” refers to the circular journey of almost two million wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles from southern Tanzania west and north into Kenya, following the rains and the different grasses they propagate, culminating in

the dangerous crossing of three rivers into Kenya where a quarter of the herd, mostly the very young and exhausted would fall prey to Nile crocodiles who know where and when to be to feast on the herd.


That’s not what we saw. Instead, we chose to see the herds at the time when 90% of the calves are born in what is called “synchronous birthing,” so many that it outstrips the predators’ capacity to eat them all, thus ensuring species survival. We saw many baby wildebeests, able to stand five minutes after birth and running with the herds a few minutes later. Our Land Cruisers, surrounded by thousands of animals, moved slowly through one herd after another, dots on the horizon becoming new masses of wildebeests and zebras, and scatterings of Thompson’s gazelles.

The game drives began pre-dawn. We were twelve people; ten women and two men compromising our tour group. Two open-sided Land Cruisers, with three elevated rows behind the driver and tour guide in the front, allowed everyone an unobstructed view. On day one, it quickly dawned on me that we’d be spending most of the time bouncing around and holding tight as the Cruisers dipped and lurched over the pot-holed dirt trails. Just part of the adventure.

The Serengeti, “endless plains” in Swahili, offered a 360 degree unbroken landscape of grass save for the acacia and scattered outcroppings of volcanic rocks, kopjes (pronounced “copies”), often with trees shading them, making them favored places for wildlife to gather, especially



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*A small herd of Thompson's gazelle's in the foreground. Beyond is the edge of an immense "confusion" of wildebeests.*

lions. The Serengeti is home to the largest concentration of lions in the world. Our guide usually chose kopjes as a good place to have lunch, absent "Simba" of course, lest we be lunch.

We were amazed at how quickly our driver and guide were able to spot animals at a distance, unseen by us until we drove off trail to get us closer to what they'd seen. On our first game drive, they spotted a mother cheetah and two cubs eyeing gazelles perhaps three hundred yards away (top right). Driving the Cruiser to a spot where we could see the drama of the hunt unfold, we watched for the better part of an hour as the cheetahs, hidden in the grass, stealthily closed upon the gazelles. Just before the mother reached striking distance, the gazelles sensing their presence took off. The cheetahs sprinted after them briefly then gave up the chase, preserving precious energy for the next hunt. Were we disappointed? Relieved?

People safari in Africa to see wildlife as they most naturally exist. To see them in zoos, the only way most people get to see them, is in a way not seeing them at all. On game drives, we're the ones in the cages, so to speak; the animals are in their world where they live, hunt, eat, reproduce, and die. That's what we go to see. The ambivalence I felt about wanting to see a kill was shared by my fellow travelers. The proof of that occurred two days later.

We had just stopped at a checkpoint marking a different conservation area

where all tour vehicles stopped to pay a fee. It was one of the rare times when we were in the presence of other safaris. As we pulled out of the station, Severin, our driver, yelled: "Oh my god... we're so lucky!" On a dirt trail crossing about twenty yards in front of us, a mass of wildebeests, adults and calves, and a scattering of zebras raced across the road, kicking up a lot of dirt and making a lot of noise. We were being treated to a small version of a migration stampede! As the racing herd continued we saw a few calves stop...hesitate...and run in the opposite direction, probably having lost touch with their mothers. A calf who can't reconnect with its mother is almost certainly doomed. It is rare for one to find the herd on its own. The herd's crossing in front of us ended in a couple of minutes. No sooner had we crossed the road than we saw a smaller group of wildebeests running down a small rise about a hundred yards away. This one seemed to have many



more calves. As this happened, we saw a lioness crouching in the grass very close to us looking at the herd running towards it. A number of vehicles from other safaris were watching this drama unfold with us. As the second herd of wildebeests thinned out, a single adult with seven or eight calves around it remained, unmoving in a swirl of dust. The adult took off and the calves tried to follow, leaving one motionless behind a rock. The lioness, watching this from about a hundred yards away, rose from her crouch, trotted, then sprinted toward the calf and had it dangling from its mouth in just seconds. Empathic sighs, voices of sadness and regret greeted this drama. That evening, as was usually the case, a meat dish was featured on the menu. I didn't hear anyone protest, nor did I.



*The calf is likely only a day or two old.*

*Cont. on page 20 >*



# WEBSTER

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*Into Africa, cont. from page 19.*

At our evening meals, our tour guide, Tom Hartley, would ask what the highlight of our day was. This was one of the ways the group developed cohesiveness, so essential for an adventure like this. It didn't take long for us to know one another, share good photos, and feel at ease for the ten days we spent together. The staff at the Natural Habitat camps were amazing; friendly and genuinely eager to help, contributing to the feeling of camaraderie. Our guides and drivers were often as enthusiastic as we were when something extraordinary happened; e.g., the unexpected stampede described above; Tom's spotting a tiny rare kite spider from the vehicle when he noticed its web in a bush! The beauty around us was evident in dimensions giant and small.

