

MONTEREY NEWS

March 2013
VOLUME XLIII · Number 3



The Town

by Susan Gallant

Re-reviewing Proposed Budget,

Throughout February, the Select Board (Scott Jessen, chair; Muriel Lazzarini and Wayne Burkhart), on its own and with Finance Committee members Stan Ross and Daniel Moriarty, pored over the budget requests for the coming fiscal year, carefully considering every item to determine what expenses could be delayed and what increases could be level funded to avoid raising the property tax even more than what had initially been proposed.

Preliminary figures, as of February 4, would raise property taxes between \$0.50 and \$0.60 per \$1,000, approximately, without transferring any money from Free Cash to lower the tax rate, which is what the Finance Committee is recommending. But that was before the town received the numbers from the school district. Those figures are now in, and for the town of Monterey, the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is requesting an increase in its capital expenses from \$41,858 to \$45,628 and in its operating expenses from \$1,102,222 to \$1,231,663, for a total increase of \$133,211. Such a

large outlay is having a huge impact on the budget for next year.

In an attempt to offset this unexpected expense, the Select Board is reviewing town salaries across the board and comparing them with those surrounding towns pay.

Select Board members are continuing to review and discuss these matters and will no doubt be speaking with individuals and department heads before making any final decisions.

New School Building?

Mari Enoch joined the February 4 meeting to ask whether the proposal for a new

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The Monterey Co-operative Creamery, corner of Main and New Marlborough Roads, ca. 1900. See this month's Monterey walk by Julius Miner, p. 12 (photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society).

school building will be discussed at the next town meeting. Mari explained that it was important to determine, early on, whether the town would support such a project before any significant time and effort were put into the design and development of a new structure. Select Board members and Stan Ross, from the Finance Committee, agreed that presenting the project to the town was an essential first step, and discussed whether such a presentation should take place at the annual town meeting or at a special town meeting. Scott Jessen suggested that the presentation should include an architect's rendering of the proposed building along with other options that might be considered. Scott added that the town should assume that no funding will be available from the district. Stan pointed out that even if the building were put up in 2014, it wouldn't have an impact on the upcoming budget.

Wilson Mclaughlin House

Michael Banner and Mary Makuc of the Wilson Mclaughlin House Committee reported to the Select Board on February 4 that the committee has raised \$31,000 from 137 individuals and families, and at least one matching donor. A propane furnace

has also been donated to the property, saving an additional \$10,000. Eric Pedersen has volunteered his services as general contractor and adviser to the committee. Recently Joe Baker met with the lead inspector, who reported there is less lead paint to remove than originally thought. Phase two of the restoration project will include insulating, residing, and replacing the windows, and removing the lead paint. Once the major renovations are completed, the house will be available for anyone in town—fulltime residents and second homeowners alike. To that end, the committee is requesting an appropriation of \$30,100 on this year's annual town meeting warrant. The committee promised it will give the Select Board a detailed statement for the special article as soon as possible.

Highways and Operations

On February 4, the board met with Maynard Forbes, Director of Operations, to review the highway department's upcoming projects and budget requests.

Maynard was able to clear up the confusion about whether there was a mandate to overhaul the transfer station, which, in its current state, is considered to be a polluter, a situation that must be remedied. Maynard explained that this determination was made because none of the bins for trash and recyclables are covered. When it rains, water coming off the bins runs into a wetland. Once all the

containers are covered, the transfer station will no longer be considered a polluter. Maynard will get estimates for the cost of covering the bins, and once the item goes on the warrant and is approved, it will go out to bid.

Another transfer station issue is motor oil recycling, which has been temporarily suspended because of issues with people putting gasoline in with the oil. This raises the cost of collection, from \$200 to \$900 a barrel for gasoline-laced motor oil. To solve this problem, Maynard has proposed installing surveillance cameras at both the transfer station and the town garage. Once the equipment is in place, motor oil recycling will again be available.

One project slated for the spring is repairing the dam behind the library, which was damaged during Hurricane Irene. Maynard applied for a grant for the repairs, and the town has received the funds to work on the dam.

Police Report

On February 4, Gareth Backhaus, Monterey's Chief of Police, reported the following activity:

- Answered call about a missing person, who returned home while police were still searching.
- False alarm on Swann Road.
- Disabled motor vehicle, Blue Hill Road.
- Medical call on Beartown Mountain Road.



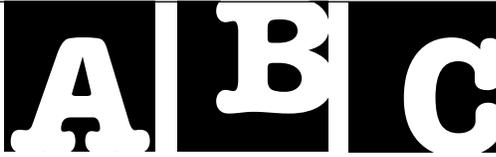
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The Monterey Rink held its Annual Community Skate on Presidents' Day and attracted a crowd of skaters with free food, music, prizes and fun. Josh Allentuck, Gary Shaw, and the Monterey Park Commission brought in a DJ to "rock the rink," and Jacob Edelman helped cater the event with hot dogs, drinks, cookies, and candy. Despite melting temperatures two days before, the rink was resurfaced thanks to volunteers Mark Makuc, Tom Sawyer, Matt Berg, and Peter Poirier. (Photos by Josh Allentuck)

- Motor vehicle accidents on Pixley and Mount Hunger Roads.
- Well-being check on Preyer Fiske Road.

Chief Backhaus joined the February 25 meeting to introduce Stephanie Fredsall, a prospective part-time recruit. Gareth explained that with his part-time staff dwindling, having a new officer take Monterey's in-house field training program will assure that all shifts are covered. Gareth was also impressed with Stephanie's employment application, particularly her desire to join a police force

so that she may be of service to people in a community. The Select Board unanimously approved the request to appoint Stephanie through June.

New Accountant

After interviewing a number of qualified candidates for part-time Accountant, the Select Board unanimously agreed to offer the position to Jennifer Goewey, who has accepted the offer. Jennifer, who is also Alford's Accountant and Treasurer for Richmond, brings a great deal of relevant experience to the position. To ensure a

smooth transition, her official first day will be March 25, which will give her six weeks to work with outgoing Accountant Steve Pullen.

Treasurer News

Treasurer Pat Mielke joined the February 25 meeting, at the Select Board's request, to discuss some of the line items she had requested, including the \$4,500 salary request for the newly formed position of assistant treasurer, a position currently filled by Bethany Mielke. But the news of greatest significance was Pat's announcement that she was not planning to run for another term as treasurer, saying, "Eighteen years is enough!" Pat also said that Bethany has really enjoyed her job and has expressed interest in running for Treasurer in the next election.

Town Clerk

After Town Clerk Deb Mielke announced her resignation last month, the Select Board discussed the possibility of making the Town Clerk an appointed position rather than an elected office. Legally, that is not an option at this time, so a new Town Clerk will be voted into office in the

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upcoming spring election. In the meantime, the Select Board agreed that former Town Clerk Linda Thorpe would step in, assisted by Emily Johnson, who, according to Linda, is interested in running for that office. Barbara Swann, who had been Town Clerk prior to Linda, has agreed to make herself available to both Linda and Emily, should they need her help.

Why Not Throw Your Hat in the Ring?

Now that two elected offices—that of Treasurer and Town Clerk—are up for grabs, this might be the perfect time for any of you civic-minded Montereyans to consider a run for office. Word has it that an essential requirement for Town Clerk is to have an eye for detail. Questions about the particulars of either position should be directed to Deb Mielke, Town Clerk until April 1, and Pat Mielke, Treasurer.

Paperwork and details about how to get on the ballot to run for office can be found at Town Hall.

School District & Monterey School

Bruce Turner, Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) Administrator, and David Hastings, SBRSD's newly appointed school-district Superintendent, joined the February 25 Select Board meeting to discuss finances and to offer their support for keeping small schools in the individual towns.

Turner was eager to find out whether the Select Board would allow the district to include Monterey among the towns listed in a statement of interest, whose deadline is April 10. The statement of interest is only the first step in the process of securing funds for the district and possibly for Monterey itself. Scott Jenssen, in providing some background that led to the conclusion that a new school building was a feasible solution, told Turner and Hastings that renovating the current school building would cost upwards of \$450,000, and a new building would cost just a little more than that. Scott expressed concern that Monterey would be taking money away from SBRSD, adding that without state involvement, the building could be constructed for much less money.

David Hastings, who is well aware of the contention over the district's support of individual schools in the outlying towns, expressed his belief that people need to identify themselves with the entire district rather than as residents only of the town they live in. "People should know," he continued, "that [a school within a town is] not an exclusive club but a small school within the district that anyone's child within the district can attend. We should come together as a district."

