

MONTEREY NEWS

March 2021
Est. 1970 Vol. LI · Number 3

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



Stepping up in Monterey—Over the past several months many friends and neighbors have helped in a variety of ways to provide some food security through the Pantry Pickup on Saturday mornings at the Monterey Church.

Our next exhibit, *Silver: Michael & Maureen Banner*, is a retrospective of vessels that the couple has created over their careers.

Knox Gallery page 11

The Monterey cultural council has awarded \$7,800 in grants to seventeen activities for 2021.

Monterey Cultural Council page 3

I love'em 'cause it seems to me
Nothing could be finer than a big green tree.
Burning up the Woods page 22

Roosevelt was the consummate showman, was bombastic, played to an attentive press, and attracted an adoring public. Sound familiar?

Power Outage page 20

We have more fantastic grant news! We have received \$94,172 in grant monies.

Employee's Corner page 8

A group of Monterey residents has formed to help folks make Covid-19 vaccination appointments. A first step is to call (413) 429-4568.

Vaccination Appointments page 7

This campaign is part of a nation-wide movement that seeks to "stop hate, racism, and bullying, and build safe, inclusive communities for all."

Monterey-Welcoming & Inclusive page 9

At first I was puzzled by the querulous stares, the looks of surprise or disbelief I'd see as I skated by.

A Life on Skates, Part 2 page 23

**Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"**
Sunday, March 14, at 2 a.m.

I have especially learned what public service *is* and what it *is not*, in a small town such as ours.

In My View page 2

Below is the list of offices that may be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 4.

Upcoming Town Elections page 3

The select board announces two key actions: full agreement on the broadband contracts, and appointment of the town administrator.

In My View page 4

Following completion of this grant, the town can apply for additional funding for the construction of a pollution filtration system in the Lake Garfield watershed.

Lake Garfield Working Group page 10

After a long wait, the transfer station now has two clothing and shoes collection bins.

Transfer Station News page 8

Nadia Makuc wanted to share a fun school task with everyone.

Jacob's Word Ladder page 21



Barred Owl hunting page 24

In My View The Town Needs You

If you are thinking about running for select board or other public office in Monterey...



I have had the honor of being on the Monterey Select Board for two terms, and have learned a great deal. I have especially learned what public service *is* and what it *is not*, in a small town such as ours.

Here is what to expect in public office:

1. Expect to give a great deal of your time to your office. Public service is *not* just showing up for meetings. It is taking the time to learn about Monterey and how small town municipal government works. It is very important to begin a dialogue with the people who actually work for the town. The first year of any office is more about learning and understanding than speaking. It is less about reacting to what someone tells you about the town, or being influenced by those who are not currently active in town hall. Learn it on your own, and your opinions will carry more weight.

2. Understand that you are part of a *team*. There are no mayors in the town, no presidents. Even chairpersons have limited powers. You (and the town) rise and fall with the rest of your colleagues.

Respect people that have more experience in town government than you. Learn from them. There is no requirement to be "friends," but if you listen to your other board or committee members, you will get a sense of where they are coming from. That knowledge is key to the learning process. Your level of personal knowledge, degrees, wealth, or prior status does not count as much as you think. We all have life experience, and our mutual contributions of experiences makes a good team.

3. Always have the best interest of the town and its residents in mind. Public service is not to "settle old scores," eliminate someone's position or create additional positions, dramatically alter what makes Monterey special, or make a personal name for yourself. A successful town official should always have these two mantras in their head: "How do I help preserve what is good about Monterey?" and "How do I help move Monterey forward?"

Lastly, if you are planning to run for office, please have a chat with those who have been in the office or those currently in the position. That is the best way to have a clear understanding of what the job entails and what will be expected of you.

We need you on our boards and committees! While not easy, participation in local government can be very rewarding. If you live in Monterey full-time, please consider getting involved.

Thank you,

— Steven Weisz
Select Board member

Candidate Statements

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

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

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

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

Editor's Note: In My View columns are an opportunity for select board members to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board or the Monterey News.

SKY VIEW FARM

micro-forestry & native lumber production



- cultivate your woods like a garden -

Sky View Farm specializes in harvesting and milling lumber from your own land for your own use.