On safari, one commonly takes notes on what is seen, not only the "big five": elephant, lion, cape buffalo, black rhino, and leopard. Of these, the leopard is hardest to spot (pun unintended). It is solitary and spends most of its time when not hunting in trees, well camouflaged by leaves, best spotted by a hanging tail. After much searching in an area that other safaris had spotted one, we spotted one leopard slinking through tall grass (below).



Of the big five, the black rhino is the only endangered species. The most likely place to see them is in the Ngorongoro Crater, and even there the odds are small. We were there on our last full day of safari. Driving down from the ridge, we saw troops of baboons, elephants, and passed through a forest of giant acacias before reaching the floor of the beautiful crater. Most of the animals we'd seen in the Serengeti were here too, but in smaller numbers. But we also saw hippos, thousands of pink flamingos, ostriches, and cape buffalo. In the distance, Tom spotted something with his powerful binoculars that he thought might be a rhino. Severin



*Acacia trees on the Serengeti—"endless plains" is the Swahili translation—in all its timeless beauty.*

stopped the cruiser to allow Tom a better look. "I think that's a rhino," he said excitedly. "No! There's another one." Severin got us to a better view, and Tom saw not two but nine black rhinos! Unprecedented. He was as excited as any of us were at our sightings of the gorgeous animals we had come to see.

Some of us were counting the numbers of each animal spotted, excluding, for obvious reasons, the wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles. The count for lions reached ninety three!



Pretty good, considering that Hemingway only had eighty three.\*\* But in the end, for me it wasn't the numbers that defined the experience. Africa was unique. Overwhelming in scope, beauty, drama, and timelessness. If it's on your bucket list, as Lin so aptly suggests, empty your bucket.

—Bob Cutick

\*Ngorongoro is an onomatopoeic Swahili word that Maasai herders used to mimic the sound the bells made when their cows moved.

\*\*Ernest Hemingway: *Green Hills of Africa*, 1934

Most of the photos by Lin Saberski, with others by Bob Cutick and Jessica Parkin.



*And on our way out of the crater, our last wildlife sighting was this absolutely stunning "flamboyance" (yes, really!) of flamingoes. Beyond gorgeous!*



*On our way into the Ngorongoro Crater our progress down was halted for some time by this lively troop of baboons.*



*Above: A Thomson's gazelle*

*Below: A secretary bird.*





*African elephants! These guys formed a wall facing our two jeeps and trumpeted a very clear “don’t mess with us” message! It was quite scary - and then they just turned around and walked away.*



*Above: A herd of cape buffalo in the crater (also called an “obstinacy”—no mystery there!)*



## Contributions

Many folks have begun generously responding to our annual spring fund appeal which was sent out via the US mail and through our email list. For those who received it both ways, thank you for your forbearance! We are also aware that some folks have their own schedule for making donations and we’ll be here happy to receive them all in good time.

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*There will be more names in the May issue.  
 Thank you everyone!*

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## Here's a Thought Waiting

Waiting. It has a terrible reputation, probably rooted in the personality-level powerlessness that accompanies it. Mothers speak of—or try not to speak of—transition labor. It's that part of childbirth when it's not uncommon for the mother-to-be to feel so exhausted she wants to get up, go home, and let someone else finish the job, no matter how welcome this baby may actually be.

Labor or not, waiting is serious work. Genetic fathers and adoptive parents wait, too, in a different kind of angst. Either way, waiting is a bridge before life changes.

Remember pacing back and forth, waiting to muster the courage to make a scary call, or send a text you were reluctant to type? You weren't the same person after the call was over or the text was sent. And, remember waiting to receive an important text, email, or phone call? Feeling glued to a phone that didn't ring, or a screen where words refused to show themselves? You weren't the same person after the call, text or email came through, or didn't come at all.

If you cook, remember the hours of waiting for your first Thanksgiving turkey to transform from cold blue-white to browned, fragrant, and tasted? Recall the relief that flooded through you when smiles of contentment circled the table. Or, if it didn't turn out as you'd hoped, remember how long it took for you to find the story told about that to actually feel funny? Waiting ain't easy.