To help pay for building a new school, David suggested establishing a building fund for town residents to donate to and looking into grants to pay for energy-efficient systems. "Children," he concluded, "benefit from the experience of going to a school in a small community. That's an important message to get across."



Public Hearing on Solar Photovoltaic Bylaw March 14

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 14, at 7 pm at the Monterey Town Hall, 435 Main Road. The purpose of the public hearing is to review a bylaw proposal from the Planning Board that seeks to create zoning regulations for the installation of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems and utility-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems.

Shortly after the last town meeting the Planning Board decided to work on a solar bylaw based on activity and interest in solar systems in towns surrounding Monterey, such as Great Barrington and Otis. The right to install solar photovoltaic systems is backed by the federal government and fast-tracked, not unlike the support granted to the telecommunications industry. As a board we agreed that in such a regulatory climate it would behoove the Planning Board to attempt to integrate the technology into Monterey in as responsible a way as possible. We took into consideration both the importance of supporting alternative energy, and the residential/agricultural nature of our town, and how best to have each use coexist.

Please join the Planning Board for solar power bylaw public hearing on Thursday March 14 at 7 p.m. To read the draft of the bylaw, go to http://www.montereyma.gov/Public_Documents/MontereyMA_Webdocs/TownBylawMenu.

—Maggie Leonard, Co-Chair
Monterey Planning Board



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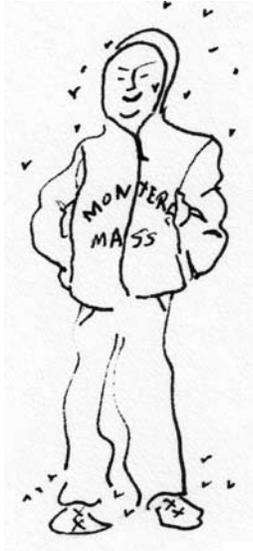
Reminders from Town Clerk Rabies Clinic March 23

Conflict of Interest online training program must be completed by April 5, 2013. Access the program through either www.muniprogram.state.ma.us or www.mass.gov/ethics. Make sure you choose Municipal Employee. Print your completion certificate and return a copy to the Town Clerk's office.

There will be a Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, March 23, from 9:30 am–12:00 at the Monterey Firehouse. John Makuc will be the vet. The cost for the shots is \$12.

Dog licenses will be available at the clinic or during the Town Clerk office hours. Current licenses expire March 31, 2013. The fee for spayed/neutered dogs is \$4.00. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination.

—Deborah Mielke
Monterey Town Clerk



Monterey Community Center News

There is progress to celebrate on several fronts for the Monterey Community Center this winter.

With the donations that have come in to the Capital Campaign, we have sufficient funds to undertake the removal of all the old lead-paint material from inside and outside the Wilson McLaughlin House. The bids will be opened in the second week of March, with work scheduled for April. Immediately following the lead removal, framing and sheathing will take place, so things will look quite different up at the house this spring.

Donations come in many forms; we recently received the gift of a practically new propane furnace, perfect for our immediate needs to replace the old inefficient and oversized steam boiler that is in the basement now.

We are pleased to announce that we'll be putting on a display of Edith Wilson's artwork in the Knox Gallery of the Monterey Library this June. We hope you'll all come to enjoy her wide variety of paintings and sculptures. There will be an opening reception—we'll announce the date soon. There will also be a series of fundraising events through the summer months. We can use some volunteers to help, so get in touch!

And last but not least, donations continue to come in by check and by online secure donation. That's FWMH, PO Box 302, Monterey or www.ccmonterey.org.

Thanks to all.

—Joe Baker
Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

Berkshire Fish Hatchery Presentation at March 20th Community Potluck

The February Potluck was a big success with Bernie Drew speaking on the origins of the Knox Trail to a group of interested and knowledgeable townspeople. He showed how the original trail had started in the opposite direction, with the King's military going west over Blandford. Many thanks to Bernie for his presentation and expertise.

For the March Potluck, we have George Emmons, President of the Berkshire Fish Hatchery Foundation, and other members of the Board of Directors, presenting the history, current mission, and plans for the future of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery. One of their on-site biologists will be speaking on the salmon research program and fish migration. Gene Chague from the *Berkshire Eagle* will be introduced, and George will also speak on the Foundation's planned scholarship fund.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 20, in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 pm. 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

MontereyFest 2013 Set for August 17

MontereyFest 2013 has been scheduled for Saturday, August 17. The day will tie in with celebrating the 100th anniversary year of the town's special resident, Gould Farm. MontereyFest will focus on fun for children and adults. The morning will feature a fair on the lower level grounds of Gould Farm. The afternoon and evening will be full of exciting events at Lake Garfield.

Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the program. Please contact Co-Chairs Dorene Beller, dorenebeller@yahoo.com, and Mayra Rodriguez, rodriguez.mayra77@yahoo.com, if you'd like to be involved.



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WiredWest Update

The last months have been busy ones for WiredWest. Sixteen new towns joined the cooperative, bringing the current membership to forty-two towns working together to create a long-term, comprehensive solution to the problem of inadequate broadband access.

Business Planning

Significant work has been undertaken to enable financing and buildout of the network. In the spring of 2012, WiredWest conducted a comprehensive market survey in member towns. The survey provided detailed information on residents' usage of existing services and appetite for new services. The results indicated strong demand for the network and provided guidance on potential service offerings.

Last fall WiredWest launched a Support Card Campaign in its member towns. The information will be used in network design and to provide assurances to potential financing sources. The campaign is continuing into the first quarter of 2013 and residents and businesses that have not yet completed a card are urged to do so at www.wiredwest.net as soon as possible.

WiredWest has developed comprehensive pro-forma financial statements with input from other municipal fiber networks and financial expertise, and has met with public and private financing sources to put the project on track for financing in 2013.

Network Planning

To complete the engineering work required for financing, a GIS database was created for WiredWest towns, and potential network distribution locations in each town

were evaluated. An engineering firm provided high-level network design and cost estimates to WiredWest, and the options are being reviewed to create final estimates for our pro-forma financial statements.

FY 2013 Plans

WiredWest will be focused on finalizing the business plan including the pro-forma financial statements, final network design, and other information needed for financing.

WiredWest will also continue working with financing sources to determine the best and most expedient strategy for financing the network. We will continue to solicit grants and donations for interim funding, and will be completing an economic impact study to quantify the regional economic impact of the network. If you are interested in staying abreast of developments, we encourage you to visit the WiredWest website to join our email list or follow WiredWest on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

Clarifications on MBI Service

WiredWest has received a number of inquiries about service on Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI 123), the state's fiber-optic network, which is lighting up in Western Massachusetts beginning this March. The MBI 123 middle-mile network was built to serve as wholesale backhaul for last-mile networks and to connect Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). It will not serve homes and businesses directly.

The MBI's fiber is similar to a

high-voltage power line, in that getting fiber-optic connectivity to homes and businesses from the MBI network will require a separate, last-mile distribution network. Even if the MBI network passes by your home or business, access will only be available to you after routing through a last-mile fiber network that will wire fiber back to your premises.

A last mile fiber network typically connects to users via centrally located facilities, where the necessary equipment can be placed in a secure, protected area with backup power. In WiredWest's case, those facilities would be located in most town centers.

The MBI 123 network will be offering service to CAIs, which in Monterey includes Town Hall/Police/Board of Health, the Monterey Fire Station, and the Monterey Library. Our library offers free wireless access, so residents can utilize the MBI 123 network there.

This is another reason the WiredWest network is critical for our communities. The state has created a state-of-the-art fiber-optic highway in our region. Now it's up to us to build the last-mile "off-ramps," creating a robust network from end to end that finally connects the unconnected and provides our citizens with access to affordable, reliable, and high-capacity broadband.

If you have any questions about WiredWest, please visit the website at www.wiredwest.net. You can also contact Monterey's WiredWest representatives at monterey@wiredwest.net.

—Monica Webb

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Bidwell House Museum Offers Internships

Monterey's own colonial history museum made the national news last summer thanks to a high-school internship project. Pittsfield High School sophomore Shelby Sebring's translation of one of Adonijah Bidwell's encoded sermons was an exciting highlight of the museum's internship program. Thanks to the generosity of museum donors, high-school students have the opportunity to pursue a local history research project again this year.

