

The Town

by Susan Gallant

School Bullies

First it was only Sheffield, then New Marlborough joined in an attempt to strong arm the School Committee to close the Monterey and Egremont schools. And New Marlborough is attempting to encourage the other towns in the district to follow suit.

Wayne Burkhart, in response, wants

to know New Marlborough's reaction if Monterey decided not to support the New Marlborough School. Select Board Chair Muriel Lazzarini added that the surrounding towns should respect the fact that Monterey knows what's in the best interest of its children, just as Monterey would not presume to know what's best for New Marlborough's children. In the meantime, Monterey's Select Board has sent letters asking that the School Committee reject this proposal.

Fortunately, New Marlborough and Sheffield alone are powerless to close the outlying schools. The School Committee can only do this if a super majority—four of the five towns—votes in favor of this.

Police Business

Gareth Backhaus, Monterey's police chief, met with the Select Board on two occasions during March to review recent police activity: >



Michael Johnson

More than two dozen Monterey residents met at Town Hall on March 22 to begin a series of forums about preserving the history of the town along with its important assets while helping the town to plan for the future. Another meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 12; everyone welcome. See www.Monterey2020.org for additional information.

- False alarms on Main, Hupi, and Mt Hunger Rds.
- Assistance with an ongoing domestic situation.
- Assisted Highway Department with traffic and vehicle removal during several snow storms.
- The person who dumped garbage on Main Rd. was identified.
- Assisted a disabled vehicle on Main Rd.
- Assisted with vehicle lockouts on Chestnut Hill and Main Rds.
- Suspicious vehicle on Mt. Hunger Rd. turned out to be someone stuck in the snow.
- Missing dog was located and returned to its owner.
- Assisted with a medical call on River Rd.
- Main Rd. resident was asked to remove vehicles that were impeding traffic and road maintenance.
- A trespassing complaint from a resident on Limerock Lane about an unfamiliar vehicle on their property; the owner of that vehicle, who was fishing on the lake, was told that parking on private property was not allowed and asked to move the vehicle to the boat ramp area.
- Assisted in transporting to the hospital a passenger of a vehicle that was stopped for a broken headlight.

- Fox Hill Rd. resident complained about people parking on both sides of that road.
- Complaint from a property owner about snow being pushed onto their property.
- Both Gareth and Sergeant Mike Johnson aided in capturing the suspect involved in robbing the Stockbridge Bank in Great Barrington.
- Assisted the Fire Department with a medical call on Blue Hill Rd.
- A vehicle was towed after a routine stop discovered it was unregistered and uninsured.
- Assisted with a vehicle lockout at Diane's Trail.

Gareth also wanted to notify people about a telephone scam reported by a woman who lives here in town. This person received a call from someone claiming to be an IRS agent, accusing her of owing back taxes that, if not paid, would result in seizure of her home and her car, as well as a series of lawsuits. According to an article by Nathan Mayberg in the March 21 issue of the *Berkshire Eagle*, Sgt. Mike Johnson called the phone number, which he had traced, and found himself speaking with people who said they worked for H&R Block and the IRS. Mike then reported the matter to the IRS, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau urges people who believe they

have been contacted about a financial or collection issue that seems fraudulent or have been a victim of such a scam to call 855-411-2372.

Gareth recently participated in a weeklong training program on crisis intervention, sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the sheriff's department, and the Brien Center in Pittsfield. The week of training emphasized the importance of tolerance and understanding when dealing with someone struggling with mental illness. One of the speakers was a war veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder who spoke about his experiences and the trauma he's suffered.

The program's final speaker was Jeremy Richman, a neuroscientist whose six-year-old daughter, Avielle, was one of the children killed at Sandy Hook. This devastating tragedy has led his family to establish the Avielle Foundation, which funds research on violence and mental illness to promote "brain health" and timely and appropriate intervention, with the goal of avoiding another tragedy like Newtown.

Highways and Operations

Early in March Maynard Forbes, director of operations for the Highway Department, reported that the town had already spent \$1,000 in attempts to repair the paper compactor at the transfer station and chances

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are that an additional \$4,500 in parts and repairs will be needed. Buying a new compactor would be even more expensive; however, one less costly alternative would be to take parts out of a used compactor owned by Master Garbologist or to just replace our machine with the used one.

The decision has been made: The compactor will be repaired with parts from the used compactor at minimum cost to the town. Repairs were expected to be made during the last week of March

Kenn Basler, who is a trustee of the library, attended a Select Board meeting in March to ask about when the repairs to the dam behind the library would be made. He is concerned about the potential for problems once the river begins to rise. Maynard has confirmed that work will start on the library dam once the water level is down.

Maynard reported that we had four feet of snow in February alone and that this winter has been one of the snowiest in history. So it's not surprising that the town has gone over its budget for salt and sand, which is typical, Maynard says, because the account is always underfunded.

But Maynard and his crew's efforts have not gone unnoticed. George Emmons, president of the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation, wrote to the Select Board, expressing his appreciation to the Highway Department for keeping the town's roads in outstanding condition.

Town Finances

The Select Board and Finance Committee have been meeting regularly, poring over



Stephen Moore

Stephen Moore's "slumpkin" reflects what we are all feeling about this winter.

budget requests from the various town departments and working through the line-item issues for the Town Meeting warrant, with the goal of flat-funding as many departments as possible. If all goes as planned, the budget and warrant should be finalized during the March 31 Select Board meeting, which is after press time.

Barbara Gauthier, Monterey's former accountant, has been called back into service and has been working closely with Brendan Fletcher, our current accountant, as well as with our recently elected town treasurer, Bethany Mielke, to get both up to speed and to reconcile some nagging

issues that have been plaguing the finance departments, what with all the turnover during the last year and a half.

Of Two Minds?

When the Select Board first came up with the idea of having joint meetings among the three major projects in town—the library, the community center, and the school—its intention was for these groups to work together and share ideas and resources so each project could reach its goal efficiently and economically. The first two meetings were full of boundless enthusiasm, so much so that ideas sped past the Select

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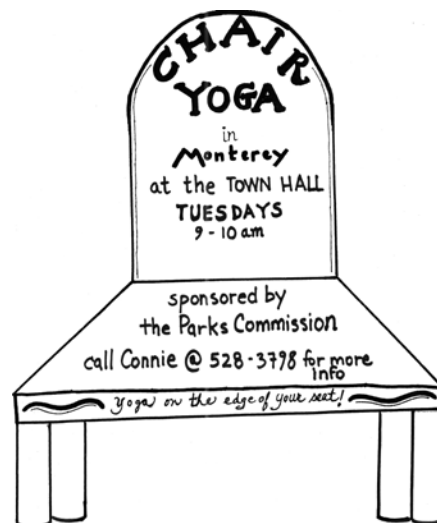
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Board's initial intentions and formed a different entity whose focus is more widespread and far-reaching. So when Wendy Germain and Steven Weisz came to the Select Board with the beginnings of a plan for "Monterey 2020," which also included the church, Gould Farm, and the General Store, among other organizations, some people were confused.

After the Select Board had a chance to review Steven's and Wendy's ideas, they asked the two to meet again for some needed clarification. Muriel began by commending the work they had already done on Monterey 2020 and encouraged their continued efforts, but explained that its focus was different from what the Select Board had envisioned for the multi-projects committee. For these specific projects to meet their goals and succeed, a task force is needed that would keep the groups focused on their specific goals, with financing as one of the main reasons for bringing these groups together. Another concern brought to Muriel's attention was that the domain name "Monterey 2020" was registered back in December, which was more than a month before the first multi-projects meeting was scheduled.

Muriel added that the Board is fully in favor of having the task force, which will be formed in the near future, keep Monterey 2020 in the loop; however, it should be made clear that Monterey 2020 is not a town-sponsored organization, but rather one organized by private citizens.



May 6th Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 6, not on town meeting day. The new day was approved at the 2011 town meeting so that the election would not be disruptive to the meeting. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 pm at the Monterey Firehouse.

Below is the slate for the election. Only one position, the open Select Board seat, is being contested this year. In cumbents are indicated by asterisks.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years, vote for 1)

Kenneth Basler
Steven Weisz

Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 years)

Robert Lazzarini*

Board of Health (3 years)

John Makuc*

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

David Brown

Finance Committee (3 years)

Donald Clawson

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)

Kenneth Basler*
Laurie Shaw*

Library Trustee (1 year, vote for 2)

Beth Reiter
MaryPaul Yates

Help Needed to Take Down Ice Rink Sat., Apr. 12

Hockey Friends: Due to cold temperatures, the date to take down the ice rink in the firehouse pavilion has been moved to Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. Your help is needed. Hope to see you again then.