MA licensed lumber producer

Will & Amelia Conklin | 413 229 2992
203 Galvin Farm Trail, Sheffield

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

Camp Half Moon

Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel

Sleepover & Day Camp

Boys & Girls Ages 3 to 16

Flexible Sessions

Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!

info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940



Come Join the Fun!

Upcoming Town Elections

Below is the list of offices that may be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 4. There may be more additional seats available on boards, committees, or individual offices depending on resignations during terms.

Board of Appeals (1) 5 years
Board of Assessors (1) 3 years
Board of Health (1) 3 years
Cemetery Committee (1) 3 years
Finance Committee (1) 3 years
Library Trustees (2) 3 years
Moderator (1) 1 year
Parks Commission (1) 1 year
Parks Commission (2) 3 years
Planning Board (1) 5 years
Planning Board (1) 4 years
Select Board (1) 3 years
Tree Warden (1) 1 year

The town always benefits by having a full slate of candidates so that no office remains unfilled. To get on the ballot for any of these positions, a registered Monterey voter must be nominated by one of the party caucuses or gather at least twenty-five certifiable voters signatures on a nomination paper filed with the town clerk. A candidate does not need to be registered to a party to seek nomination from either or both parties.

The last day to submit nomination papers to the registrars of voters is Tuesday, March 16. The last time to object or withdraw a nomination is Thursday, April 1, at 5 p.m.

The last day to register to vote is Saturday, April 10, from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 8 p.m., at town hall.

The last day permissible for the town to publish the town warrant in advance of town meeting, which will be mailed to all registered town voters, is on Saturday, April 24.

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1. Election of town officers will follow on Tuesday, May 4.

For questions or further information, contact Terry Walker, Monterey Town Clerk, by calling (413) 528-1443, ext. 113, or by emailing at clerk@montereyma.gov

See page 14 for information concerning town party meetings.

Monterey's Cultural Council Grant Awards for 2021

Thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the town of Monterey, our local council has awarded grants to seventeen of the thirty-three applications we received. Of the \$12,500 requested, \$7,800 will be distributed for a variety of activities in 2021. Funding for the grants includes \$4,800 from the state and \$3,000 from our town. Below are some descriptions of the projects that are being funded by the council.

Right here at the Monterey Library, you'll find a full roster of family entertainment. The artists' talks will resume in the Knox Gallery. Working in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Oral History Center, Joe Makuc will complete the archival process for adding interviews which include four with Monterey residents. Instructions for the best way to view the interviews are available at the Monterey Library.

The Monterey Community Center is planning some initiatives, sponsored with cultural council funds: a songwriting workshop by Robin O'Herin, coffee-house performances, a play reading of *A Perfect Storm* by local poet and playwright Stephanie Sloane, a talk by the native plants expert, Bridghe McCracken, to kick off Monterey's Native Plants Working Group and their biodiversity box, and the second annual Monterey Lights the Holidays which includes an event planned for November 27.

We'll support the Bidwell House Museum's Maker's Day, its opening event with free fun for all ages. Activities like hands-on demonstrations by local artisans, live music, and a pie- and cake-making contest, with winners chosen and sweets shared, will spice up this special chance to see the gardens in bloom. Later in the summer, back by popular demand, will be a newly-expanded event as Bidwell hosts a weekend-long "Reenactment: The Raid on Township #1."

Events to look forward to in other parts of Berkshire County include music and dance at Sheffield's Dewey Hall, Berkshire South Community Center's Berkshire Ukulele Band and Berkshire Sings—all ready to resume when indoor

gatherings begin again. Be on the lookout for information on the New Marlborough Meeting House Program Series. In Great Barrington, honoring Indigenous Peoples Day on October 22, Lev Natan and his group, the Alliance for a Viable Future, will gather a variety of voices to remind us of the cultures of peoples who inhabited our region long before Europeans landed on these shores.

There will be exciting opportunities for young people too: Jane Burke of Flying Cloud will offer hands-on, socially-distanced classes about the science and art of clay, the Berkshire Children's Chorus takes young people from our community to sing with near-neighbors, and in Housatonic, Pulse Dance offers young people a chance to improvise and create in the Moving Life Stories club. And once again we are supporting the Greenagers, who foster young people as they learn and grow as gardeners, maintaining trees and plants in a variety of locations in our area.