The Bidwell House Museum is offering high-school students with an interest in history, particularly local Berkshire colonial history, the opportunity to become a Young History Scholar Intern this summer.

The Bidwell House Museum is a 1750s New England heritage site providing through its land, house, and collection a personal encounter with frontier life in early America. The museum includes the fully furnished colonial homestead, several outbuildings, and 192 acres of grounds with gardens, stone walls, foundations, and hiking trails.

High school interns spend two weeks at the museum: in week one the intern learns about colonial Berkshire history, the Bidwell family, the house, the property, and the collection, and how docents give tours; in week two each intern chooses a research topic and begins to give tours of the museum as a junior docent.

Recent summer interns have come from the following towns and school districts: Lanesborough; Lenox; New Marlborough; Monterey; Sandisfield; South Lee; Tyringham; Fort Mill, SC; Albany Academy; Convent of the Sacred Heart, NY; Dana Hall School; Great Barrington Waldorf High School; Houghton Academy; Lenox Memorial Middle and High School; Millennium High School, NY; Monument Mountain High School; and Mt. Everett Regional High School.

Thanks in part to grants from the Monterey and Lenox Cultural Councils and the Tyringham Hop Brook Club, as well as private sponsors and friends of the museum, each high-school intern receives a \$200 stipend for the two-week internship. The museum is also seeking a college student for an eight-week internship.

The internship application can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Deadline for applications is April 30, and applicants will be invited for an interview. Please call or email Barbara Palmer, Executive Director of the museum, with any questions: bidwellhouse@gmail.com, 413-528-6888.



Monterey Library Notes

The Monterey Library is required to allow any resident of Massachusetts to use our services. The best part about that for us is that by doing that our residents are allowed to use any other state-certified library. Many of you are members of CWMARS and your Monterey card makes it even easier to use any of the more than 150 CWMARS libraries—and with CWMARS you don't even have to go to those places. By browsing the catalog and putting a hold on books, audio books or music, and DVDs you want, those items can be sent right here to Monterey to be picked up. It is more difficult if you're going to Boston or the Cape—those are different networks and your card won't work there.

If you think about it, in this day and age it shouldn't be too hard to get statewide library cards. If you are at all remotely interested, and even if you're not, please Google "Massachusetts statewide library card" and fill out the short survey. Your answers are probably not as important as the fact that you took the time and are interested. A statewide card will move all of us one step closer to a statewide system that make it even easier to use library resources anywhere in the state.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director




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Republican Caucus March 23

All registered Monterey Republicans are requested to caucus for nominations for the May 2013 Monterey elections on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 pm in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Anyone who would like the Republican nomination to run for local office should contact Mark Makuc at 413-528-1382.

The following positions are up for election:

- Board of Appeals, 5 years
- Board of Assessors, 3 years
- Board of Health, 3 years
- Cemetery Comm., 3 years
- Constable, 3 years
- Finance Comm., 3 years
- Library Trustee, 3 years
- Library Trustee, 3 years
- Moderator, 1 year
- Park Comm., 3 years
- Park Comm., 3 years
- Planning Board, 5 years
- Select Board, 3 years
- Tax Collector, 3 years
- Town Clerk, 2 years
- Treasurer, 3 years
- Tree Warden, 1 year

Chair Yoga at Monterey Library

Connie Wilson will be leading sessions of chair yoga every Wednesday morning through April 3 at the Monterey Library. The classes are free for Monterey residents. For more information, call Connie at 528-3798.



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Monterey Church Needs Piano

The Monterey Church is looking to upgrade its grand piano. The current piano has served for many decades but is in need of an expensive overhaul. We have decided to first seek a donated new (to us) piano instead. The church piano has and will be used by many fine musicians for concerts that the whole community enjoys as well as for worship on Sunday. We will pay for moving and for appraisal. The donor would be eligible for a tax deduction of the appraised value, or if a bargain sale price is offered the deduction would be the difference between the price paid and the appraised price. A committee of musicians will determine if the piano is of appropriate quality before it is appraised. Please contact Rev. Liz Goodman at 528-5850. Thanks to everyone who keeps an eye out for possibilities!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Help needed to carry firewood into house, shovel snow, replace the occasional fire-detector battery or hard-to-reach light bulb. Call Carol, 413-528-4135. Thanks!

The Monterey News is featuring this new column, which we hope will help people make beneficial connections. Do you have a need that someone else might help you with? Do you have a service to offer that you think would be of assistance to someone else? If so, please be in touch with me, Liz Goodman (liz@goodman.md or 413-637-4242), and I'll see to its posting in the next month's edition. Thanks!



McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Applications Deadline May 1

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund was created in 1994 by a bequest from Edith Wilson as a resource for residents of Monterey, to assist families with children who are pursuing a post-secondary education. Preference is given to students who are entering their first year of higher education after high school. However, eligible applicants may include students attending vocational schools, trade schools, apprenticeships, colleges or graduate schools. Students are eligible to receive awards for attending such schools, but must reapply annually.

The applicant must have physically lived within Monterey during most of the last two years of high school. An exception may be made for boarding-school students whose family residence is in Monterey and for those who are attending higher educational institutions. The applicant must graduate in good standing from high school. Awards vary depending on the amount of funding available, the pool of candidates applying, and the strength of a candidate's application.

The deadline for the McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship is May 1.

All applications must be submitted online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers. Berkshire Taconic no longer accepts paper scholarship applications.

This year, Berkshire Taconic is using a common scholarship application. Applicants for the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship should apply through the Common Scholarship application form and indicate scholarships they are eligible for.

Students can email or call Berkshire Taconic if they have questions: grants@berkshiretaconic.org or 413-229-0370.

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Firefighters Welcome New Rescue Truck

Monterey, meet Rescue 9. Specifically tailored to the town's emergency needs, the Monterey Fire and Rescue Company's new rescue truck arrived the first of year, the product of nearly a year's worth of planning.

"It's primary purpose," explains Fire Chief Shawn Tryon, "is for medical and rescue calls, including car accidents and water rescues. But because of its versatility, we get it out the door pretty much every time the tones go off."

Before Rescue 9, the town's firefighters had to rely on a Chevy Suburban that, over time, had inadequate room to fit the mandatory rescue equipment the fire company has come to rely upon.

Built by the custom fire apparatus company KME, Rescue 9 is designed to

accommodate easy storage of—and easy access to—equipment that includes backboards, hydraulic tools (JAWS of Life), oxygen tanks, splints, stabilization gear for car accidents, bandages, defibrillators, and water rescue gear.

"For instance," says Chief Tryon, "we didn't have any vehicle with the space to store our water rescue gear. We had to stow that equipment on the engine bay floor. And all our hydraulic tools were stuffed in undersized compartments on Engine 1. This is a far better situation. The town now has the kind of rescue vehicle that has become standard in the county and throughout the nation."

The fire company is now using its Chevy Suburban—Rescue 5—as the second vehicle out the door for medical calls. Its primary purpose now is to transport a crew to a medical scene when needed.

—Felix Carroll
Monterey Fire and Rescue Company

Monterey School Open House March 9

The Monterey School will be having an Open House for any families who would like to learn about the Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten Program. Children who turn five by September 1, 2013, are eligible for Kindergarten. Children who turn five between September 2 and December 31, 2013, are eligible for Early Kindergarten.

Both programs are free, full-day, and open to children who reside in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and also to students from neighboring school districts. The Open House will be Saturday morning, March 9, from 10–11:30. Come meet the teacher, Lynn Webster, and see the classroom! Play with toys, ask questions, and have a snack!

Call 413-528-3693 for more information. We'd love to meet you!

Youth Cultural Enrichment Grant Applications Due Mar. 15

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set March 15 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund. The fund awards grants to young people ages 8–21 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music or art camps, or language immersion programs. The application form and guidelines are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers.

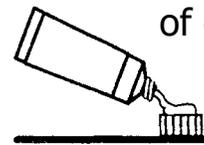
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Elizabeth Goodman

Who's Who in Monterey Franny Huberman

When Franny Huberman came to Gould Farm as a student volunteer from Antioch College, she was coming back to a place she already knew well. She'd spent summers in Stockbridge when she was a girl, visiting her grandparents who had long made the Berkshires their home. By way of proof of their bona fides, Franny's grandfather was an occasional model for Norman Rockwell, and her grandmother, now living at Kimball Farms, is on a first-name basis with many people whose likenesses hang on the walls of the Rockwell Museum. A tour with her is as if she were flipping through her high school yearbook or an old photo album.