Two of my friends and their family are waiting at a deathbed right now. Well, one friend and the family are waiting at



*One lone daffodil bulb dares the elements on March 13. A week later, eighty-four more likeminded companions lined our driveway, all waiting.*

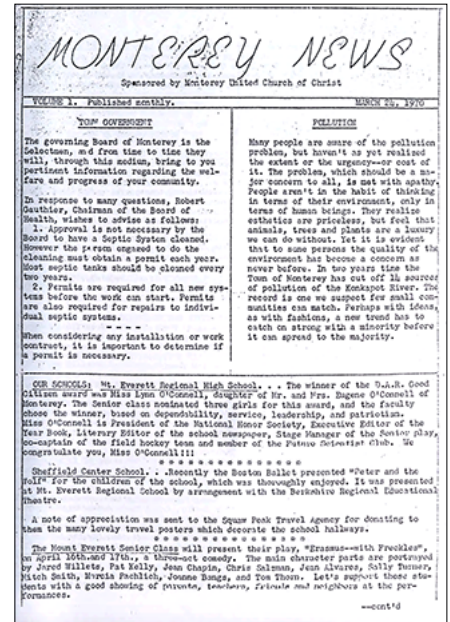
the side of that bed in shifts; another of my friends is waiting in it. Like most of you, I know from experience that waiting at the side of a deathbed is hard. I imagine waiting in one is hard, too.

But waiting has its gift side. Some calls, some changes, do come without any preamble. Sudden good news is uplifting. Sudden bad news is downcasting. Either way, then comes the waiting for the new normal to settle in.

Waiting. We all do it. Whatever events you're waiting for while you read this, be kind to yourself. Waiting is hard.

I'm adding this paragraph a little less than twenty-four hours after letting my writing sit. Waiting to hear of my friend's death is over; he died yesterday evening. Now, waiting for the new normal to begin to settle in, for all of us.

—Mary Kate Jordan



## Monterey News Online Archives

The *Monterey News* is working towards more fully joining the digital age. Work has been going on for months now to build a fantastic website. Janet Jensen has taken the lead, working with Connor Simeone. There will be a lot of features to the site including a digital archive reaching back to 2005 when the paper transitioned to digital production.


### Internet Archive

And now we have great news, which is also announced in Mark Makuc's library column—an online archive of all the *Monterey News* issues from the very first one in March 1970 (above) to the first digital version in 2005. What was going on in July of 1984? You can read the paper!

To dip into the archive, go to [archive.org/details/montereymasslibrary](http://archive.org/details/montereymasslibrary), or just go to the library home page where Mark has the link listed.

Each digitized issue has its own URL (internet address) so you can let other people know of something you found in a particular issue and how they can find it themselves.

The archive is fully searchable, however search commands search the entire Internet Archive, not just the *Monterey News*, so we will need to become adept at finding ways to help limit searches to >



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## Monterey Cookbook Club

Let's have lunch at the community center! Next cookbook club will meet on Monday, April 22, at 11:45 a.m. and we will be cooking with Erin French's, *Big Heart, Little Stove* cookbook. It will soon be available in the Monterey library for you to peruse and choose a recipe you'd like to make for our lunch. Please mark the book in the library so we know what you are making. Everyone is welcome.

Let me know if you'll be joining us this month so we have enough tables and chairs set up, wendygj@gmail.com. And don't forget your place settings.

Hope to see you there,

—Wendy Jensen & Susan Johnson

just our publication. Hopefully we will be able to provide clear instructions for tailored searches on our website.

Internet Archive is an organization connected to the Boston Public Library, and is engaged with digitizing all sorts of older content. Joel DeMelo, who works for Internet Archive, came to the Monterey Library in December and met with Mark Makuc, Rob Hoogs from the Historical Society, Wendy Germain, and myself. He left with paper copies of all the non-digitally produced *Monterey News*, which will be returned to us before too long.

Along with this news, remember that back issues of the *Monterey News* are also available in binders in the library as well as on the individual desktop computers from 2005 forward.

Another feature on the new website will be a page that lists all the organizations in town with active links—something the town needs but does not have—a single place to contact all the organizations.

The future waits for no one, it's just taking us this long to try and catch up!

—Stephen Moore



R.J. Suppa

## Letters of Appreciation Eric Martin Coffee House

To Elaine and Wendy (right) and all contributing parties—thank you for a wonderful evening at the Monterey Coffee House!

Choosing Eric Martin was a winner! And the ambiance, the tables with cloths and flowers, the wonderful spread of treats, and the full attendance of friends and neighbors made for a terrific evening.

Another jewel in our little town!

Thank you.

—Roberta Weiss



R.J. Suppa

Elaine Lynch and Wendy Jensen



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## Remembrance

### Hy Rosen

Hy was born in the Bronx, NY, on October 21, 1940 and given the name Herman Benjamin Rosen. It is rumored he cried during his circumcision less from the procedure, than from the name his parents chose for him. His older sister cried as well, and when he was seven, he and his sister changed his name to Hy, a derivative of his Hebrew name, Chaim, meaning "life." As he grew, everyone in his family remarked about how funny he was.