— Steve Graves

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc*

Park Commission (3 years, vote for 2)

Kelly Funk
Gary Shaw*

Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)

Tom Sawyer
Roger Tryon*

Tree Warden (1 year)

Winston Wilson*

Zoning Board of Appeals (5 years)

Jonathan Levin*



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Town Election Candidates' Letters

Each year the *News* asks candidates for contested town offices, first-time candidates for uncontested offices, and other candidates who want to do so to write letters about their candidacy. Below are the letters received, with the only contested position, the seat on the Select Board, listed first.

Select Board (3 years, vote for 1) **Kenn Basler**

Here are a few thoughts on the Monterey Select Board, the importance of communication skills, and some of the issues that will require creative thinking.

We are at a critical juncture as we look to Monterey's future. The current Select Board has begun to tackle a number of fiscal issues that make for difficult but needed discussions. With this in mind the Select Board has to provide the leadership, mixed with a healthy dose of common sense, that enables the town to make well-informed decisions at town meeting. This means an approach by the Select Board that combines a sensitivity to the history of past decisions, while making sure that up-to-date information from every committee is readily available and that outreach to other towns and our elected representatives at the Statehouse in Boston is maintained.

This is not an easy task. In fact a number of residents have raised the possibility that Monterey may be in need of a town manager to help with the flow of

information. I don't think it's necessary now, but it's certainly an issue that will be discussed as we move forward.

As we discuss the issues of our school, it's interesting to note how our neighboring town quickly took advantage of our misstep with the school survey and assumed the role of schoolyard bully. Not only does the New Marlborough Select Board think they know what's best for the children of Monterey, but they assume with typical bully bravado that they alone have the answers. The Monterey Select Board has tried to clarify the situation, but a valuable lesson has been learned. Leadership is difficult. With all good intentions the survey was done without the necessary input from the community. The Select Board must communicate better with our school board representative. If we, as a town, are going to take the position of saving our local school, we must be in the lead and not following. The creativeness of Monterey residents has always been second to none, and it's that creativeness and problem solving we need now. Solutions are possible but it's going to take a concerted effort from many. The Select Board needs to provide the forum for disseminating accurate information, especially for those who have questions about keeping the school open and how it might affect our tax rate.

Another issue that continues to require Select Board leadership is that of cell service and high-speed Internet service. While the WiredWest group has done a great job of getting Monterey Internet connected at the town hall, library, and school, the final phase of connecting homes and businesses is still years away. The Select

Board must be in constant contact with our Statehouse representatives to keep the pressure on. The other needed pressure point is Verizon. While they continue to pour millions into urban areas, we need for them to at least allow the residents of Monterey the ability to receive their version of high-speed Internet. Additionally, it is time for Verizon to install an antenna on our recently completed cell tower. The Select Board should be proactive in both these cases.

I believe that we need to continue the strong community support for our Fire, Police, and Highway Departments, which are the envy of many neighboring towns. We must continue to keep them well trained and equipped. It's up to us to make sure this quality of service continues, but in times of serious budget restraints we will be faced with increasingly difficult decisions. The ability to support and work closely with these departments, along with other town departments, concerning budget issues, will not be easy and will require a Select Board that is creative in its thinking and open to new ideas.

The real strength of Monterey is the unselfish commitment that so many give to the various town boards, institutions,


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and activities that make up the very fiber that we call Monterey. I have always been amazed at the volunteer hours put in by Monterey residents—the firefighters with their training and equipment maintenance, the coaches and organizers for the Little League, the crew that puts a fresh coat of ice on the rink every night during the cold winter months, the ZBA spending hour after hour trying to mediate disputes, the Friends of the Library book sale . . . The list goes on and on and on. This type of commitment is what makes Monterey the best town in the Berkshires.

Let's remember that Monterey is a small town. We can sit down, have a discussion, agree to disagree but still be friends. As you can see the common thread is information and communication. If you share my concerns for Monterey I would appreciate your support for the open seat on the Monterey Select Board

Steven Weisz

My name is Steven Weisz. I live on Bidwell Road and I am running for Monterey Select Board.

For the past twenty-five years I have been coming to Monterey and recently, have been fortunate enough to purchase a home and relocate here. My experiences and talents are what will make me an effective Selectman.

During my career, I ran four successful businesses and participated in government affairs that range from big cities to small villages. This work included Budgeting, Personnel, Planning Boards, Zoning Boards, Historic Associations, Chambers of Commerce, and Tourist Boards.

I have negotiated on behalf of a village with State Transportation Departments, State Departments of Environmental Protection, and the United States Postal Authority. In each case I was able to help the village achieve their goals in the face of State and Federal bureaucracy.

I participated in and helped craft two "Master Plans" that were designed to preserve open spaces, restore historic buildings and districts, support local farms and encourage arts and culture. Each of these plans assisted the local government in long-range planning.

I believe these accomplishments demonstrate my ability and drive to keep towns safe, affordable, clean & vibrant.

Since I have moved to Monterey:

I started the *Lake Garfield Facebook Page* (it has become a helpful tool for Lake users to discuss matters with each other), have been appointed to the *Monterey Historic Commission* (we have just aided a grant proposal for a new roof for the Bidwell House), will be participating on a *Gould Farm* committee, and have started "*Monterey2020—a Community Conversation*" (we have just had a successful first meeting at Town Hall). I have also become active in the campaign to keep our School Program IN Monterey.

Additionally, I have had many discussions and meetings with people from every aspect of Monterey life. From the General Store, to the Knox Gallery. From members of the Farming Community, to the Hatchery. From the Bidwell House, to the Church. From the School Committee, to the new Executive Director of Gould Farm, and others.

Through participating in these programs, committees, and listening to the folks of Monterey, it is clear to me why I chose to live here: that the true strength of Monterey, *are* the people of Monterey. Therefore, I will end my letter with this promise:

If elected to the Select Board, I will listen to you and, working together with the other Select Board Members, I will work hard every day to keep Monterey great while tackling the tough issues.

THAT is the most important role of any Selectman.

I hope to be yours.

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

David Brown

I grew up in Monterey and have spent most of my life here also on Corashire Road. I'm married to Donna and we have three children. Two have flown the coop, but we still have Matt who has just started high school. I teach wood shop and building technologies at Monument Mountain.

Library Trustee (1 year, vote for 2)

Beth Reiter

Hi fellow Monterey residents –

My name is Beth Reiter, and I am running for an elected position as a Trustee of the Monterey Library. I have been serving as a Trustee in an appointed capacity since

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last spring and look forward to continuing to work with our wonderful library.

I am from western New York and became acquainted with Monterey when I came to Gould Farm as a volunteer. Now I've been living at Gould Farm since 2008. My husband, Ben, works at Gould Farm, and we are proud to introduce a new little Monterey resident, our son Everett born on March 7! I am trained as a baker and pastry chef and worked at the Gould Farm Harvest Barn for five and a half years. Recently I've been working part-time at the Southfield Store bakery.

Outside of work I enjoy exploring the natural world around us—hiking, canoeing, camping, and observing. I also spend my time reading and watching interesting movies; this media most often comes my way via the Monterey Library! I love living in our beautiful little town and using the many services offered by our local library. I hope that I will be able to continue serving our Monterey community as a member of the Library Trustees, and I want to encourage all of us to visit the library often.

MaryPaul Yates

I would like to introduce myself and ask for voters' support in my bid for Library Trustee in the upcoming town elections.

I currently serve as Trustee, having been appointed to fill the seat vacated by Lois Storch at the end of 2013. Additionally, I am active in running the Knox Gallery/Monterey Library—organizing

and facilitating the exhibits and events sponsored by the Knox, with my fellow committee members. The momentum we have developed with the gallery is exciting—not only is it a terrific venue for our many local artists to show and sell their work, it has proved to be a community builder, with substantial crowds participating in the openings, viewings, and artists' gallery talks. Even more importantly, gallery attendees check out and buy books while they are there, building numbers to keep our library robust.