Franny's volunteering at Gould Farm was a long time ago now, though she still serves that community. She conducts interviews for the on-going Outcome Study by which the Farm ensures their continuing excellent work in regard to those who seek treatment there. Along with that, Franny is devoted to the Monterey Library, organizing the programs for children and youth,

filling in for regular library staff when they can't cover their shifts, and serving as President of the Friends of the Library.

Impressive and admirable as all this is, though, Franny, like most people, is more than the sum of her parts. Being in her company is a warm pleasure—quite literally so on the day when

I met with her at her home in preparing for this column. It was a sloppy winter day; Monterey's snowplows were on the move. But there was the question about whether I'd make it out to her on Hupi Road. I did. (Well done, road crew!) And thank goodness. The fire was stoked, the kettle was on, and even Otis the outdoor cat preferred to be inside.

Her home, which she shares with her husband Bob Carlson, her children Ella and Jonah, and Otis, of course, is a book-lined, window-lit, wood-paneled haven—and not at all muddy, in spite of the absence of a mudroom. That's the only thing about her home that Franny occasionally would have otherwise. A mudroom would be nice.

And so there was once to be one. When Franny and Bob, after meeting and marrying at Gould Farm, bought this plot of land, they had in mind a much bigger house. There was already a hunting cabin, which they found to be oddly abandoned—dishes still in the sink, bunk-beds apparently just slept in. When Franny and Bob took over the property it seemed its previous inhabitants had suddenly evacuated. Did

they spot a deer from the window, grab their gear, and run off, never to return? So it would seem—leaving Franny and Bob, days or weeks or months later, to clean up after them.

At that point, Jonah had recently been born, causing Franny and Bob to consider what sort of home life they wanted to create for him. And the more they thought about it, the more they realized they wanted one parent to stay home fulltime. They also realized that this would restrain them financially. And this had them reconsidering the big house they'd once imagined and had indeed begun to plan for. They'd cleared the lot behind the hunting cabin, they'd hired builders and put down money.

Then they reconsidered that hunting cabin.

Only the footprint of that remains; the rest was gutted, the dirty bowls in the sink long since disposed of, the sink itself long since disposed of, and the cleared lot for the house that wasn't-to-be now reconceived as a blueberry patch, currently of 400 bushes. This is Franny's summer work—Franny's and Bob's (who is a school nurse and so has the summers "off") and Jonah's and Ella's. Tending to the

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blueberries—pruning, weeding, controlling pests in the organic fashion (which is to say squishing them), and harvesting—is no small task. And *we* reap the rewards. If you’ve ever had a blueberry scone at the Harvest Barn or a blueberry pancake at the Roadside Café, then you’ve eaten their blueberries.

In the “off-season,” Franny has served as a teacher to her children, both of whom she’s homeschooled, some years one while the other attended public school, other years both at once. It’s these years that Franny enjoyed most of all: family dynamics, she explained, were smoother and more pleasant when the children learned at home. Their best hours weren’t spent elsewhere; they wouldn’t come home exhausted and grumpy, having given so fully of themselves elsewhere. Instead, they’d spend their best, most creative, most alert time all together.

This strikes a contrasting tone to the childhood Franny lived. Born in Miami where her other grandparents ran a private school for children who’d moved south because of health conditions that would be eased in warmer climes, Franny spent her first three years there before her

family moved north to Brooklyn. There, she attended a Montessori school, though when her parents divorced, when she was six, she moved with her mother to a small town outside Portland, Oregon. She would spend the rest of her childhood there, but for high school she moved back East to live with her father and to attend the Berkeley Carroll School in Park Slope. Then, as if to make up for not yet having lived in the Midwest, Franny chose Ohio for college—Antioch, which offers its students volunteer opportunities at places such as Gould Farm.

Her children, as you can see, have had a much more settled time of it. And it helps, of course, that Franny has the heart of a teacher. She is thoughtful and mindful; moreover, she is moved by the notion that people should all have access to ideas and culture, which are themselves of intrinsic worth. Hence her dedication to our public library and all public libraries; hence also her dedication to a place like Gould Farm where all are welcomed into community in the confidence that in this is healing. This isn’t her ideology; this isn’t her agenda; this is simply the life that has come to her to live and so she has—very well.

But the question arises: what’s next? Jonah is in college, a freshman at faraway Reed in Portland, Oregon. Ella is a teenager now, and will soon be looking more outward and away. It’s a period of transition that Franny’s navigating with admirable grace (no surprise here). And she’s got lots to go on—half a lifetime of heartfelt living that will doubtless manifest anew in lovely ways. If history is any guide, we’ll all benefit from whatever endeavors she takes on.

—Elizabeth Goodman

Shaping a New Agriculture Talk March 22

Greg Watson, Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture, will be the speaker for the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Community Land Trust in the Southern Berkshires on Friday, March 22, 2013, at 7:30 pm. The public is invited to attend the talk at the First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, 251 Main Street, Great Barrington.

Tickets are \$5 or 5 BerkShares, available at the door. Admission is free to members of the Community Land Trust in the Southern Berkshires, and we welcome people to become members of the CLT or renew their membership at the event.

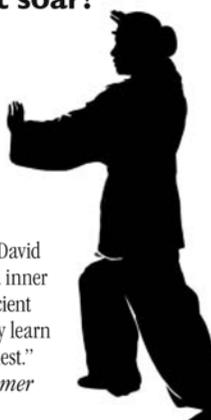
The goal of The Community Land Trust, a nonprofit corporation, is to balance human needs with those of the land. Its membership includes citizens concerned about affordable housing, preservation of farmland, and the conservation of open spaces. Membership in the CLT is \$10 or 10 BerkShares.

Commissioner Watson has long been a strong proponent of agriculture in Massachusetts. He previously served as Agriculture Commissioner under Governors Dukakis and Weld in the early 1990s. He was on the cutting edge of community-based agriculture in the late 1970s, when he worked to develop a network of neighborhood farmers’ markets in Boston. He was a founding member of the Massachusetts Federation of Farmers’ Markets and served as executive director of the groundbreaking New Alchemy Institute in Falmouth, an applied research farm known for its innovative approaches.

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Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections (1940) Part 6: New Marlboro Road

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

Going east on the West Otis Road [Main Road], the first road [to the right] is the New Marlboro Road. Where the Parker Harmon gasoline station now stands [in 1940] once was the Monterey Co-operative Creamery. Cream was brought here from surrounding towns to be made into butter, which was readily marketed in larger towns and cities. A large steam engine furnished power. This engine was later sold to the dye works at Becket. During a flood some ten years ago, the engine was washed down the stream and never again heard from.

At the end of the creamery was a large ice-house, in back of which was a huge cistern for storing buttermilk. Each year combination bids were received for supplying ice, and stowing it in the ice-house, on the one hand, and on the other, buying and removing the buttermilk. Before the days of gas and electric refrigeration, butter was so packed in the large cases as to surround an inner container filled with ice.

The buttermilk was used for feeding hogs and at times, for fertilizer. Some



Brookmead, New Marlboro Road (photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society).

comment was aroused when a certain farm laborer tried the experiment of so applying the buttermilk upon a dry hillside as to trace his own initials. Later in the season, as the grass grew high, for some distance could be seen his initials in a brighter green than the surrounding growth of grass. He had proven that the buttermilk did have a fertilizing effect,

The first house on the left was moved there from the old center of the town. The next one on the right [now Brookmead] was the home of the owner of three mills:

a sawmill, a gristmill, and a shingle mill. At the foot of the hill was the road into the mill yard where were great stacks of lumber and of oak and hemlock bark.

Near the foot of the hill, on the left stood the old cheese factory. Upon its abandonment, there was found, carefully stowed away, an empty, unused coffin. Children got a peculiar thrill from visiting the place and imagining all sorts of things about the coffin and its use. They delighted in harrowing one another's feelings with talk of ghosts and arousing the fears of the timid.

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Farther on, as we climb the hill, note the small house on the bank [not there today]. This was entirely built from the lumber of one tree, a hemlock which grew across the road. Before the days of hospitals for the mentally ill, families cared for their afflicted relatives as best they could do privately. Here in this house lived a man said to be insane. He was kept tied up, to prevent his injuring himself or others. Frequently, passers by would see him at a window and pity or shudder. Possibly, it was necessary to tie him fast to keep him from running away from his only friends as weak-minded people frequently attempt to do.