Hy's dad died when Hy was eleven. He was introduced quite early to the understanding that if you wanted something, you needed to work for it. By the time he entered the City College Baruch Business School at seventeen, he knew how to mount tires, stack volumes in a bookstore backroom, and perform household chores, which he did for his Grandma Rose in exchange for some pocket money—and her renowned chopped liver sandwiches. In school he loved mathematics, was terrible at foreign languages, and found advertising a good fit for his innate creative abilities. He chose it as his major. He joined a fraternity, Pi Lambda Phi, amassing friendships that spanned his lifetime. Throughout his life everyone appreciated that he made them laugh.

In January, 1963, shortly after graduation, he was hired by Ted Bates Advertising as a junior copywriter, earning \$75 dollars a week. Later that month, on the recommendation of a friend, he called a girl to ask for a blind date. The girl liked him immediately, not only because he made her laugh, but because she was drawn to his gentility and kindness. Hy married her



thirteen months later (some say for her money,) as she was earning \$102 weekly as a kindergarten teacher.

The next few years witnessed the birth of his daughter, Corey, and his son, Cliff; a change in agencies to Grey Advertising; and an opportunity to work at a sister agency in Japan as an Assistant Vice Managing Director, the title alone being reason to consider it. In the two years he and his family lived there, he was enamored by the extraordinary opportunities Japan offered both for living in, and learning about another culture. He was less pleased with his wife learning judo, as she had but one person to practice on.

Not one to learn languages easily, he studied Japanese diligently to honor his adopted country. Decades later when he was asked if he spoke Japanese, he proudly rattled off a perfect example of his hard labor, impressing his listener. Translated, what he said was, "Please make a left turn at the next corner."

Hy remained at Grey for thirty-three years, achieving the title of Senior Vice President/ Creative Director, and retiring in 1999. During those years, he hired and trained many young people entering the field, most of whom he stayed in contact with for many years. His wit and his humor, his integrity, his ability, and his generosity to always give credit and to elevate the work of others, are the lingering effect he had with those he worked alongside. Hy worked on many advertising campaigns over the years, and one of his favorites was the Canon Camera account for which he, and his esteemed art director Tony, created the tag line, "so advanced, it's simple."

In the same year as his retirement, Hy and his wife sold the home in Pomona, NY, in which they raised their children, ending years of playing touch football with the neighborhood kids before every Giants football game, and purchased a home on Lake Garfield, fulfilling a dream. This home served as a venue for his daughter's wedding in 2002; the baby naming of his granddaughter, Jordan, in 2004; and the welcoming of his grandson Josh, in 2005. It wasn't long before he completely devoted himself to teaching them about his love of life on the water, sharing his fishing and water skiing skills, and before long introducing them to mathematics through the teaching of Texas Hold-em.

Hy earned a New York state residential real estate license in 2001, discovering



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retirement, after all, was not all that exciting, coinciding with his wife's discovery that having him around the house all day was equally not all that exciting. Together, they sold an apartment in Manhattan, and purchased a *pied-à-terre* on New York's upper west side. But "home" was always in the Berkshires. Hy's love of Monterey and the people was evident to all. He participated yearly in Lakefest, and helped create the "Friends of Lake Garfield," assuming different committee positions over the years. His commitment to Gould Farm through his friendship with Steve Snyder, his love of the Monterey Library, and his association with Mark Makuc, in addition to his contributions to the *Monterey News*, always brought him pleasure.

In January 2024, Hy and I went to Florida where we hoped to celebrate our sixtieth wedding anniversary. Hy died peacefully on January 21, sixty-one years to the day of our blind date. In his eighty-three years on this planet, a planet he hoped to preserve through his contributions to candidates looking to combat climate change, Hy lived up to his name, "Life," always seeking to live that life as his best self. "His signature kindness and profound authenticity defined his every action. Every conversation was infused with his wit, his levity, and his insight. And if you were lucky enough to be his child, you knew his boundless patience, his endless support, and the pure experience of unconditional love," is how his son describes him. He will be so deeply missed and long remembered for his good deeds. And for how he always made us laugh.

—Myrna Wener Rosen



## The Global Barn Swallow

The barn swallow is one of the most active insect and mosquito predators—fortunately well distributed around most of the world. It is very common everywhere across the continent of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and here in North America well into the north of Canada. It ranks in public opinion as one of the most essential species for insect control. In the fall, all the barn swallows migrate to the central and south Americas.

As in my illustration it is among the best flying predators as it swoops and dives, skimming across the water and high over fields to catch and eat in one graceful motion in flight.