I have been a homeowner in Monterey since 1998 and a full-time resident since 2008. Professionally, I consult on design, marketing, and creative direction for fabric and furniture companies, working out of my home-based studio and office. I have also written two reference books on fabrics, and I teach and lecture on the subject for various colleges and professional organizations.

It is an exciting time for the Monterey Library as we begin the process of evaluating our facility and our town's needs for the future. I would very much like to have your support in my run for Library Trustee.

Park Commission (3 years)

Kelly Funk

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kelly Funk. Having grown up twenty minutes south from

Monterey, in Ashley Falls, I attended schools within Southern Berkshire Regional School District. I received a B.S., in Biology, from Russell Sage College and work here in town, at Berkshire Geotechnologies. I was a lifeguard at Lake Garfield in 2006, then again in 2007, and have lived in Monterey since 2009. I am interested in serving on the Park Commission because the significance of Parks and Recreation is accompanied by economic, health, environmental, and social benefits to its local community. With my avid love for the outdoors and biology, I feel I would be a contributing member to the committee and our town of Monterey.

Planning Board (5 years)

Tom Sawyer

My name is Tom Sawyer. I have lived in the Berkshires since 1990 and in Monterey since 2001. My wife, Suzanne, and I have four daughters, aged eight to eighteen, and they all have or are attending schools in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Our oldest graduated from Mount Everett last year and is attending Ithaca College.

I consider myself a native of Massachusetts and can trace my ancestors back to the "original" Tom Sawyer who was one of the founding settlers of the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts, in the 1640s (not the Mark Twain "original"). >

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Come Join the Fun!

I am a graduate of the University of Maine with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am currently employed as a Project Manager with The Dennis Group, an engineering firm based in Springfield that does projects in the food industry. The work in that industry is all over the country, so I do travel a fair amount.

I learned about an open seat on the Planning Board from an article in the *Monterey News*. I have always had an interest in the workings of the town, and this position looks like a good way to increase my involvement and have an opportunity to learn more about the town and have input on its future.

I can often be found working outside on the weekends on projects around my house. Feel free to wave as you drive by on Main Road.

I look forward to being an active participant on the Planning Board.

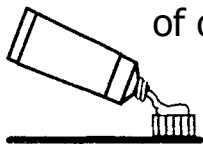
Zoning Board of Appeals (5 yrs.) Jon Levin

I hope you will consider supporting my candidacy for reelection to the Zoning Board of Appeals. I have served as an alternate and fulltime member of the Zoning Board of Appeals over the past four years. I have been an attorney in private practice for over thirty years with primary expertise in real estate development, land use planning, and small business. I believe I have the necessary experience and expertise to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the Monterey community.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Stories of Monterey's Early Adventurers at Apr. 16th Community Potluck

Despite some computer frustrations at the beginning, the March Potluck turned out to be a fascinating look into one artist's journey (Josephine Freedman) with ceramics over the last forty years. Josephine brought many beautiful samples, and we thank her for her presentation.

For the next Potluck, we have the Bidwell House Museum presenting stories of Monterey's early adventurers. Barbara Palmer says, "The folks who settle in these hinterland hills have always been a hardy lot. In the early years, only someone with a taste for adventure could have traveled here, cleared a homestead, built shelter, and survived. Therefore it probably shouldn't be a surprise that the offspring of the early settlers pursued adventure and travel far beyond the Berkshires in the nineteenth century." At the April Potluck Supper, the Bidwell House Museum will present the story of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell's granddaughter Mercy Partridge Whitney, who

with her husband Samuel was among the first group of missionaries to Hawaii, in 1820. She kept a diary about her journey and the rest of her life spent among the Hawaiians. The author James Michener based the missionaries depicted in his book *Hawaii* on Mercy and Samuel, and he used her diary as a primary source for his book. One of Rev. Bidwell's other granddaughters was a missionary to Turkey, and two others were married to Brigham Young in Utah.

Come hear these fascinating stories about Township Number 1's far-flung descendants. Two of the speakers will be Rick Bidwell Wilcox, Adonijah Bidwell's seventh great-grandson (and recently retired Stockbridge chief of police) and Rob Hoogs, President of the Bidwell House Board of Trustees.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, April 16, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

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Join the Community Garden

The Monterey Community Garden is still going strong again this year, but it is looking for some new gardeners.

When the garden first opened up, I wondered, why should there be a community garden in an area that is such a natural area for having your own garden or farm? Aren't we in the country?

I joined the garden to find out why. I also joined the garden because it was fenced in with lots of sun. It also has dedicated gardens for growing whatever crop anyone could want. The first year I concentrated on tomatoes, herbs, and some squash. It was wonderful!

The best thing I got from this garden, however, was the sense of community. I learned so much from other gardeners. Things that I had no idea about. Soil needs, organic tips and so much more.

This year, some members have moved away or retired. We are looking for new gardeners. So if you do not have great sun or wish your garden was fenced in, come and garden with us. If you have never even thought you could grow anything, I'm sure you will learn even more about gardening and community than I have. Hope to see you there.

—Christine Goldfinger

Monterey Gets Reverse 911 Notification System

I am pleased to announce that through a Massachusetts Emergency Management Grant, the Monterey Police Department has purchased a reverse 911 emergency notification system provided by Blackboard Connect. This service will allow emergency notifications, such as tornado warnings, or outreach notification, such as a road closure, to be sent to each Monterey household. The Blackboard Connect system is able to send messages simultaneously as voice calls, text messages, and e-mail messages. Depending on the nature of the situation, any or all of these methods may be used to communicate with the intended recipients. This service also allows Monterey homeowners to add up to 10 residential addresses, 10 phone numbers (home or cell), or 10 e-mail addresses to customize where you get your notifications.

This can be done by signing up on line at <https://townofmonterey.bbcportal.com/entry> and following the instructions. (Do not use dashes when entering phone

Youth Baseball Sign-Ups

Baseball sign-ups for youth baseball players of all levels have begun. Players 5–11 years old in Monterey, Sandisfield, Otis, Great Barrington, and surrounding towns play ball in the Cal Ripken baseball league. There are no tryouts. Games and practices are at Greene Park on Route 23 in Monterey center. Practices start in mid April, and games begin in May for the eight-week season for players 8–11. Players 5–7 play on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. starting in early May.

For more information, contact Steve Graves at 269-4632 or email sgraves8@yahoo.com.

numbers). You can also sign up by going to the town web page and clicking on "My Connect" on the lower left side of the web page.

Special thanks to Sgt. Johnson for his expert computer skills helping to set this up. For more information, contact Chief Backhaus or Sgt. Johnson at 528-1443x116.

—Chief Gareth Backhaus

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Town Assets: The Wilson-McLaughlin House

Last month I wrote about the role of assets, of people and places, in creating a vibrant and enjoyably connected town, with a focus on the questions concerning our small school. Our many town assets provide places for folks with so many different interests and skills and enthusiasms to come together and weave the fabric of knowing each other. Opportunities for people to meet and work and learn and play together are greatly enhanced by the places available.

These places didn't just all happen at some point in the past. They each have their own histories of private and public interests and a wide variety of individuals and groups who made them happen. As I speculated when I wrote last month about the school, "Who needs a town beach?", I'm sure there have always been people with divergent views. But through diligence and cooperation people can find ways to agree to make things happen.

If there was ever the prospect of differing opinions, the Wilson-McLaughlin House this is a prime example! As a newcomer to Monterey, I thought I'd learn a little of the history because all we see are small views—the discussions two years ago about building the driveway, references to a lease from the town to the Friends of the W-M House, passing references to Edith Wilson's gift. Here's what I've learned.

Edith Wilson lived in Monterey for more than fifty years and died in 1995. Over those years she was very active in many

ways in town life and organizations, and was also very generous with financial contributions to the library, scholarship fund, and, I'm sure, many other endeavors. In that vein of generosity her will offered to the town her house and 28+ acres, for municipal uses to be decided by the Selectpeople, "on the condition that it agree to maintain the said farmhouse in good condition. . . ." And the town accepted the property, and thereby the condition. I understand that perhaps townspeople didn't really look this gift horse in the mouth, because it was only later that the poor condition of the house really became apparent.

We all make two kinds of mistakes—the things that we do, and the things that we don't do. Generally, when we do something that is a mistake, well, time tells us that, often pretty clearly. But the mistakes of what we don't do can be very hard to identify, to see clearly how they played out, because what we didn't do could have such widely disparate, unintended consequences, that it's difficult to say definitely, "Because . . ."