A little farther and we may have a drink of delicious water flowing through the grass from yonder spring-house. Near this spring once stood a cooper shop. Possibly, the very wooden sap buckets you see about were made here.

Let us walk into the driveway past the spring-house to the house on the hillside and ask here to see that strange place in the ground, thought to have been made by the melting of a glacier. The water must have swirled rapidly indeed to have cut out a

depression of such depth and extent. The place is near the house.

On the right, a bit farther up the hill are four large maple trees. We are now exactly one mile from the village center. Look about for fringed gentians. Follow the first fence across that beautifully clear field to a sugaring house in the woodland. Then follow the wood road leading from it and you will come to an open pasture.

Notice the small lime kiln on the bank with a tree growing from it. Walk into the next growth of maples. Stop, look, and listen quietly for signs of wild life. Think of past years when partridges, squirrels red and grey, and many other wild creatures, were plentiful hereabouts. Great flocks of wild pigeons darkened the sky at times, and, alighting, broke down the limbs of trees in the forest as does a severe ice-storm. Right here was shot probably the last wild pigeon to visit Monterey. Look about for gold finches.

Return to the highway. On ahead is a cellar with an old chimney and fireplace. Here lived one of the first settlers of Monterey and here were manufactured wagons and sleighs. The sleighs, in particular, were so well and truly built that some are still in use in Monterey.

The next house is one of thirty-two erected by the Dowd family. When they left this house, they bought property on the north side of Lake Garfield, paying

a half bushel of silver for it. Notice the recessed doorway and the large barn. The original barns had been destroyed by fire and this one was erected largely by means of contributions from generous neighbors and townsmen.

Farther on, crossing the bridge over Harmon [Rawson] Brook, is an abandoned road [now Harmon Road] which leads the shortest way to New Marlboro. Follow it up the hillside to where the road is covered by running water. Follow this water to its source on the right. Here is a spring so large that, dammed, its water filled a four inch pipe. This is the Dry Hills Section. Ditmars, the famous herpetologist, is said to have pronounced the rattlesnakes found here to be the longest of their type in the world. Snake hunters say that most of these snakes have been destroyed by an invasion of porcupines. When we see hemlock trees that have been girdled, we may attribute the damage to porcupines.

Now, let us return to the village.



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Knox Gallery Exhibits

The Knox Gallery, Monterey Library is excited to be exhibiting paintings by Monterey artist Frank D'Amato during the month of March. These paintings will offer a new look at many familiar scenes. A reception for the artist will take place on Saturday March 2, from 7–8:30 pm. We encourage you to come and to bring your friends and family. These receptions not only offer refreshments but are also a chance to see a variety of art and other visual presentations, to meet the artist, and to catch up with neighbors and new friends. Most of the Gallery exhibitions offer work for sale. Artists are asked to donate 20 percent of their sales from Gallery exhibitions to The Friends of the Monterey Library. This helps to support the library and library programming.

The April exhibition at the Knox Gallery will feature the work of Ann Getsinger in an exhibition entitled *A Series of Series* from April 5 through May 4. Ann lives in New Marlborough and participated in last year's *Monterey Miniatures* exhibition at the Knox Gallery. The opening for this exhibition will be on Friday, April 5 from 6–7:30 pm. The opening will be preceded by a gallery talk from 5:30–6.

As a preview to the exhibition, Ann forwarded this information from Maine, where she is currently spending a month painting: "A number of times during the course of many years of painting, I've followed the urge to create a series. Just as with puzzles and games, the separate parts of a series are each complete yet also come together to make a larger whole. The urge to create a series comes from seeing connections, then expanding on the relationships that are already underway. It's a playful and curious urge. For this show I'll be presenting four or five different series. Each has it's own unique concept. For example *Matchbox Sunset* shows five tiny cars in five tiny paintings, all in one expansive Berkshire landscape, but each at a different time of day. *Three Horses* shows separate realistically painted toy horses, each in the exact same place—a view near Tanglewood—and each with different weather, time of year, and time of day. *Mosquito Series* shows many views of an island on the coast of Maine, all

Recent Acquisitions at Monterey Library

Below is a small sample of new material in the Monterey Library in recent weeks. Come in and browse. A list of new titles at the library is available online at the CWMARS site (http://www.cwmars.org/new_titles).

DVDs

The Tin Drum (Foreign)
Skyfall (PG-13)
The Kid With A Bike (Foreign)
Atlas Shrugged Part II (PG-13)
Hotel Transylvania (PG)
Flight (R)
A Late Quartet (R)
Beginners (R)
Copper (TV)
Gossip Girl (TV)
Last Ounce of Courage (PG)
Layer Cake (R)
My Worst Nightmare (Foreign)
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG)
The Pool (Foreign)
The Qatsi Trilogy (DOC)
Undersea Edens (DOC)

painted from life over the course of many years. *Expanding Harbor* shows three larger oil paintings that can be hung close together or far apart depicting a harbor at sunset with a still-life foreground. This exhibition will also include a new series of drawings, which will be shown for the first time at the Knox Gallery."

Look for additional information about this exhibition in next month's *Monterey News*.

Adult Fiction

The Aviator's Wife, Melanie Benjamin
The Night Ranger, Alex Berenson
The Power Trip, Jackie Collins
Suspect, Robert Crais
A Foreign Country, Charles Cumming
A Perfect Gem, Winslow Eliot
Touch & Go, Lisa Gardner
Benediction, Kent Haruf
Ghostman, Roger Hobbs
Invisible Murder, Lene Kaaberbol
The Burning Air, Erin Kelly
Calling Me Home, Julie Kibler
The Dinner, Herman Koch
Shatter the Bones, Stuart Macbride
Fellow Mortals, Dennis Mahoney
Three Graves Full, Jamie Mason
The Fifth Assassin, Brad Meltzer
The Storyteller, Jodi Picoult

Adult Nonfiction

Facing the Wave, Gretel Ehrlich
500 Days, Kurt Eichenwald
The Genius of Dogs, Brian Hare
E Street Shuffle, Clinton Heylin
A North Country Life, Sydney Lea
C. S. Lewis—A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet, Alister McGrath
Spillover, David Quammen
The Hour of Peril, Daniel Stashower

Audio Books

Suspect, Robert Crais
Ghostman, Roger Hobbs
See Now Then, Jamaica Kincaid
The Beautiful Mystery, Louise Penny

Young Adult

Heads or Tails, Lilli Carre [Graphic]
Homeland, Cory Doctorow
Mind Games, Kiersten White



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From the Meetinghouse . . . March Celebrations

Both Passover and Easter are on the calendar this month, so I'm going to amble back in time to more birthdays and other personal celebrations stored in my memories of March. The month always meant at least a full week of celebration in my family.

Mom was Irish, Dad Italian, so we celebrated both culture's feasts: Saint Patrick's Day on the 17th, Saint Joseph's Day on the 19th. Both days meant going to Mass. The 17th also included shamrocks, songs, watching the local parade from the high-rise building where my dad had an office. The 19th meant gathering at a Saint Joseph's table, best described as an Italian family-sensibilities and food fest. Both were deeply joyful, each in its own way. The cultural holidays were bookended by birthdays: a grandfather's on the 15th and my brother's on the 21st, also the Equinox, also the first day of spring.

It was strange that these days always fell during the religious season of Lent, which we also honored with great devotion. Perhaps that's why the celebration aspect stands out so clearly in my memory, as a week of stark contrasts.

On years when the religious lunar-calendar celebrations that follow the shift of seasons came early, as they do this year, we just kept right on celebrating, both spiritually and socially. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Mass were all solemnly observed. And then there was the family Easter Basket Hunt.

Excess surrounded the bunny-basket aspect of our Easters. A local candy store sold 36-inch-tall chocolate rabbits, and,

yes, my brother and I each got one, and The Bunny never stood alone. Happily, after we'd each taken an initial leap into chocolate coma, most of each bunny was always spirited away at the end of the day, stored in the freezer chest in the basement for indulgence on hot summer days. (Really: Try it. Frozen chocolate's an amazing way to beat the heat. And you don't even have to use leftover chocolate rabbit parts for the experiment.)