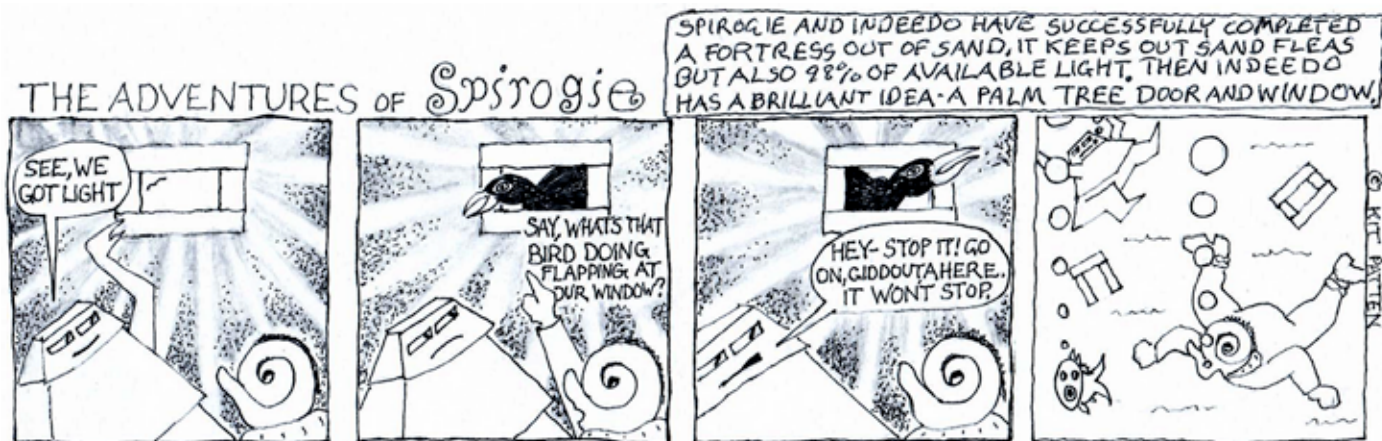
Along the shore line of Buzzards Bay, the barn swallows favor finding nesting homes under buildings and overpasses, especially under the roofs of horse and cow barns. The coming of swallows to our shores has always been a natural sign of the arrival

of spring. Under the overhead structures they build a cup-shaped nest out of grass and loose feathers using their own mixture of mud pellets to cement it in place. Over the years nearly half of these nests have been known to be repaired again and again.

They survive the passage of time, returning to the same places using their homing instinct. This instinct was memorialized in this popular love song from the 40s, "When the swallows come back to Capistrano, That's the day I pray that you'll come back to me."

Ancient mariners painted their arms with tattoos of swallows as a positive omen of safe return after thousands of miles around the world. In medieval culture the swallow was believed to be descended from the eternal spirit of nightingales. Today the swallow is still depicted on postage stamps in many old-world countries and has been the national bird of Austria since 1969.

— George B. Emmons



## Bidwell House Museum

Spring is here, with the pops of green throughout Monterey signaling the warmer days to come and anticipation for the museum's 2024 season. Over the last few months the Bidwell staff and board of directors have been busy creating a delightful slate of programming for this summer and we are excited to share a preview this month.

Before we get to that, we want to let you know about a unique Zoom event we are hosting on Wednesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m., titled "How to be a Reenactor." If you attended either of our weekend-long historical reenactment events at the museum in 2021 or 2023, you may have wondered how the participants started down the historical reenactment road and what they have to do to ensure accuracy in their presentations. During this Zoom program we will have a conversation with three of the reenactors from those events to learn more about this incredible hobby and answer all of your questions. The program is *free* to attend, but pre-registration will be required. Attendees can sign up on the events page of the museum website.

A few short weeks after the April 24 Zoom program, we will begin our 2024 season. Up first will be our second annual "members week," where museum members can take a guided tour of the house without an appointment. These tours will take place beginning on Monday, May 20, and May 23, 24, and 25, at either 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. If you are a new member

who has yet to see the house, or a member who has not visited in a while, stop by at any of those times for a personal tour.

The Bidwell House Museum's programmatic theme for 2024 is "The History of Redware," which we will showcase with a small in-house exhibition, updated educational signage and numerous programs. On Sunday, May 26, our season begins with our opening event, "Throwing Back: Massachusetts Pottery Heritage," a talk, demonstration, and workshop with renowned redware potter Rick Hamelin. This will be followed by a history talk about redware with historian Justin Thomas on Saturday, June 1, and a tour of the museum's redware collection on August 8 with local antiques specialist Lorraine German.

Beyond the redware theme, we have a number of other programs planned for June and July, including three more history talks, guided hikes on the property, and two herb garden workshops. Our big event of the summer is going to be the Bidwell Country Fair, which will return to the museum on Saturday, June 22, from 12-5 p.m. There will music from Diane Taraz and Moonshine Holler; displays from local historical societies; food from Flour Bin Catering and SoCo Ice Cream; and demonstrations on broom making, wool felting, blacksmithing, and more! As always, this is a FREE community event and we hope to see all of you there. We have even more programs planned beyond July, including our August 17 fundraising party (save that date!), which we will share details about in future issues of the *Monterey News*. All of our summer programs through July will be on the museum events page by early May at [bidwellhousemuseum.org/events](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org/events).