In this case, the town accepted the gift, perhaps without due diligence. Aside from removing an addition that was unsafe, the town, despite some inconclusive attempts to create a plan, continued to not do anything, thus not meeting its obligation to Edith's condition, and with the likely result of the condition of the house becoming even worse over the years.

So, what's to be done when nothing is being done? After many years, a group of people got together and decided to try and make a community center happen. It

was a "Hail Mary" play, a pass into the air hoping it would be caught and a touchdown would follow. There didn't seem to be any other ideas, and the building just stood there. The Friends of the W-M House organized, incorporated as a non-profit, and in 2005, nine years after the town accepted the property, signed a lease with the town (approved by unanimous vote) to take over the house property with the goal of restoring the building to a usable condition and creating a community center.

This hopeful Hail Mary play was put in motion during a time of relative plenty. The Friends thought they'd be able to raise enough money privately to make the play work. It was probably tough enough initially to get donations, but then the crash of 2008–2009 happened. Charitable giving across the country dried up almost overnight. I'm sure some of the people who might have been most interested in giving had to pull back. That crash happened five years ago, and charitable giving generally has not come close to its former level. As if that wasn't difficulty enough, in 2009 the commonwealth's Attorney General added considerable complexity and cost (perhaps as much as 40 percent) by determining that it was a public building.

Some folks probably think that the 2005 lease with the Friends group basically assigned total responsibility for the project to them and the rest of us can forget about it. Save our tax rate! I never wanted the place in the beginning! and so on. Of course people have warranted objections, but if these concerns are so important now, why didn't they drive a decision during the

Relative Beauty
Tim Heffernan PHOTOGRAPHY
Susan Terni Taff WATERCOLOR

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long years between accepting Edith's gift and the Friends forming to do something?

Progress at the house is now "too late to turn back." The foundation is repaired, and an entirely new structure for the first floor is being put in place. There is much to be done after that phase, and in accordance with the town's agreement to accept the property, it is fundamentally a town responsibility. Should the Friends disband, the town has the legal obligation to put the house in good condition.

This property is an opportunity for the town, giving people a different kind of venue, a quiet, smaller, flexible, and very accessible place for groups to gather, read together, take lifelong learning classes, create a preschool, organize a nature corner with a collection built from the property. The October Fest last fall demonstrated its suitability for outdoor events. The community garden already offers gardening opportunities to many.

I hope that as a town, both individually and collectively, we can find a way to honor our obligation to Edith Wilson's generosity and gain a facility that could be of great benefit to each of us. This is an exciting prospect for another town asset to help weave folks together into the social fabric that we call Monterey.

—Stephen Moore

Bidwell House Museum Announces Season Highlights

It's time to mark your calendars: This year's opening celebration will take place on Sunday, May 25, at 3 p.m., with a concert by Diane Taraz—back by popular demand. The museum will open for the season on Monday, May 26, Memorial Day, welcoming visitors from near and far for house tours.

Township No. 1 Day, the free community day of celebrating local history, is planned for Saturday, July 5, with terrific programs and fun games. Start thinking about your entry in the baking contest!

The summer garden party, highlight of the season and fundraiser for your history museum, will take place on Saturday, August 2. Details, as well as the museum's full schedule of programs, will be announced next month.

In the meantime, please take advantage of the Bidwell trails: salamanders, spring peepers, vernal pools, and first green shoots will be in evidence soon. Think spring!

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director



From the Tax Collector's Office

The fiscal year 2014 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the fourth quarter have been mailed and are due May 1, 2014. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117).

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245, 413-528-1443 x115.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey Real Estate and Personal Property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on Pay Real Estate Taxes Online. You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2014). The bank will assess a minimal fee of \$0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch,
Monterey Tax Collector

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April at Knox Gallery

Relative Beauty: Susan Terni Taff and Tim Heffernan continues at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, through April 26.

Susan Terni Taff has enjoyed working from the human figure in a variety of media. Though a life-long student of the arts, she discovered watercolor only three years ago. A workshop instructor at Omega Institute suggested that Taff use photos from Victoria's Secret catalogue when a live model was not available. As she painted, Taff noticed that the VS models' sharp angles, straight lines, and impossible thinness did not inspire her as had the "curves, rolls, and soft bellies" she studied in life drawing sessions. So, she took it upon herself to transform the VS models. She added "pounds, muffin tops, bigger hips, thighs, bottoms. In this way, they became more than 'clothes hangers.'" Her striking paintings are of strong, beautiful, real women.

Taff, who lives with her husband, Rick, and exuberant golden retriever in Glastonbury, Connecticut, is the sister of Monterey resident Esther Heffernan.

Taff's nephew, Tim Heffernan, is not only John and Esther Heffernan's son, but he is a widely published and largely self-taught photographer.

These artists further report that this two-person exhibition is not their first artistic collaboration—they have enjoyed drawing together and offering mutual inspiration and encouragement since



"In Trailer" by Tim Heffernan

Heffernan's childhood. Ergo, *Relative Beauty*.

Tim Heffernan comes to his profession and passion through a lineage of shutterbugs. His first camera—in third grade—was a Kodak Instamatic, a gift from his grandparents. Today he shoots with a variety of professional and "toy" cameras, utilizing both old and new technology—film and digital, darkroom and computer, in order to achieve an atmosphere of timelessness and otherworldliness.

Heffernan earned his BA at Bard College, Simons Rock, and has taught digital photography at IS183 School of Arts, in Stockbridge. He lives in Craryville, New York. Locals will recognize many familiar environments in Heffernan's subject matter, albeit rendered in his signature altered effects.

Paula Shalan Ceramics opens on May 2. The May *Monterey News* will offer details.

Community Photography Exhibit

Have all you artists been busy snapping shots of all-white landscapes? It's spring



"Crossfront" by Susan Terni Taff

now, and we hope that Tim Heffernan's work and the fresh green that is surely on its way inspires all friends and artists to get cameras tuned up for our community photography exhibit this summer. We will ask each artist to submit one framed, ready to hang photograph that has been taken in Monterey during the preceding twelve months. Submissions will be due just after July 4.

The exhibit will run through July and most of August. We are sure lots of interesting, creative, and varied pieces will fill the gallery this summer.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours: Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795, Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Community Center News

The Community Center continues to be blessed with timely volunteer contributions; for example, Julie and Frank Kern donated a pile of beams they were not going to need, which are perfect for our needs in the basement except for being too wide for the engineer's specifications. "No problem," says Steve Moore, "bring them over." Getting them to Steve's shop involved a crew of Jim Edelman, Cliff Weiss, Allan Dean, Michael Banner, and me out in the cold to haul the beams from storage through the snow to Shawn Tryon's trailer—some of these beams were 28 feet long! Shawn's expert backing abilities made the transport a breeze, and before we knew it, the stack of beams was at Steve's. For the ripping project, Steve masterminded the process, moved his machinery around, and set it up for us to feed the beams in a door on one side, through the table saw, and out a door on the other side. Very slick. In no time the crew of Steve, Jack Ryder, Michael Banner, and I had the beams all ripped to the right widths.

Another volunteer effort came from our Representative Smitty Pignatelli, who appeared on our behalf at the hearing for our variance application to the state Plumbing Board in Boston. Smitty studied up on our project and our application to be required to build only one bathroom for the Community Center instead of two.



Joe Baker

Work on the Monterey Community Center is finally under way again this month after a winter hiatus. The crew from Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Don Langley (l) and John Deitz (r), here are pouring concrete footings for supports in the basement. The new subfloor for the first floor will soon be complete.

Then he went to the hearing bright and early, and within a few minutes was calling to pass along the good news that our variance application was granted.

Construction has begun again at 468 Main Road, just up the hill from the Post Office, now that the cold has let up (dare I say this?). The concrete footings have

been poured in the basement, and the next concrete pour will be taking place in short order. Before we know it, the first floor subfloor will be complete.

The Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House committee completed the application for a large grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in early March. While we wait a few months for the decision on that grant, we are putting together another grant application to the Berkshire Bank Foundation. Plans for the next construction phase are coming together this month, so more structural repairs are on the way, followed by walls and windows. Also, we are installing gutter work this month to collect water for gravity feed to the Community Garden. No more hauling water!

As always, we welcome your input and your donations (fully tax-deductible), which you can make online at our website, www.ccmonterey.org. Look there for photos of the construction work as it goes forward and for the latest news. Or if you'd rather, write us at PO Box 302, Monterey.