We also are happy to announce that we have new council members this year: Carole Clarin, Dorene Beller, and Erica Stern, who join Wendy Germain, Janet Jensen, and me. Special thanks to Melissa Noe, Lisa Kelly CPA, and Veronica Ramirez from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (and who helps the local cultural councils in the Berkshires). To learn more about the work of your local cultural council, visit the Monterey town website, montereyma.gov, for contact information.

—Maggie Barkin
Co-chair, Monterey Cultural Council



A t-shirt from lilicloth.com — Bonsai Cox

In My View

The February 24 select board meeting included significant announcements on two key fronts: full agreement on the broadband contracts, and appointment of the town administrator.



Broadband

The process of bringing fiber optic broadband to Monterey has been complex and frustrating. But substantial progress has been made on the ground: all but about 334 houses now have access to the internet from Fiber Connect and the 51% condition of the Commonwealth grant has been met. In addition, the contracting parties, Massachusetts Broadband Institute/Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Monterey, and Fiber Connect have reached written agreements on all aspects of the project. I think it is fair to say that within about twelve months service will extend throughout Monterey.

Town Administrator

The select board signed a contract on February 24 with its administrative assistant Melissa Noe, appointing her town administrator, effective March 1, 2021. Before entering into negotiations with Melissa, we advertised widely to check the field of available candidates, receiv-

ing nine resumes. Only two candidates had the requisite experience in municipal government, but one withdrew and the other, we learned at the interview, could work in Monterey only at night since she worked in another town full-time. The result of our advertising was precisely what Mark Webber, an experienced town manager whom we used as a consultant, had predicted. As I noted in a prior column, three highly respected town managers have studied Monterey at the select board's request over the last few years. And each separately concluded that the town would be best served if Melissa were to be appointed town administrator.

I've worked with Melissa for just short of three years now. In the beginning our relation was strained by some misunderstandings. But as I became increasingly engaged in the select board's wide-ranging responsibilities, I also began to understand just how valuable Melissa is to our town. She now has over a decade and a half of experience tending to Monterey's administrative needs. Her knowledge of this town and its people is extensive, and her understanding of the relevant Commonwealth agencies with whom we often interact and the laws governing those relations is comprehensive. Good leadership requires intelligence, character, and sound judgment. Melissa meets those standards in all regards. But another key point is her demonstrated and complete

dedication to Monterey's welfare. Since we are a small town, looking outside for town administrators will lead to changes in that position every few years as those we hire move on to higher paying jobs in larger towns. I believe that management stability is important, and I predict that Melissa will wisely guide our town for many years to come.

Budget

For about three months, until February 24, the select board and the finance committee had been working together on the town budget for Fiscal 2022. After reviewing the initial budget requests, we agreed to do our best to reduce them by about \$300,000 to lessen next year's tax burden.

Unfortunately, the joint process has been marred by the filing of a criminal complaint in February by one member of the finance committee against Shawn Tryon, director of operations and chief of the Monterey Fire Company. This utterly frivolous complaint was filed by Jon Sylbert. The incident, which did not involve criminal activity at all, occurred almost a year ago. The supposed victim was George Cain, who was then chair of the finance committee. According to Jon's complaint, Shawn threw a pager at George, striking that gentleman in the chest. As George ex-

Serial Attraction
paintings and drawings by Joe Baker
open thru March 13, 2021

Silver
photos and drawings of holloware by
Michael & Maureen Banner
March 17 - May 9, 2021



KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Looking for a cure for your broadband headaches?

Fiber Direct to Premise
1 Gbps Download
No Data Caps
Low Latency
Data Privacy
24/7 Support
Digital Phone Service
3 Pricing Options

Sign Up: bfcma.com

413.429.4109



Follow Us **f**

plained to Chief Backhaus, no such assault occurred, a fact confirmed to the chief by Kenn Basler, who was also present. And when Chief Backhaus informed Jon that his complaint was factually unsupportable, Jon responded by asking the chief for the names of other agencies with which he could pursue his complaint.

To say the least, Jon's action, particularly in the middle of the budget process, is distressing. Shawn, a highly respected citizen and an entirely dedicated public servant, spends endless hours making our lives safer. And here he is in the middle of presenting his department budgets to a finance committee that includes someone who wants, most unjustifiably, to subject him to criminal process! I'd ask that you keep this all in mind if you find Jon Sylbert opposing Shawn's budget proposals at the town meeting.