When I began to be invited to friends' Seders for Passover, my understanding of the life and spiritual anchoring of Jesus of Nazareth in the Hebrew faith deepened. With this as a guide, my heart opened to deeper and wider spiritual experience. When I was a freshman in high school, Pope Pius XII died and the Roman church elected the man known as Pope John XXIII. He was elected, incidentally, as an interim, a placeholder, as neither of the two leading potential candidates received a large enough vote on a great number of ballots. He was 83 years old, a man none of the electing cardinals expected would roil any waters or ruffle any feathers. His papacy would, it was expected, just be a time for other interested parties to get sorted out behind the scenes.

But apparently there was some larger order at work in that election, some Greater Heart and Hand, if you will, at play. John XXIII was anything but a "placeholder Pope." As the Roman Church moves through their electoral process again this month, I invite you to join me in prayer, contemplation, or just plain old good wishes for the man newly elected to the Chair of Peter, whoever he may be.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Dewey Hall Folk Music Series

On Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 pm, Adam Rothberg, a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist—guitar, piano, udu, mandolin, percussion and the Turkish oud—will perform his unique contemporary folk sound. For more information, go to www.adamr.net.

On Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 pm, Thea Hopkins, award-winning, Boston-based singer-songwriter, will showcase her rich melodies, inventive lyrics, and tuneful voice at her Dewey Hall debut. More information can be found at www.theahopkins.com.

Dewey Hall is an acoustically superior hall that hosts a monthly series of local, regional, and national musicians performing in an intimate, family-friendly atmosphere. There is a suggested donation of \$10 but pay what you can afford. BYOB. Dewey Hall is located at 91 Main Street, Sheffield and on the Web at www.DeweyHall.com.



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“Nothing’s Permanent . . . ” Our Tracks and Theirs

Our family dentist was a practical man who took care of teeth in a no-frills way. When I knocked out my new front teeth in a sledding adventure, at age 8, he had a look, smoothed the sharp edges, and sent me home. Ten years later he fit me up with 3 plastic “caps,” meant to be temporary. They were \$50 apiece back then.

I grew up, moved away, went home now and then to see my parents and Dr. Gunter. Finally, I asked him to take off the old temporaries and make me some permanent crowns. I was afraid he would retire and I’d have to scout out a new dentist in my life.

“Why do you want these crowns?” he asked me. “Is it cosmetic?”

“No, no. I like the old ones fine. I just thought it was time for permanent ones and I should get you to do them.”

He smiled, though only slightly. “Nothing’s permanent, Honey.” I put my wallet away and went home.

This morning at sunrise there were new tracks in the light half-inch of snow. We’ve had wild visitors of the cat and dog clan, and thanks to good tracking conditions we can see the action, once the sun is up to help us daytime viewers. The dog-types still visit what I call the “turkey hole” in the middle of the garden. Way back in December I buried some turkey leavings there. I thought they would someday

fertilize the broccoli and cucumbers. I needed somewhere to tuck them so our big dog, Russell, would not mess with them. (Why not? What was my problem?)

I dug a large, deep hole. I laid in a few long bones, feathers and guts, head and feet, and filled it up well.

Not the end of the story. All winter, starting about a day after I finished the job, dog-types including Russell have



been digging up the turkey hole. Once we got snow, I was able to see who besides Russell was making a meal of feathers and such. It has been foxes, maybe one or maybe more, with tidy feet. These days they still visit, just to check. Russell has carried most of the long wing feathers and related skeletal elements right down to

our front-door yard, but powerful turkey molecules remain around the hole, and the wild cousins continue to visit.

In the upper pasture we have fox and cat tracks, also fisher, also Russell. I’ve wondered if the cat is too small to be a wildcat, or bobcat. Maybe it is our neighbors’ cat Otis, the bold fellow who has been known to stand off a fox. This morning we saw the wildcat had made it right down to the place below our kitchen window, under the bird feeder. I can’t imagine Otis, at night, down here. His homeplace is too far away, I think.

We are over at the sugarhouse these days, and there are visitors recorded there, too. But this is a seasonal thing, this snowy “track album,” to use Ernest Thompson Seton’s idea. In a few weeks when we are cleaning up from sugaring, the wild cats and dogs will be much harder to read. I’ll miss the long lines of progress, so easy to follow in winter.

I’m leaving tracks, too, though I don’t know who might like to keep an eye on me after I have been by. Maybe nobody. Like the tracks of the wild neighbors, my footprints will be gone soon, vanished in the coming melt or covered over by one more chilly white dusting. In my pedal signature I can also see my life: not permanent. I will have been by but I won’t be around forever, and neither will my tracks.

There is something just fine about



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leaving my temporary tracks. I wish they were always really mine, too, made by my own skin and bones. Like most of us humans here, especially in winter, I cover up my unique personal signature with shoes and boots. So the mark I leave was molded in a distant factory, on the other side of the world, probably. My soles are not my own and are made of plastic or rubber. Still, the path I take here is all mine, the pattern in snow or mud.

As a human animal, I make other kinds of paths, and use them. One day I'll be gone, like my childhood dentist, but my houses and paths will remain. My cities. Some are stone, some concrete. Some made by cutting trees, some by extracting material from the earth and heating things up to make new molecules and compounds, plastic and rubber and more. As a human animal I have made such tracks on the earth, the land, the sea, and the atmosphere that long after I am tucked into my own personal turkey hole, my path will be visible. Those who come after will be breathing it, trying to clean it up, falling into it, starving in it, and dying of it.

Dr. Gunter, my wise old practical man, I wish you were right. I wish my own path were not permanent, Honey.

—Bonner J. McAllester

“Cows Save the Planet and Other Stories of Ecological and Economic Renewal” Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, March 3

The Schumacher Center for a New Economics presents Judith D. Schwartz, author of *Cows Save the Planet*, along with local community activists Phyllis Webb and Billie Best, in a panel discussion on using narrative to articulate approaches to environmental and economic renewal. The event, part of the third annual Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, a month-long celebration of women's contributions to the literary arts, will be held on Sunday, March 3, from 3:00–5:00 pm at American Institute of Economic Research, 250 Division Street, Great Barrington. The event is free of charge and all are welcome.

“Climate change is all about CO2.” “Economic growth is imperative.” “Cattle are bad for the environment.” These may sound like statements of fact, but they are not true. They are simply the stories we use to make sense of environmental and economic reality. In her upcoming book *Cows Save the Planet and Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Heal the Earth* (Chelsea Green Publishing, May 2013), journalist Judith D. Schwartz researches many of these commonly accepted narra-

tives and finds that accepting such stories without question actually interferes with our ability to confront challenges and make changes in our relationship to our environment. It is when we push past the accepted explanations that we can find potential solutions. Join us as we break down conventional narratives and share ideas on the possible.

Judith D. Schwartz is a writer based in Bennington, Vermont. Phyllis Webb and her husband own and operate the Magic Fluke Co., a ukulele manufacturing company in Sheffield. She has held numerous leadership positions in community organizations and has been an advocate for strong local economies for more than twenty years. Billie Best is Executive Director of Project Native, a nonprofit farm in the Berkshires.

The Schumacher Center for a New Economics works to educate the public about an economics that supports both people and the planet through research, publications, practical applications, media campaigns, and educational programs. For more information contact Alice Maggio at alicemaggio@centerforneweconomics.org.

For more information on the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, contact Jennifer Browdy de Hernandez at 413-528-7224 or email bfww@simons-rock.edu.