Thanks!

—Joe Baker for FWMH

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Who's Who in Monterey

Josh Allentuck

We met in an artist's studio, Josh and I, which was itself a work of art. Once a log hunting cabin, and now an outbuilding on a larger piece of property, it will soon be filled with canvasses and art tools and (most likely) the clutter that comes with occupancy. Josh had winterized it for the homeowner a while back, and now was putting the finishing touches on it as a studio. Thus it was that, as we sat together, he on a rustic wooden rocking chair and I on an old but attractive sofa, with the rough but finished wooden floors covered in well-worn Oriental area rugs, the dining table set with mismatched chairs, and the lofts to the right and to the left accessible only by custom-made ladders, the whole place had the feel of a stage set for a play not yet open.

It was a play I would really have liked to see.

"Did you work with an architect?" I wondered, the small space so well used, efficient but elegant. He hadn't, he said as he finished off the quick tour; he seldom does. What he builds comes out of the close work he does with the homeowners who hire him, most of whom start off to him as strangers and then end up on his Christmas card list.

No surprise, this. Josh isn't someone I knew before this interview other than to say hello to in town and to call on every once in a while as the church's next door



Liz Goodman

neighbor. But his "hellos" were always cheering to me. He has a warm face and an easy smile. In chilly New England, Josh is a spring breeze.

But he's from no further south than New York, the Upper West Side. His father worked in show business, having gotten his start in vaudeville, and his mother had as well, as a casting director, which is how the two met. But once they were married, she left her job to begin having children, Josh first, Rachel next, twenty-one months later, and finally Zack, eleven years later still. Josh attended P.S. 9 up until sixth grade when the family moved out to East Hampton. It was a downsizing, simplifying more. And Josh's mother still lives there, though Josh *doesn't visit often enough* (emphasis hers). He also has two half siblings, Danny and Katherine, children of his father's first marriage to actress Maureen Stapleton.

Ms. Stapleton was one of many stars in the constellation of Josh's youth. His father was the assistant to vaudeville

producer Irving Yates and general manager for all of Kermit Bloomgarden's productions, which included *Death of a Salesman*, *Most Happy Fella*, *Music Man*, and *Equus*, to name a few. For this, Josh remembers visiting his father at work and going back stage to meet up with the likes of Carol Channing and Richard Burton. Such a thing meant nothing to him at the time, only struck him as special after the fact.

And here's another interesting fact: highly esteemed for his work, Josh's father was also known for his nose. Such a remarkable

thing this, it attracted attention even among such attention-attracting company as he tended to keep. Why, theater owner and producer James Nederlander even named his racehorse after it: Allentuck's Nose.

In spite of leaving behind such a colorful scene, the Allentucks, to hear Josh tell it, were just as happy in East Hampton, Josh even remembering high school as the best four-year period of his life. He reconsidered this after he said it, backing off it a bit, seeming to remember other great four-year periods. But he let it stand that he was happy there, no small statement in regard to high school, and a testament to Josh's buoyant personality.

From there he went to SUNY-Cobleskill, where he earned an associate's degree preparing him to work in the hospitality industry. With experience working in restaurants in East Hampton and a love for food and interacting with people, Josh felt this fitting.

And so it was for a couple of years after he graduated in 1980. But then he

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felt himself to be stagnating, so he relocated to Atlanta, where he worked in two upstart restaurants. This was a brief stop, though, just a year and a half. Still feeling unsettled, he reached out to his half sister, Katherine, who was working at the Berkshire Theater Festival. She lined up a gig for him working as an assistant to the director of the BTF, which he spent the summer of 1983 doing and by which he came to know the Berkshires.

When the season at BTF was over, Josh returned to New York City, where he landed a job doing telephone ticket sales at Madison Square Garden. This was at the dawn of the age of TicketMaster and the likes. Prior to this, each theater would have a box office manager to oversee sales, to map out their own pricing and availability, and to finesse group sales and giveaways. The move away from such independence was one many such managers resisted. But, not one to be daunted at such a multifaceted challenge, Josh soon left in-house ticket sales at the Garden to work at an upstart computerized ticket company, TicketWorld, which would later become TicketMaster and which would now oversee the Garden's sales.

Really, he was uniquely qualified for this. His being an insider in the world of show business meant he knew the personalities, the political interests, the many moving parts that made for a successful show and a satisfied audience. His affability made it so those who had no interest in learning a new system, those for whom the new system meant considerably less control and fewer personal (and not entirely on the up-and-up)

benefits, would eventually come around. As he said, he had to "train people who didn't want to be trained." His success at this tells you a lot about him.

He tackled the same project at Yankee Stadium, implementing an ever-evolving computer program. When did he learn computer programming, I wondered? He just "figured it out," he explained, something I think he does on a regular basis. There is something so adaptable about Josh: he'll figure it out, and then he'll succeed at it, whatever "it" might happen to be.

But, once he'd figured this out, he began to get bored. So he sublet an apartment in East Hampton, and took on construction and restaurant work. He honed his building skills there, working closely with someone older and experienced in the craft, in what was not quite an apprenticeship. He also met Ginny there, his wife now of 22 years, at her birthday party, which he attended with a friend. Their life together brought them back to the city, but only for a time. It wasn't long before they wanted out once again, and this time they looked north.

An elderly woman, Millicent McIntosh, lived in Tyringham and, not wanting to leave her home yet, couldn't live there alone anymore. So her children advertised for someone to live on the property, be available for driving her where she needed to go and in case of an emergency, but otherwise to leave her be. The task was perfect for Josh and Ginny, and so they began their four years of "Driving Miss Millie."

During this time, it became evident

that life in the Berkshires suited them, and around the same time when the work of driving Miss Millie came complete, they thought of buying a house and starting a family.

James was born in 1996, and the old Tryon house (behind the church on Tyringham Road) came open so they bought it, and Monterey suited so well. Without much of a yard, the family took full advantage of the town's nearby offerings: Greene Park in the warm months, mostly for softball, and the skating rink during the winter. Their feeling such things as an extension of their home is what has inspired Josh's service on the Park Commission, of which he is now chair. This is his way of giving back and expressing thanks.

Josh's work in the Berkshires has been a continuation of what's come before, his boldest endeavor: a genuine New York deli on Main Street in Great Barrington. He owned and operated it for four years, and he still takes evident pride in the quality of what he served and the manner in which he served it. It was a lot of work, and very hard to make profitable for all the reasons any restaurant or small business owner around here could explain to you. He misses it, or at least some aspects of it, and continues to believe it was a good contribution to South County that he's sorry didn't succeed in the long term. But, for now, his contracting work sustains him, as he brings to it not only skill for the craft but also an intuitive sense for how to serve the client—the client who will likely become his friend.

There are some shifts ahead for Josh, not least James's nearing high school graduation. Ginny travels a lot for work, so Josh is not infrequently "parent-in-charge." James's likely soon move out of the house will change this, and might spur other change.

I notice then a screw on the floor of this otherwise finished cabin. In the quiet that has suddenly come, I go to pick it up and give it to Josh. "I'm not sure where that belongs," I say. Everything here looks so well fastened, ready now for life (and art) to unfold. The screw, it probably just fell out of his toolbox, I figure, intended for the next job, the next stage to be set. Josh takes it, smiling. It rolls in his palm.

—Liz Goodman

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Besides this, the beech is one of the few deciduous trees whose leaves can hang on all winter, growing paler and lighter, but holding strong in ice and wind. The crown branches of the older tall trees may be bare, but lower down, particularly in the groves of young saplings, some papery leaves remain.

As the beech leaves finally fall, they land on that tough cold snow crust we still have in our late winter. The wind takes them skittering, and here and there they bring up against something and stop, against a rock or a stump or someplace where the snow is indented. In our upper pasture, there's a place I recently walked one day around freezing when the crust was a little soft. I wasn't breaking right through, but I did make tracks in the softened top couple of inches. Now, these tracks are full of beech leaves. So are the tracks of some others up there: coyotes, turkeys, deer. Mine are

the biggest, but even the other tracks have expanded some since they were first made, thanks to melt and sublimation. So we have all left our signatures in beech leaves. We are the beech leaf co-authors, though only for the time being. That snow can't last forever.