To keep the museum and all of our programs running each season, we depend on a number of dedicated volunteers. This year we are looking for people to help with the Bidwell Country Fair in June; to do some weeding and mulching work in our gardens; to help plan our summer party on August 17; and occasionally lead house tours. If any of those volunteer opportunities pique your interest, contact the museum at (413) 528-6888, or [bidwellhouse@gmail.com](mailto:bidwellhouse@gmail.com) for more information.

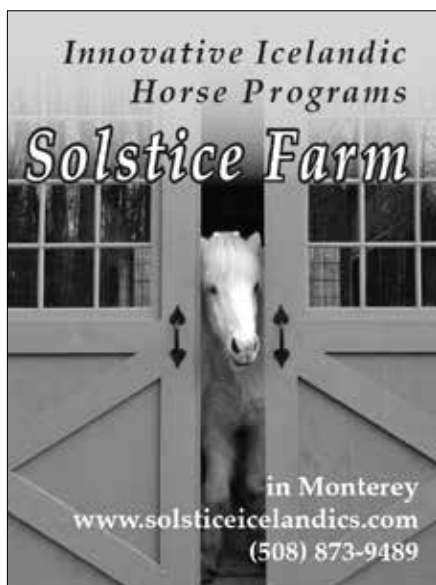
### Summer Internship Program

One of our longest educational endeavors is our summer internship program. Each year, June through August, the museum hosts three or four interns who are interested in learning about history and horticulture, giving tours, and helping with events. Each internship lasts forty to fifty hours, has a stipend, and the hours are flexible. If you know a high school or college student who loves history and is looking for an enlightening summer experience, contact the museum at the phone and email address above. You can also find more information about internships on the museum website: [bidwellhousemuseum.org/internships](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org/internships).

Finally, as we remind readers each month, the museum gardens and grounds are open every day, year-round, free of charge. Mud season should be almost over by the time you read this, but if you are thinking of visiting and there have been recent heavy rains, it is worth checking on the condition of the road, which you can do by calling the museum or checking for updates on the museum's Facebook page.

See you at the museum!

—Heather Kowloski  
Executive Director



## SUSAN M. SMITH

Attorney At Law

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Massachusetts 01230

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

## Remembrance

### Bill Bell

William David “Bill” Bell, eldest son of Donald and Dorothy Bell, passed March 10, 2024 at the age of ninety-three. We are grateful that he passed peacefully with his family at his side and lovingly cared for by the staff at Evangelical Health in Saline, MI. Our “Dad” to the end, he was most concerned that his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are all well and happy; bills are paid, arrangements made. We know Dad was welcomed with open arms into Heaven by Mom (“Billie”), daughter Jane, his parents, and the many friends, family, and faithful pets who preceded him in death.

A thoughtful, loyal, honest person who believed in service, Bill was always involved in his community whether as the mayor, school board member, volunteer police officer, home-owners association president, club resident, or board member of a charity.

Bill and Billie loved their 102-acre farm in Monterey, MA. He spent most summers on a ladder with a paint brush in his hand, chopping wood, and tending his garden. Stories from the annual fall gatherings with their fun group of friends from Bronxville are legendary, including the barn “lowering,” costume parties, and skeet shooting.

Mornings, Dad was out the door, headed to coffee club; no matter what was happening at the farm, he wasn’t missing the daily gathering. He cherished the friends he made and the conversations, local stories, and camaraderie he found with this special group of residents. After Dad could no longer travel East from Michigan, he looked forward to hearing from all his friends, and eagerly waited for the *Monterey News* to appear in the mail. One of the saddest days in Dad’s life was the day we closed the sale of his beloved farm in 2022 after fifty-three years of proud ownership.

As kids, we enjoyed hiking the property, to the ranger station or to the cemetery and back, swatting those evil horse flies the whole way. We recall Dad proudly participating in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities at the Veteran’s War Memorial.

Bill was born in Detroit, MI, attended Highland Park High, and graduated from the University of Michigan (UM) in 1952 with a BA in business administration. He



later received his master of arts in military studies from American Military University, focusing on the Civil War, in 2002.

Bill joined Ford Motor Company in 1952, but shortly afterward, shipped off to Japan where he was stationed as a counter-intelligence corps officer with the US Army during the Korean War. Returning stateside in 1954, he rejoined Ford until moving to IBM Corporation in 1957, where he worked in sales and finance until retiring in 1987. Bill and Billie raised their family in Bronxville, NY and Monterey, MA; later moving to Ann Arbor, MI, Longboat Key, FL, and Lancaster, PA after Bill’s retirement. After Billie’s death, Bill eventually returned to Michigan and settled in Dexter in 2019.