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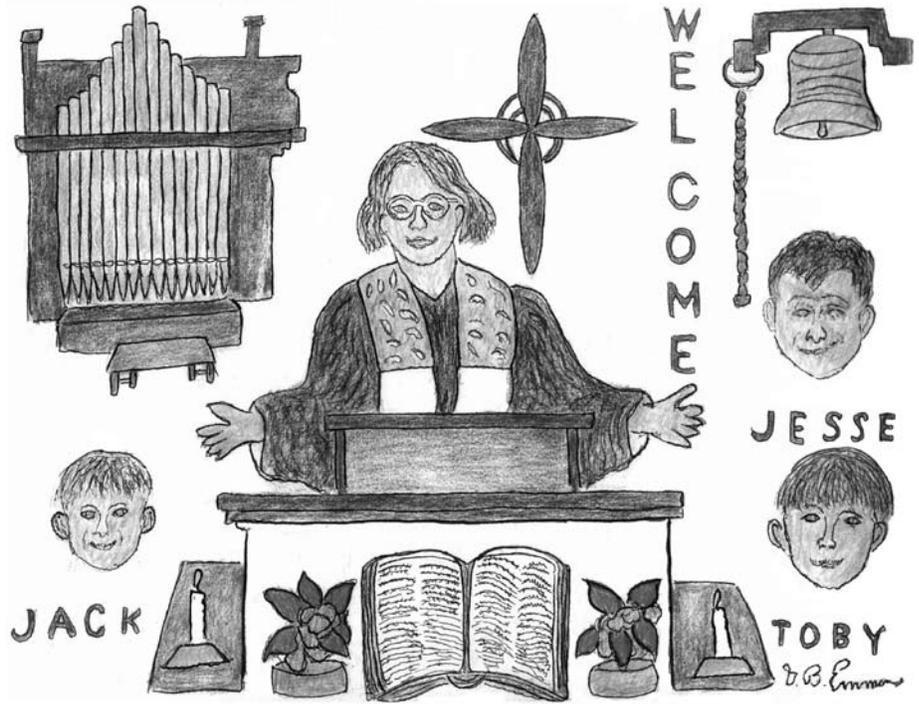
BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Elizabeth Goodman, Monterey Pastor

The Sunday greeting of Elizabeth Goodman, pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ for a little more than a decade, is a clear welcome to worship, like the ringing of the bell in the tower at 10 am. This small church in a small town is known to be hospitable to every race, ethnicity, creed, class, gender, sexual identity, and physical ability. The subsequent gathering and homily recreates a warm aura, not unlike that at the first meetinghouse in 1750—which was barely a country mile away but back 250 years to the first town center. Reminding us of the sermon of John Winthrop about the city upon the hill, it was the parish of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell in Township # 1.

Liz was raised on the seacoast of New Hampshire as a lifelong member of the United Church Of Christ, and after graduating from Phillips Exeter in New Hampshire ('89) and from Colby College in Maine ('93) was educated for ministry at the Harvard Divinity School. Her outstanding sermons are treasures of inspired, heartfelt but very modern religious interpretation. They are available online at the *Journal for Preachers*, where she is recognized as a regular contributor. She also serves on the board of Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires and has taught at Berkshire Country Day School.

Last summer one of Adonijah



Bidwell's sermons in typical shorthand secret code was broken by a Bidwell House Museum intern cryptologist on the morality of false pride. Similarly, a sermon of Roger Williams at Brown University was decoded on the subject of property rights for Native Americans. Colonial sermons were not only the most enduring genre of American literature, but fermented public awareness of immoral self-indulgence, racial inequality, and the abuse of imperial power in the world, leading to struggles for freedom and justice.

Liz lives in Lenox with her husband Jesse, a consulting psychiatrist at Gould Farm and their two sons, Jack and Tobias, ages six and eight, who are nearby on Sunday mornings as proof in the pudding

that her service is family friendly. Liz and her family follow in the heritage of Sally Pullen's family; Sally's late father, Raymond Ward, was both farm manager at Gould Farm and pastor here from 1948 to 1956. Today Sally and her husband, Steve, sit just behind the well-remembered front row pew of her parents.

Nearby under the pulpit are open pages of the Good Book telling the story of God creating heaven and earth, and then, seeing that all was good, setting aside the seventh day to be one of rest. On Sunday when the bell high overhead calls out, please come to give thanks for all our blessings. You will be glad you did!

—George B. Emmons



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February Wildlife Report

This month we report our first wildlife sighting that was in fact a “smelling.” Any good detective knows you must read all the signs. David LeBeau writes that he was driving south of Sheffield on Route 7 and stopped at 8:00 am at a pullout to walk his dog. This was January 25, very cold, by a small stand of cedars. David, who visited the Central Park Zoo often as a child, suddenly noticed an unmistakable familiar smell—big cat: “very strong and unpleasant musty/dirty odor.” At the same time, he saw his dog had become agitated and had begun sniffing and investigating something: deer hide and fur on the ground. David feels sure a freshly killed deer must have been dragged off by a mountain lion, which was still close by, probably in the “scrub and fallen trees just to the south.” He never saw the big cat, at least not with his eyes. But he and his dog did have a confident “sighting.”

Our neighbor Debbie Gangemi, living in Great Barrington, thought she heard sleet on the window on January 29. But it was a clear day and the sound turned out to be coming from inside the glass where a big mourning cloak butterfly was eager to get out (see photo). They winter over under bark or boards and emerge as adults, the first butterflies of the new year. We see them about now sometimes in our maple sugarhouse.

Also in late January, Leona Chamberlin saw a robin, when the temperature was in the single digits.



Donald Gangemi

Debbie Gangemi's mourning cloak butterfly and Glynis and Will Marsh's opossum.

Alice Berke, who walks by Brewer Pond (western addition to Lake Garfield), heard and then saw a kingfisher there on February 23. She also reports the continued presence of a big flock of redpolls, ever since December, as have other folks around town.

Bobcats: Two have been seen around Ann Canning's house on Main Road down across from the big stone house west of town. When first spotted, there were two, a bigger cat and a smaller one, maybe parent and child. Lately Ann has just seen one, but there are lots of tracks showing the cat(s) go under the porch, maybe for shelter, maybe to look for mice.

Ann also reports seeing rabbits around her house, as does Glynis Marsh, who also had a bobcat a couple of months back. There was a photo of that one in this column. Rabbits, bobcats.

Will and Glynis Marsh had two visits from a possum this month. On February 3, it spent the afternoon under their bird feeder, with only a short, unhurried retreat into the edge of the woods when one of their cats went to investigate (opossum



Glynis Marsh

was unimpressed and soon returned to feeder). It returned two days later for another afternoon session poking around under the feeder.

Steve Snyder has been out on skis and reports the tracks of otter slides near the place where Lake Garfield narrows. He has also seen moose tracks at the wild end of Blue Hill Road, where it dips down, heads for Great Barrington, and is closed to cars. Steve tells of a friend who saw a moose with a big set of antlers, at the wild end of Beartown Mountain Road.

Besides all this, there are both red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawks staying around a barn at Gould Farm, Steve says, picking off the pigeons, of which there are still some left.

Here on East Hupi, we hear the barred owls and have seen the tracks of deer mice.

Thanks for all your news of the wild.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bmca@berksdhire.net

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Garden Gustation What's cooking from Monterey Gardens and Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste."

Cabbage, Cooking, Colcannon

March, it always sneaks up on me. It must be because February is a short month—it's here and it's gone. But March, with Daylight Savings and St. Patrick's Day brings thoughts of spring. The days are longer and the birds are beginning to sing, just full of hope for a new season. It's a perfect time for cooking up a boiled dinner with all the veggies still left in the root cellar: cabbage, carrots, and potatoes. I'm always looking for delicious ways to use up our cabbage, a vegetable that stores fairly easily, is full of healthy stuff, and is low in calories. Cole slaw, stuffed and/or pickled cabbage, and soups are how I use up a large part of our harvest. But this past December I came across the recipe below as I was tasked with a potato dish for the extended-family holiday dinner. A favorite food in Ireland and Scotland, a dish called colcannon.

I've had about six large heads of cabbage in our unheated garage since their harvest back in October. I stored them by turning them upside down in

a plastic recycling box. I covered them with some heavy brown paper and then a folded blanket, to help keep the sunlight out. Every time I go down to bring up a head I'm amazed how great they look. The outside leaves have dried some and don't look particularly appetizing but when I rip away several layers of these leaves . . . it's a healthy head of cabbage, nearly the same as the ones I put there almost five months ago, amazing! Today I went down to bring up another head to make the colcannon and saw that a couple of the heads were trying to sprout new leaves. Time to use it up!

The last few years I've grown two varieties of cabbage, one shorter season (66 days) cabbage for eating during the summer and one longer season (110 days) for storage. This past year the shorter-season cabbage was a variety known as Gonzales. I bought the seed from Fedco's. The heads were small and very manageable, about four to six inches in diameter. They were delicious for summer salads and slaws. The longer-season variety was called Gunma and had a much larger head, maybe eight inches across. The Gunma is a great storage cabbage with a sweet flavor. It always surprises me how much cabbage



one head can hold—there's a good bit of food in there.

The recipe for the colcannon comes from *Jane Brody's Good Food Book*. It worked out well for our holiday meal as you can make it ahead and then just heat it up before serving. It's a perfect dish to use up the remaining cabbage and potatoes before they can no longer resist the urge to sprout too.

Colcannon

Underlined ingredients are our own or locally obtained.