I read someone's observation about birch seeds in winter. They shake loose from their catkins, and if conditions are just right, if the snow surface below is pocked by wind or rain, a seed or two will come to rest in each slight depression as the wind blows over the crust. When the



melt comes, there is often a perfect, even distribution of seeds sown every few inches on the forest floor. I suppose one of these years those pock marks might be made by us upper pasture authors. The times we walked there might show up years hence, immortalized as great trees.

Immortalized? Even the mighty trees are only immortal thanks to continuing generations, and in fact our great beeches are in trouble with beech bark disease. An insect comes, a "non-native" called beech scale. It makes a little hole in the fine grey bark.

The bark is further breached as the insect population grows. Next come the spores of a fungus called *Nectria*, which lodge in the broken bark and start their own life cycles. The tree may fight back, forming lesions that wall off the bark injury, pushing it outward and protecting the vital cambium or inner bark. Or the lesions may sink inward and do real damage to the cambium. These are called sunken lesions. A tree with raised lesions is considered tolerant of beech bark disease. Though its bark looks funky and scarred, the tree still grows and is healthy

because its cambium is undamaged. Such a strong individual will probably continue to bloom and form seeds, or beechnuts, way up top.

The trees that make viable nuts, with pollen from male (staminate) flowers reaching the female (pistillate) ones, will pass along their disease resistant genes to the next generation and there will be more beechnuts. Some trees wear signs of their good reproductive health in the form of claw marks up the trunks. Black bears find it well worth the climb to get up to the

tops of such trees. Beechnuts are high in protein and have five times the fat content of corn. A bear could wait for the nuts to drop to the ground, but there are plenty of other animals down below waiting for the same thing. This plenty on the ground is called "mast," and includes acorns and hickory nuts. Deer rely upon mast, as do wild turkeys.

I have looked for beechnuts here in our woods for forty years and I almost never have found any. I find the prickly little burs on the ground and open them

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eagerly, only to discover the seed is not fertile, the nut not formed up. I also have looked in vain for claw marks on the trunks, to see if any bears have been headed up for a feast. Of course, our local bears enjoy birdseed these recent years, but surely it is not as good as beechnuts!

Last year I spotted burs developing on the south side branches of some trees and kept my eye on them. These branches hung over the lawn of a summer residence. The nuts were coming along, I felt. I could even see them protruding a little at the blossom ends of the burs. Then someone came and trimmed the overhanging branches before the nuts had ripened, maybe someone who wanted to be able to ride a lawnmower there along the edge of the yard. What a disappointment. Craning my neck, using binoculars, I could see more burs up high but if these made nuts they never hit the ground and I didn't get to try any. Either they didn't form up, or squirrels and birds got them up high before they could fall.

I read that beech bark disease is carried on the wind from one place to another, but also that it may be spread by me! Yes, John Evans, writing in the September 2011 issue of *Vermont Coverts* (Middlebury, VT), says that disease transmission is linked to wind, but also to areas "frequented by naturalists and vacationers" who, he says, may lean against the bark of a diseased tree and then go someplace else and lean against the bark of a healthy one.

Each morning I see the sun come up through a distant horizon of hardwood trunks, sparkling with the real live fire of our own star. I take a walk to the upper

Library Notes

Become a Friend of the Library

Don't forget the Easter egg hunt on the Library lawn—1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 20. Don't be late. The children gather on the church steps and wait for our helpful friends from the Monterey Police to stop traffic so they can cross the street.

Recently the Friends of the Monterey Library sent out a letter to all the Friends explaining our new fund drive. For several years the Friends have supported a number of projects to make the library building more comfortable and welcoming to everyone. Now we've reached the point where we need professional help to go any further. We've applied for a grant from the state and need to raise \$35,000 to match the \$50,000 the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will give us for a Planning and Design grant to study the building in its entirety. The Trustees of the Monterey Library have pledged \$5,000 from our State Aid account to start the drive. The Friends are hoping we can raise more from a simple appeal to renew your membership.

pasture and lie down under a thicket of little beeches. Flat on my back I let gravity take me, just give it up. I think, if this is a taste of dying, I don't mind it. But so far it has turned out not to be a good day to die yet, not for real, so I stand up in my naturalist's coat and head off somewhere, carrying crusty snow and bits of leaves and who knows what else with me.

—Bonner J. McAllester

Wait—if you're not a member can you help? Absolutely. Become a member and make a donation. In fact you don't need to become a member if you'd prefer not to—but there's no catch. The Friends meet periodically to discuss how they can help the library, and they help with the book sale, but there's no minimum requirement for a donation or amount of time. We're happy if you say you're a Friend! Either way checks need to be made out to The Friends of the Monterey Library, PO BOX 172, Monterey, MA 01245. Any amount is appreciated. Look for our committee that is about to organize and will be studying what Monterey's library should be and how it should fit into our community. If you feel the library is important to you in this community, please help. If you don't, we'd like to know why and how we could make it important. The Friends of the Monterey Library, the Trustees of the Monterey Library, and the library itself thank you for all your past support and hope we've earned your support for this study.



—Mark Makuc, Library Director




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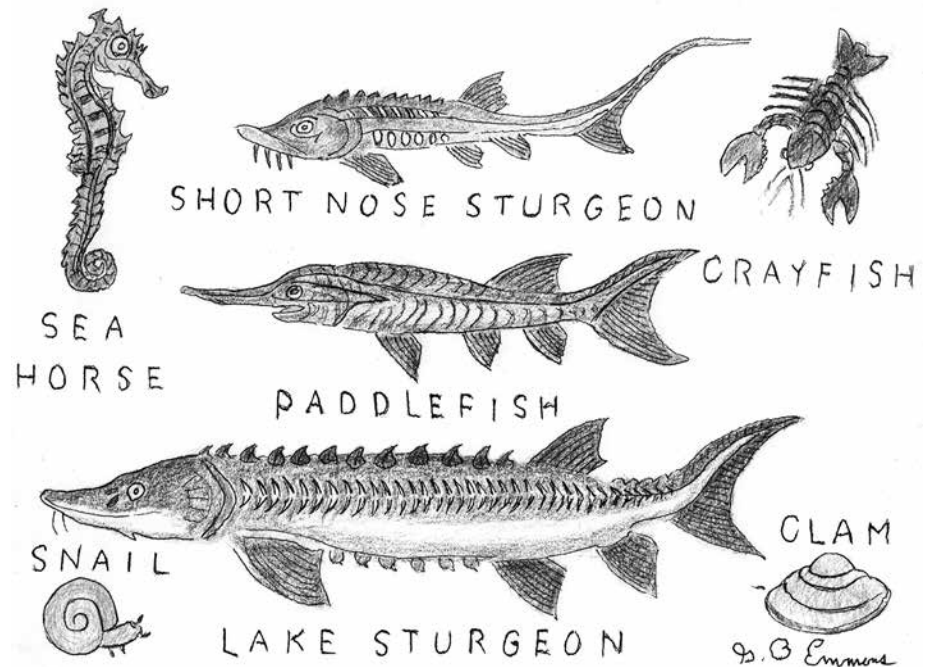
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The Sturgeon: Armor Plated Living Fossil

The Atlantic sturgeon is the largest fish taken in eastern coastal rivers with largest one of record measuring fourteen feet long and weighing 811 pounds. The white sturgeon of the West Coast is even bigger, weighing one thousand pounds or more! Sturgeons, like paddlefishes, are considered living fossils due to their prehistoric origin, shown by their imprints in the geological pages of time. The armorplating on their backs, sides, and undersides consists of bony plates set very close together as shields with bases overlapping.

Although a sturgeon may live to be 150 years of age, today they are listed as endangered in the United States. They are prized as food fish, and the roe, for instance the beluga sturgeon caviar of Russia, commands a high price. The female may carry prodigious amounts of eggs. One ten feet long can contain more than three million eggs weighing 250 pounds. Most commercial fishing today is extremely regulated, as biologists are anxious to give sturgeon opportunity to lay their eggs, since they don't begin spawning until reaching about the age of twenty and spawn only once every two or three years, mainly in spring.

The lake sturgeon, like their cousins, have several sensing barbels that extend



just below the snout to feel and find food. They suck up a variety of plants, crustaceans, and bivalves off the bottom. With a gizzard-like stomach, they are able to crush and digest shells of clams, mussels, crayfish, snails, and seahorses.