Bill’s life is celebrated by his children, Barbara (Alain Lachaud), Betsy (Long),

Becky (McGrath), John (Laurie), Robert (Astrid), and David Stoneking; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all who feel honored to call him a friend.

Per Dad’s request there will not be a memorial service. He will be buried with Billie by his side in Monterey, MA.

We will miss him.

—Betsy Long



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## April Wildlife Report

There is no season more exciting than spring. The insects are on the rise, much appreciated by a whole web of life. Also the sun rises, earlier and farther to the left every day. The usual bird visitors are active and noisy, as are some frogs. Male robins have been present for some weeks in big flocks on the ground.

In the feeder we see finches, some purple and some gold. The male cardinal comes and early in the morning can be seen and heard way up in a south-facing sugar maple, advertising his interests before the sun even gets to him.



Bonsai Cox found a little nest, blown out of its sapling, and sent a photograph (above). The characteristic use of birch-bark in its construction and decoration tells us it was made by a red-eyed vireo.

In the ponds the common mergansers gather in small social groups, mixed males and females, and one ring-necked duck was with them recently on Royal Pond just over the Otis line. Early in March when there was still some ice there, a solo otter came up to enjoy a fish meal. Steve Snyder also reports an otter on the ice on Lake Garfield.

Steve was by Benedict Pond enjoying both common and hooded mergansers, and back closer to home he heard a "solitary wood frog" in the pond nearby, also a great horned owl hooting. In Steve's part of town and farther east here the woodpeckers are visiting: pileated, red-bellied, hairy, and downy. So far, we have not seen a flicker or a sapsucker.

In the mammals department, we found two perfect antlers in the woods, shed in the last season. They have not yet been nibbled by the rodents, who want them for calcium. We have a couple of these white-tailed deer antlers wired up on the inside wall of our toolshed so we can hang up our hats there. These have been nibbled by our toolshed resident mice over the years. The antlers, not the hats, have been nibbled.

Two baby porcupines have come close to Hupi Road, or maybe the same baby two different times. We urge caution to the youngster and to our dog.

Every time there is a new skift of snow, we can see who comes by night, or when we are not looking. Here we have bobcats, coyotes, and foxes and Steve Snyder sent a fine photograph of a red fox in excellent peltage (below).



Thank you, folks, for letting us all know what you are seeing and hearing in the wild world around Monterey.

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



## Portable Ice Rink in Monterey?

As residents of Monterey, we have cherished memories of the ice-skating rink at our firehouse pavilion. This rink has served as a place for teaching young children how to skate, hosting pick-up hockey games, celebrating birthday parties and enjoying recreational skating. It is not just a rink; it is a vital part of our community and the only public skating rink in southern Berkshire County.

However, without refrigeration, this beloved facility faces an uncertain future.

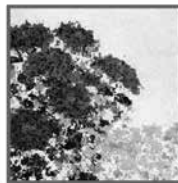
The estimated capital cost for installing a refrigeration unit and portable mat on top of the pavement is approximately \$149,000. While this may seem like a significant amount, we will look at funding from grants and private donations.

The parks commission and Monterey Fire Company are supportive of exploring this initiative. At town meeting in May there will be a citizen petition asking the town to support this initiative but will not ask for funding

—Michael Germain

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## Monday Night Supper Club

At the “Wear Green, Get Lucky” supper club, we weren’t all wearing green. However, I would be hard pressed to believe one person there didn’t feel lucky as all get out—the food blew me away like gusts across an Irish moor surely would. We had not one, but two Irish Beef Stews, both lending the sexy depth that only Irish Stout could (yes, I just wrote that). They were both robust and hearty, with tender beef slow-cooked to perfection—can you tell I might have a thing for beef stew? Roberta Weiss and Margy Abbott: *très magnifique!*

We also had two corned beef and cabbage—the best I’ve ever had. Mark Andrews crafted one and I made the other. We had colcannon (cabbage and potatoes), phenomenal Irish soda bread and brown bread (Ann Canning & Wendy Jensen—nailed it!), cabbage with kielbasa, shepherd’s pie with lamb, a vegan mushroom shepherd’s pie, coleslaw, kale salad...and then, of course, the desserts.



Hanna Jensen

Wendy Germain dominated the dessert cart with her chocolate stout cake. It was the first layer cake she’s ever made, and she did a fantastic job. Bake, eat, repeat, Wendy! There was an Irish chocolate cream pie with a bowl of extra pudding and cream, and a tray of baked, stuffed

apples. The abundance of amazing food was far removed from the Irish potato famine, yet it was for sure a supper club to go down in history.