- 1 pound potatoes, washed but not peeled
- 1 pound green cabbage, shredded (4 cups)
- 1 large onion, chopped (1 cup)
- ¼ cup Highlawn Farm low-fat milk
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 ounces of Gould Farm sharp cheddar, coarsely grated, divided



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Freshly ground black pepper to taste
Salt to taste

1. Boil the potatoes in lightly salted water until they are very tender but not mushy. Drain them, reserving the cooking liquid, and set them aside to cool somewhat.
2. Using the potato water (you may have to add more), boil the cabbage and onion for about 5 minutes. Drain the vegetables and set them aside.
3. When the potatoes are cool enough to handle, peel off the skin, place the potatoes in a bowl, add the milk and the butter, and mash them until they are smooth.
4. Add the reserved boiled cabbage and onion to the potato mixture.
5. Mix two-thirds of the cheese with the potato mixture. Season the colcannon with pepper and salt, if desired, and transfer it to a greased casserole or shallow baking dish. Sprinkle the remaining cheese on top.
6. Before serving the colcannon, heat it through in a 350-degree oven. Let the cheese on top brown slightly.

Heads up, spring is sprouting!

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

Eagle Fund Donations Support S. Berkshire Schools Grant Applications Due April 1

Donors in the region have made more than \$12,000 in contributions to the Eagle Fund in the past three months to support educational enrichment grants for students in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The fundraising campaign kicked off in November, when twenty-one students from Mt. Everett High School made hundreds of calls to Southern Berkshire residents over a two-evening span as part of an Eagle Fund phoneathon.

“The phoneathon is much more than a fundraiser for the Eagle Fund; it’s a community event that brings together students, staff, and community members to serve a common purpose,” said Lesliann Furcht of Mount Washington, chair of the organization’s Board of Governors. “It’s fun to see the excitement and energy the students have as they successfully request and receive pledges.” Being the prime fundraisers for their school’s enrichment fund, added Furcht, “makes it personal to them. They understand and respect the value the Eagle Fund has to the SBRSD community as a whole.”

Phoneathon pledges and additional donations came from residents and businesses in the five towns that make up

the Southern Berkshire district: Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough and Sheffield, as well as nearby towns that also send students to the district. The high-school volunteer callers are members of the school’s chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).

The Eagle Fund, founded in 1998, raises money to provide grants for programs providing educational opportunities in the arts, sciences and technology.

Donations are added to the fund’s endowment, managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation in Sheffield. As an endowed fund, the organization can serve as an ongoing source of enrichment funding for Southern Berkshire schools, supplementing the district’s educational reach by creating opportunities beyond what can be funded through the school district’s budget.

In 2012 the fund made grants of more than \$42,000 to students, teachers, and community members. This year’s grant applications are due by April 1. Full details about the Eagle Fund, application criteria, and last year’s grant recipients are available at our website, www.eagle-fund.net, or from the fund’s page on the SBRSD website, <http://www.sbrsd.org/pages/eagle.fund.html>. You can also find us on Facebook: search The Eagle Fund of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

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Thanks for People Who Care

To the Editor:

On February 16, I was parked across from the General Store. The driver of a truck backed up into my car and did not leave any information that allowed me to contact him, but several onlookers were very helpful. I would like to thank the people of Monterey who stepped forward as witnesses and helped Officer Gonska of the Monterey Police Department in tracking down the driver. It is comforting to know that I have a home in a community such as Monterey where people care about others.

—Gerry Clarin

Correction

To the Editor:

The February 2013 issue of the Monterey News contained a fine article by George Emmons about Edith Wilson and her legacy to our town (p 16). There is one misunderstanding that comes out as fact in the article, however. Edith did not leave any money at all for care of her house; she bequeathed to the town the land and building and left it up to us to come up with money to repair and maintain the house. Her will directed that the money from her estate go to the scholarship fund. The \$50,000 that George mentioned came from a private donation and paid for removal of the addition to the house; the surplus disappeared into town “general funds”

Cal Ripken Baseball Signups, Spring Training

Free indoor baseball hitting practice (with tennis balls) for Otis, Monterey, Sandisfield, Great Barrington and surrounding towns’ players of all levels, 8–12 years old, starts Sunday, March 3, at the Farmington River School gym on Route 8 in Otis from 3–4pm. The practices will be during the four Sundays in March and then outdoor activities should begin in early April. For more information, contact Steve Graves at sgraves8@yahoo.com.

Signups for the 2013 Cal Ripken/South County Baseball League season have begun for players 5–12. There will be one 5-7-year-olds rookie team and two AAA teams for players 8-12. Home games and practices are at beautiful Greene Park in Monterey center on Route 23. The season starts in late April and runs through June. The league is open to all players living in Monterey, Otis, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, Becket, New Marlboro, Sheffield, and surrounding towns.

There are no tryouts; everybody learns and plays at their own pace. Five-to-seven- year-olds play one time per week, on Wednesdays, using tennis balls. The 8-12-year-olds will play two to three times per week. There is no mandatory

and has not been available for work on the house.

—Joe Baker

Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

Contributors

Thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions. We could not keep going without your support.

- Jane Walsh & Kraig Petersen
- Andrew Somers
- George Emmons
- Patricia and Julio Rodriguez
- Rudy Gero
- Douglas, Julie, & Caroline Neu

attendance, but players should plan to attend at least 80 percent of the events.

This is an excellent baseball experience emphasizing fun, friendship, hitting, pitching, catching, action, socialization, and team spirit. The cost is \$50 per player or \$75 maximum per family, which covers uniforms, insurance, equipment, etc.; assistance is available.

To sign up, send player’s name, address, email address, phone, parents’ names, and birthday as soon as possible to Jim Edelman, President. S. Berkshire Cal Ripken League, PO Box 11, Monterey, MA 01245. For more information email Jim Edelman, cljvedelman@aol.com, or Steve Graves, sgraves8@yahoo.com.




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Calendar

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

Every Wednesday through April 3: Chair Yoga, taught by Connie Wilson, 9–10 am, Monterey Library. Free to Monterey residents. For more information, call Connie 528-3798.

Saturday, March 2:

Opening reception for *A Third Look: Paintings by Frank D'Amato*, 7–8:30 pm. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit runs from March 1 to March 30. See p. 14.

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, singer-songwriter Adam Rothberg, 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Sheffield. Info www.DeweyHall.com. See p. 15

Sunday, March 3: “Cows Save the Planet,” panel discussion on using narrative to articulate approaches to environmental and economic renewal, Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, 3–5 pm, American Institute of Economic Research, 250 Division Street, Great Barrington. Free, open to all. See p. 17.

Saturday, March 9: Open House for families who want to learn about the Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten Program, 10–11:30 am, Monterey School.

Sunday, March 10: Daylight Savings Time begins; transfer station goes on summer hours.

Thursday, March 14:

Planning Board Public Hearing to review proposed bylaw regulating installation of large-scale ground-mounted solar

Monterey News

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photovoltaic systems and utility-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems, 7 pm, Town Hall. See p. 4.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Friday, March 15: Application deadline for Simple Gifts Fund grants to young people ages 8–21 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs. See p. 9.

Wednesday, March 20: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program by George Emmons and others on Berkshire National Fish Hatchery. Everyone welcome. See p. 5.

Friday, March 22: “Shaping a New Agriculture,” Talk by Greg Watson, Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture, 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, 251 Main Street, Great Barrington. \$5 or 5 BerkShares. See p. 11.

The Observer

January 26 – February 25

High temp. (1/31)..... 57°
 Low temp. (2/10)..... 2°
 Avg. high temp. 30.9°
 Avg. low temp. 14.5°
 Avg. temp. 22.7°
 Total precipitation
 (rain and melted snow) 4.3 in.
 Snowfall 26.8 in.
 Precipitation occurred on 19 days.

Saturday, March 23: Rabies clinic conducted by John Makuc, 9:30 am–noon, Monterey Firehouse. See p. 5.

Monday, March 25: Adult book group will discuss *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, March 30: New dog licenses needed; \$4.00 for spayed/neutered dogs. See Town Clerk.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday. Transfer station closed (open Monday, April 1, 10–6).

Friday, April 5: Opening reception for *A Series of Series*, paintings by Ann Getsinger, 6–7:30 pm. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit runs from April through May 4. See p. 14.

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Contributions from local and guest artists this month:

Pat Arnow, 5, 15; Maureen Banner, 7, 8, 13, 22;

George Emmons, 18; Bonner McAllester, 16

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