In New England, the shortnose sturgeon is smaller, a little less than two feet in length, able to live in fresh landlocked waters of our local rivers following the construction of dams. They are anadromous, so every dam restricts the extent of spawned populations; pollution also greatly limits the success

of potential reproduction. Fortunately the shortnose does very well in zero salinity freshwater and can be raised in a hatchery. Each sturgeon has chromosomes in groups of six rather than the pairs that most vertebrates have, so geologists believe they were one of the last sturgeon species to evolve.

The good news at the Berkshire Hatchery is that a new fulltime U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist has been added to the staff to help Jeff Mosher. His name is Tom Reeves, thirty-seven years old, from Washington State with electronic experience using antenna to count fish that carry inserted tags of microchips for tracking. He is presently a resident of Great Barrington and will be welcomed just in time for increased daily flow of hatchery visitors. There will be at least one biologist on site seven days a week for tours and educational guidance.

The future of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery will be our educational mission perpetuated by school children and interns of the next generation. Many youngsters might be imprinted like a fossil, an impression lasting a lifetime. While we cannot turn back the hands of the clock to geological beginnings to reverse a history of extinction, their environmental awareness may prevent future endangered species from disappearing off the face of the earth.

—George B. Emmons



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"Garden 'Guest'ation"

"Memories turned into recipes...recipes turned into stories." —Erica Bauermeister, *The Lost Art of Mixing*

Greetings from high atop Chestnut Hill Road where the snow and ice still abound. Garden Gustation's creator and author, Wendy Jensen, is taking a month off from her column, so you'll get to hear from me instead. By the way, congratulations to Wendy for her Cultural Leadership Award. She deserves the month off!

April is normally a month when many of us are steadily planning our gardens, starting seeds (did you visit the Johnny's Selected Seeds of Maine web site mentioned last month?), hoping spring will spring forth. For now, we only have the promise of spring as March 20 has come . . . and gone. The forecast is for snow, again, tonight and single digits in the nighttime this weekend. What better time to hunker down and think about baking a pie. After all, many of us still have some berries frozen from last summer's harvest.

Many of you will remember Joel and Alice Schick who lived in Monterey for many, many years. I only got to know Joel about a year before he moved when I took a songwriting workshop with him sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. One day prior to their departure, as I was working at the Monterey Library, Joel came in with his hands cradling a treasure—a treasure he wanted to bestow on me and my daughter, Sheridan. He remembered from the songwriting class that Sheridan

and I love to cook and bake. He set down on my desk a collection of four decorated metal boxes of 3-x-5 recipe cards that had belonged to his mother. It was a treasure, indeed. He regaled me with a few stories of various recipes from long-ago neighbors, relatives, and friends whose lives were captured on these 3-x-5 cards. As I later poured through these history-filled boxes, I came across recipes such as *Muriel's Chicken with 40 Cloves of Garlic*, *Tanta's Pumpkin Pie*, *Lorraine's Cheese Cake*, and a sauerbraten recipe that was written in the body of a three-page letter to Joel's mother in 1972 from someone named, Marie G. in CA. The letter gave me a glimpse into these women's lives all those years ago. Soon after Joel gave us those boxes, I told him that somehow, somewhere, there must be a song that needs to be written about the recipes and history in these simple, history-filled 3-x-5 containers.

My favorite recipe of all is one that Joel shared with me before he and Alice moved away. In this article, with Joel's permission, I am including the text of his letter to me, as well as a beloved recipe of his.

"In October 1940 my mother was in the maternity ward of a San Francisco hospital to have her first baby—my sister. In the next bed was a nice young woman having her first baby. This was Margaret Nelson. She and my mother remained friends until Margaret died sixty years later. Whenever we were in California, we'd drive up to Santa Rosa to visit Margaret, and she'd fuss and cook. Just the sweetest person. When we stopped in to see her in 1997, she gave me this recipe. I love it, since it's the easi-

est, most consistent crust I've made, and it works the same no matter whether it's a hot, humid day in August or a cold dry one in January. Hope you like it. If you do, give Margaret a good thought.

CRUMB:

2 Cups Flour

1/2 tsp Salt

1 Cup Shortening

ADD ALL AT ONCE:

1/3 Cup Milk

1 Tbsp Vinegar

"That's it. It's pretty forgiving. Margaret used Crisco, like a lot of ladies of her generation; my mother loved a lard crust; I used to use half butter/half Crisco; now I use all butter. I usually use cider vinegar. I don't know the chemistry of this recipe (I usually use vinegar just as a way to sour milk, but in this recipe you add the two at the same time. Go figure). No need to refrigerate the bowl or freeze the butter.

"This recipe truly is fool-proof and delicious. So, while the snow is still flying and the birds are tempting us with the promise of spring, look deep into your freezer and find some long lost berries from last summer and enjoy a taste of things to come."

—Rosemary Cash McAlister

Thank you Rosemary. I'd love to share this space with other garden/cook authors. Let me know if you have an idea. How about someone from the Community Garden?

—Wendy Jensen, wendygj@gmail.com

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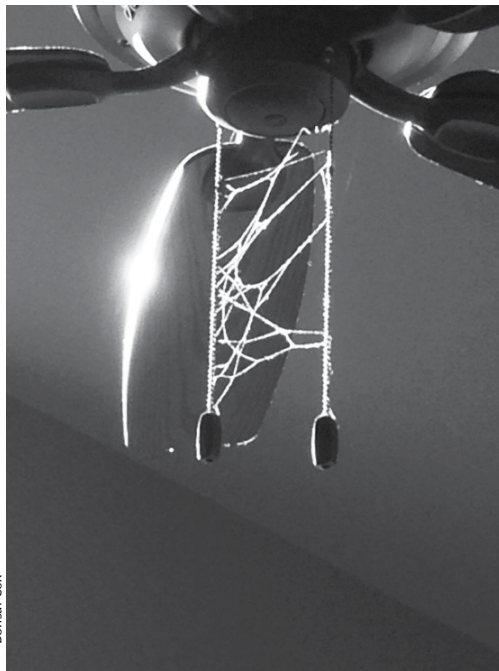
From the Meetinghouse . A Moment in Space & Time

Something high overhead caught my attention as I walked into the living room early this morning. Realtors have it right: so much depends on location. As I looked up at the cathedral ceiling, I was thrilled to be in exactly the right spot to see a brilliant arc of light the newly risen sun had thrown onto the edge of the overhead fan blade.

I was less delighted to see how clearly the sunlight also illuminated the dusty cobwebs between the fan's pull chains, and the dust on the chains themselves. Pull chains which, in that location, of course we never use. Or notice. Or, obviously, dust. Nevertheless, the organic geometry of the image did have a rather compelling, bizarre beauty.

I pointed it out to my partner. As soon as she snapped the first photo (above) she said she could hardly wait to send it off to a few friends. As soon as I heard her say that, a tremor of embarrassed protest rose to my lips. It pushed so hard, I could scarcely keep my mouth shut.

But I did. I kept my mouth shut long enough to see how much more fun she was now having with this event than I was. Kept my mouth shut a little longer, long



Bonsai Cox

enough to start to smile. And that was, finally, long enough to begin to value the fun more than my vanity. Long enough to appreciate that it's a really good photo. Long enough to enjoy the idea that you might like to see it, too.

So, along with a little backstory, here it is. Welcome to the moment in space and time it captured. A moment that was fleeting, mundane, and important. Like April, like the need for spring-cleaning.

—Mary Kate Jordan



P.O. Box 9, 01245

Time for Second-Home Owners' Voices to Be Heard

To the Editor

I am troubled by the article "Making Your Voices Heard" in the March 2014 edition of the *Monterey News*. How can I make my voice heard when I am excluded from Monterey's "direct democracy" form of government?

According to Jonathan Sylbert's article, second-home owners in Monterey can't vote at Town Meeting. My wife and I love Monterey. We enjoy its quaint charm and beautiful surroundings.

The fact that we are second-home owners in such a lovely environment should not mean that we can't vote. Shouldn't I have the option of voting at Town Meeting? If not, maybe there needs to be a serious discussion about a sliding scale regarding property taxes based on the number of days we second-home owners spend in Monterey in a fiscal year.

It appears that the town is more than happy to levy the full amount of property taxes on second-home owners without a say in municipal affairs.

It's time for a change to make my voice heard.

—Henry Schwan



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Remembering Jules Dahlman

Jules Dahlman of Monterey, 80, died peacefully on March 13, 2014, at home in Monterey, surrounded by his family. A lieutenant in the Air Force, a sailor, and a graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Jules took pride in his forty-year career as an executive in the wine industry.