On February 24, during the joint select board/finance committee budget meeting, Jon again chose to act irresponsibly. When I noted that certain budget adjustments had to be made to reflect the decision to eliminate the position of administrative assistant and appoint Melissa town administrator, Jon began yelling that he would not permit the appointment to be made. When I began asking Melissa to incorporate those changes and other cost savings into the next budget

draft, Jon announced that if he didn't have his way he would refuse to participate any further in the joint meetings. Perhaps I should note the obvious; namely, that the appointment of a town administrator was specifically authorized by a prior town meeting and the select board is the appointing authority in Monterey.

The finance committee chair, Rebecca Wolin, then angrily agreed with Jon, and they both left the meeting. I think that is an undesirable result. Wolin and Sylbert were elected to perform a job, and that job includes working with the select board as it wrestles with budgetary issues. Ultimately, as has been the case for over a half-century, the select board must and will decide what goes in the town meeting warrant. Wolin and Sylbert apparently cannot accept that.

The primary tasks assigned the finance committee are working with the select board to develop a budget and giving the town meeting financial advice. Speaking for myself, I invite Jon and Rebecca to change their minds and participate in joint budget meetings until the warrant is issued. I would also ask Jon to end his current practice of refusing to attend town meetings if the budget contains articles with which he does not agree, as he has done with respect to our last two town meetings.

And, please, let's all remember that final decisions on the budget rest with the good people of Monterey at the annual town meeting in May.

—Don Coburn
Chair, Select Board

Editor's Note: See page 8 for notice of March 10 public finance committee budget hearing

Monterey Community Center

What's going on at the MCC you ask? As this is being written at the end of a snowy February—the answer is sledding on the pumpkin roll hill. Thanks to Laurie Shaw for helping to spread the word. It's free, fun, and Edith, Marjorie, and Mother Nature seem to have conspired to bring winter frolicking right to 468 Main Road.

Before we get to more enjoyment with March Madness and April Fools, we wanted something to look forward to. If you are a classical music lover or just miss seeing the inside of the Mahaiwe then you won't want to miss this.

Aston Magna Music festival did a live recording on January 31 of "Musical Offerings: Chamber Music by J.S. Bach." This program featured some of Bach's rarely heard music, performed by Daniel Stepner on violin, Andrea LeBlanc on baroque flute, and Peter Sykes, at the harpsichord.

On Friday, March 19, at 7 p.m., we are showing this concert free via our MCC Zoom, and there will be an interactive discussion afterwards if enough interest.

To register, call the MCC at (413) 528-5134 and leave your name and email address, or simply email calendar@ccmonterey.org. We will email you the Zoom link to watch the concert.

Housekeeping

The MCC is looking to hire a local person to clean the inside of the building two times a month. Please contact Mary Makuc at (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org by March 25.

—Mary Makuc
MCC Coordinator

PETER S. VALLIANOS ATTORNEY AT LAW

New Address:

312 Main Street, Suite 4, 2nd floor
Great Barrington, MA 01230

413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-5165

email: p.vallianos@verizon.net
P.O. Box 276, Monterey

40 years experience in Monterey
serving real estate needs—residential
purchase and sales, and refinances.

Original Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust



SunBug Solar

Ned Wilson · New Marlborough, MA

NABCEP PV Technical Sales # TS-102415-004308
NABCEP PV Installation # PV-041115-004308

413 854 1453

ned.wilson@sunbugssolar.com
www.sunbugssolar.com

Library News

The Monterey Library by schedule is open 27.5 hours a week for now. We added six extra hours for several reasons. We wanted the WiFi to be more available in the comfort of the building instead of folks having to sit outside in a vehicle in the cold and dark. We also wanted to spread out the hours so we could follow the limited browsing directive from the governor. This allowed the staff more time to deal with the extra work the pandemic has created so we can safely complete our mission. At some point the money for the extra hours will run out. It is possible we will be cutting back those hours later in the spring, but we're good for another couple of months.

In the meantime, we are doing what we can to be a twenty-four-hour-a-day resource. No matter how many hours we are open, there will always be some closed time for the building. The book and media drops allow returns to be made anytime. Our WiFi, thanks to Fiber Connect, is also available 24/7, including when the power is out, thanks to Andrus Power Solutions and our generator. Our website is always available to give information about the current Knox Gallery exhibit, where we are at in the limited browsing, and paths to resources that are truly available around the clock.