With the past supper under our belts, enter April. It is the month when extra awareness is shined on preventing further destruction of our home. The earth has privileged us with life, let us respect this gift by living sustainably, honoring our host. The theme for Earth Day this year is “Planet vs. Plastics” (discover how you can help at [earthday.org](http://earthday.org)), so let’s integrate this into our theme for April: Mediterranean—Living Sustainably. Reduce your plastics and get your veggie laden, meat-light dish to supper club on Monday, April 8, at 6 p.m., in the church basement. Please RSVP to [supperclubmonterey@gmail.com](mailto:supperclubmonterey@gmail.com) by Sunday, April 7.

—Hanna Jensen

## Letters of Appreciation Swap Shop FOMO

If you struggle with a “Fear of Missing Out,” do not enter the doors of the Swap Shop. I’ve been living in Monterey for over a year, my house is outfitted with a multitude of “shopped” treasures, including all the decorations and tablecloths I use for Supper Club—from the Swap Shop.

It is an invaluable, well-organized resource.

I would like to extend a massive appreciation to both Pat Nourse and Lin Howitt. They have created a home goods section—mugs are hung, pans are stacked, and dishes for easy viewing. The fabrics are often washed, folded, labeled, bagged—after a visit at Pat’s house. They do so many little things to make this wonderful.

Thanks to you both—I so very much love this place.

If you regularly peruse the swap shop, you may be like I am (a little too often, at least)—tearing into the transfer station on a Wednesday at 12:56, Bill yelling “you’ve got two minutes, girlie!” as you sigh a sense of relief, knowing that you made it in time to give this hidden gem a very quick perusal. Anything is better than nothing: you never know what you may miss out on.

—Hanna Jensen



Hanna Jensen





## Select Board Corner

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

### MontereyMA.gov

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

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

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us."

For all meetings of town public bodies, go to the calendar on the home page. For agendas (with meeting location) and minutes, go to the individual board or commission tab.



A late entry for the wildlife in March. This photo of a moose was sent in by Karen Schulze. The image is from a trail camera dated March 17.

### Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:  
**dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**
- Police dispatch service number:  
**(413) 236-0925.**
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:  
**528-3211**

### Town Contact Information

#### Emergency! 911

**Town Administrator:**  
528-1443 x111  
admin@montereyma.gov  
(for town boards and misc. questions)

**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115  
assessors@montereyma.gov

**Building Department:** 528-1443 x118  
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

**Community Center:** 528-3600  
calendar@ccmonterey.org

**Fire Department (non-emergency):**  
528-3136  
chief@montereyma.org

**Highway Department:** 528-1734  
dpw1@montereyma.gov

**Library:** 528-3795  
montereylibrary@gmail.com

**Police Department (non-emergency):**  
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211  
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

**Post Office:** 528-4670

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

**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117  
montereytax@yahoo.com  
(for questions about your tax bill)

**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113  
clerk@montereyma.gov

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

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A black and white photograph of a group of seven young people (four boys and three girls) standing together and smiling. They are wearing casual summer clothing like t-shirts and shorts.

## Calendar

Community center calendar on page 8.  
Council on aging calendar on page 9.

**Monday, April 8:** Monday night supper club, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 25.

**Monday, April 10:** Daytime book group, 1:30. See this page.

Movie night at the Monterey Library.  
*The Peanut Butter Falcon*, at 7 p.m.  
See page 9.

**Saturday, April 20:** Chestnut champions demonstration. 11 a.m., MCC. See page 12.

**Monday, April 22:** Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m., MCC. See page 23.

**Friday, May 3:** Knox gallery opening, Rod Lamborn, *The Crystalline Image*, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See page 15.

**Saturday, May 4:** Annual town meeting.

**Monday, May 6:** Culvert project, meet the engineers on Zoom, 7 p.m. See page 6.

**Tuesday, May 7:** Town elections

**Thursday, May 9:** Peter Poirier band, 7:30 p.m. See page 9.

## Daytime Book Group

The Daytime Book Group meets at the Monterey Library on the second Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.

On April 10 we will be discussing *Neither Wolf nor Dog*, by Kent Nerburn.

On May 8 we will be discussing *Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro.

— Beth Hoffman

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be emailed to [montereynews9@gmail.com](mailto:montereynews9@gmail.com) or telephone us at (413) 329-7912



On Tuesday, March 26, the council on aging organized a trip to the Norman Rockwell museum in Stockbridge. Lunch afterwards was on Main Street in Stockbridge.



Monterey Folks: Roberta Weiss. Carol Clarin. Myrna Rosen, with Karen Anderson, teacher out front (over eighty-years-young). Libby Wolf just joined the group...buying her tap shoes this week! These seniors are having fun!

— Kathryn Roberts



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*Contributions from local artists this month:  
Maureen Banner, pgs. 10, 23;  
George Emmons, p. 25; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.*

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