He is survived by his devoted wife Barbara, and loving children, Karen, Adam, and Alison Dahlman and Scott Brown, as well as his son-in-law Michael Sisselman, daughter-in-law Sally D'Marie; twelve beloved grandchildren; and his sister, Lynn Diamond.

A cherished husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, brother, and friend, Jules will always be remembered as passionately devoted to great wine, food, travel, books, history, and above all, to the people he loved.

Donations can be made in Jules' memory to Monterey Fire Company LTD, PO Box 99, 411 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245.



Remembering Nancy Dinan

Nancy E. Dinan died March 25, 2014, after a brief illness. Born in New York City on November 12, 1926, to Arthur Salzmänn and Dorothy Preyer, she moved as a child to New Marlborough. Nancy graduated from the former New Marlborough High School and was a graduate of The Scudder School in New York.

In 1966 she got her real estate license and formed her own company, Corashire Realty. She was actively involved in the business until her death. She was the longest active member (45 years) of the Berkshire County Board of Realtors, Fairview Hospital Auxiliary, Rotary Club of Great Barrington, and former member of Save the Mahaiwe, Chesterwood Museum, and Bidwell House Museum.

She leaves her husband of 67 years, John R. Dinan, whom she married July 6, 1946, at Christ Church Episcopal in Sheffield. She also leaves her son, John R. Dinan Jr. and his wife, Anne Igoe; a daughter, Deborah D. Mielke and her husband, Rick; six grandchildren, Jeffrey Pilot, Christopher, Keller, Laura Anne Dinan, Claire Mielke Davenport and her husband, Adam, and Dinah Mielke; also, three great-grandchildren, Harper Pilot, Lincoln and Raylan Davenport; and two step-great-grandchildren, Holdon and Madeline Davenport; as well as five nieces and nephews.


Contributions in Nancy's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or The Great Barrington Rotary Scholarship Fund through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Remembering Daniel Whitbeck

Daniel Richard Whitbeck, 73, of Ocala, Florida, died Friday, March 14, 2014, after a courageous six-month battle with cancer. Dan was born in Salisbury, Connecticut, on June 27, 1940 to the late C. Ward Whitbeck and Loretta (Pitcher) Whitbeck. He attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School.


He owned and operated Whitbeck's Tree Service and served on the Monterey Police Department for several years before retiring to open Dan's Gallery in Copake, New York, where he created metal sculptures from recycled materials. He was a friend of Bill W. for many years, and practiced those principals both here in the Berkshires and in Florida.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Miller, of Ocala, Florida, son; Donald Whitbeck of Great Barrington, Massachusetts; a daughter, Ellen Whitbeck, and her husband, David Bell, of Monterey, Massachusetts; stepdaughter, Jessica Paulmann of Albany, New York; stepson, Lars Paulmann of Fairbanks, Alaska; and his special friend "Mickey Mouse." Dan is also survived by his former wives, Linda Thorpe of Monterey, Massachusetts, and Judith Whitbeck of Mount Washington, Massachusetts; brothers Robert and his wife, Patricia, of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and George of Connecticut; sisters Barbara Slingerland of Albany, New York, Mary Carley of Connecticut, and Nancy Grogan of Virginia, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brothers Charles "Tuck," William, Donald, and Michael Whitbeck and a sister, Susan Whitbeck.



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Wildlife in March Bears, Turkey Vultures, and the Return of the Eagle

Near the end of February a hungry red fox came to eat birdseed at Dennis and Dianna Downing's place on Route 23. Later in the month the Downings had a barred owl on the low limb of tree in their yard, not eating birdseed. Maureen Haugh called to say there had been a wildcat (some call this a bobcat) where she lives on Blue Hill Road, and Maureen Regan wrote a note early in March about seeing two otters at Brewer Pond, "sunning on the ice."

Also early in the month, Lynn Leavitt watched a coyote run across frozen Lake Garfield. Then on March 10, Mike Skagerlind of Mt. Hunger Road reported "two coyotes trotting across our property, including the frozen pond, about 9:30 a.m. They seemed very relaxed," and one of them leapt up and landed, all four feet at once. There may have been a mouse under the snow there.

Two coyotes visited Tim Lovett's house several different times early in March. Cheryl Koralik took photos, and Frosty the dog barked. The coyotes left. Frank Ashen writes from Lake Buel that the bald eagle



Cheryl Koralik

Cheryl's Koralik's coyote, the Banners' cedar waxwing

was back on March 8 "on the frozen lake enjoying dinner," and Maureen Regan saw an eagle circling the "small end" of Lake Garfield, also early in March.

Frank Ashen also had cedar waxwings on March 8, feasting in his crabapple tree, and the Banners hosted some on their crabapple on March 17.

As for bears, Will and Glynis Marsh got back from a trip just in time to have a bear come during the night. The bear "bent down two feeder posts (one was holding suet, which it probably loved)" and pushed down the lid of the compost. Will is our turkey vulture reporter and saw some near Catskill, New York, on his way home from the airport. There was also a great blue heron over the Hudson on that day, March 18. George Emmons has seen a turkey vulture, and Steve Snyder says they are around Gould Farm, including one with very bright white on the wings, as seen from below. Steve also reports a



Maureen Banner

killdeer in the Gould Farm gardens.

Noel Wicke at Gould Farm had a bear on the porch in mid-March. This bear took down the "entire birdfeeder contraption," pulling it right off the house. The bear then paid a visit to the next house a little farther down the hill.

Steve Snyder saw a sharp-shinned hawk right outside a window at the church in Monterey, March 23, and Carol Ingher watched a hawk near the Town Hall on March 6, as it flew at another bird, causing this second bird to drop something on the ground, which the hawk then picked up and flew off with, to a nearby tree.

Here on the east end of Hupi Road we've had great shiny grackles since March 5.

Call me with your wild news.

—Bonner McAllester,

528-9385 or bmca@berkshire.net.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Through April 26: *Relative Beauty*: Susan Terni Taff and Tim Heffernan, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall.

Every Wednesday: Christian Meditation Group, Pittsfield. To learn more, call Val Latona, 413-528-3512.

Thursday, April 10: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Visiting Nurses Assoc., 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, April 12:

Monterey 2020 Visioning the Future of Our Town: The Conversation Continues, 10 a.m.–noon, Monterey Town Hall. Everyone welcome.

Help needed to take down Monterey Ice Rink, 10 a.m., Firehouse Pavilion.

Dinner and Celebrity Auction to benefit Sandisfield Arts Center. \$50 per person, www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Wednesday, April 16: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Bidwell House will present stories of Monterey's early adventurers. Everyone welcome; see p. 8.

Saturday, April 19: Lenox Contradance. Live music by Flaire Eire: Randy Miller fiddle, Roger Kahle guitar, and Ross Kahle bodhran, banjo, and whistle;

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

calling by Peter Stix; dancing 8 to 11:30. All welcome; new dancers come at 8; all dances walked through. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St, www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Sunday, April 20: Easter. Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00 p.m., Monterey Library lawn. Children should gather on church steps to be escorted across street by Monterey Police.

Monday, April 21: Patriots' Day; Town Hall, Library closed.

Monday, April 28: Monterey book group will discuss *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmond DeWaal, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, May 3: Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Monterey Firehouse.

The Observer

February 26 – March 25

High temp. (3/11)..... 52°
 Low temp. (3/1)..... -4°
 Avg. high temp. 31.1°
 Avg. low temp. 9.8°
 Avg. temp. 20.5°
 Total precipitation
 (rain and melted snow) 1.24 in.
 Snowfall 4.9 in.
 Precipitation occurred on 10 days.

April 19th Memorial for Linda Beth Ross

A Celebration of the Life of Linda Beth Ross, 1959–2013, will be held on Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. in the Monterey Meeting House.

For more information contact Edie and Stan Ross, 413-528-4990; photolady1@mac.com.

Burn Season Ends May 1

Open burning season ends on May 1. This year the Monterey Fire Department is using an online application for burning permits. To obtain a permit go to the website <http://www.bcburnpermits.com/>, read the regulations, and follow the section titled "How to obtain a permit." If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 528-1734.

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Asst. Editor Glynis Marsh
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 4, 11, 21; George Emmons, 18;
Bonner McAllester, 16.

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