Go to montereymasslibrary.org/ resources, or if you are reading this in print, go to our webpage and click on the resource page. This will get you to where you can find out about the two most used sites to download materials. Downloadable materials have been available for years now. There has been talk that libraries will have

no physical items to borrow at some point in the future, and there have been some libraries built with that in mind. We were required, under our state grant, to create and maintain space for physical items. We are following that requirement and our collection has increased by more than ten percent.

We actually have already surpassed the lending of physical items for all last year, which isn't too impressive because by the end of last March we were shut down to lending for two and a half months, but it is good to see the materials being borrowed again. We have seen some growth in the downloadable items, but those only represent about 11% of our total circulation. What is amazing is that not only have we surpassed the previous year's totals for downloadable content already, but the figure as of today, less than three-quarters of the way through the July-to-June fiscal year, is triple that of last year. Though downloading content has leveled out after a lot of growth in general, Monterey patrons are still discovering them.

People have different reasons for borrowing downloadable items. The idea of completely contactless borrowing has been important to some during the pandemic. Automobile manufacturers have stopped putting CD players in vehicles, relying on folks connecting their devices for listening. The convenience of bringing reading material with you on your phone, tablet, e-reader, or laptop is tremendous. There are even some materials that are only available electronically.

One source I mentioned for these materials is the CWMARS digital catalog, from which you can borrow not only from

CWMARS, but also all of the other library systems in the state. The collection is growing daily. If you visit the CWMARS Digital Catalog, you'll find books, audios, magazines, and videos. You'll want to download the Libby app to manage what you borrow. The instructions are on the catalog site, but feel free to visit, call during open hours (413)-528-3795, or email montereylibrary@gmail.com anytime for help with this.

The second source is the Boston Public Library. There are apps you'll need for that borrowing as well. That collection has some very interesting films using the Kanopy app. Unlike the CWMARS digital where you'll use your CWMARS card, you'll need to apply for a BPL e-card. You can do that online by going to bpl.org and clicking on "Services."

We still get calls asking if we have downloadable items. Fortunately our small town library, as part of the greater Massachusetts library systems, has a lot to offer. It doesn't matter if we are open or closed, or if you are in the library, at home, or stuck in a waiting room somewhere, the Monterey Library is your link to borrowing a tremendous range of items at no cost!

—Mark Makuc
Library director

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design

*Working with clients to create
captivating landscapes & gardens*



413.528.1387

karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

Barnbrook

www.BarnbrookRealty.com



DAGMAR KUBES

Broker Associate, ABR

★

*Superior Real-Estate Service
tailored to your needs.*

★

413 528-6485

E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

SELL * BUY * RENT

Vaccination Appointments Assistance (413) 429-4568

Boards of Health Clinics

A group of Monterey residents has formed to help folks make Covid-19 vaccination appointments through the online appointment website, getvaccinatedberkshires.org. Vaccination appointments made through this website are for clinics at the DuBois Middle School in Great Barrington, at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, and St. Elizabeth's church in North Adams. (There are other vaccination opportunities at local pharmacies e.g. Walgreens, Big Y, Price Chopper, that individuals could try to go through.)

The website is a great source of information for the current guidance and phases from the Massachusetts Board of Health. The website is supported by the Berkshire Vaccination Collaborative, a partnership of the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association, Berkshire Health Systems, and Community Health Programs.

Get Help

Our group has been trained by Monterey's health agent, Jim Wilusz. The online application form is not especially difficult if you are accustomed to moderate interaction with online forms. But—if you feel you would like support—we would like to help.

A first step is to call (413) 429-4568, a dedicated phone line (generously set up and donated by Fiber Connect), and leave a voice mail message with your name, phone number, and a best time to call you back.

Clinics are scheduled when there is an assurance of vaccine availability, and notification is fairly short term. However, we are happy to return your call, take your basic information, and we will get back to you promptly when local board of health clinics are announced.

We can help you in one of three ways:

1. We can take you through the application step-by-step over the phone.
2. We can meet in person at the library during regular library hours and use a computer there to fill in the application with you.
3. One or more volunteers will be at the library on Thursdays from noon to

4 p.m. for drop-in help. (The library is not regularly open then so parking will be simple.)

Your information will be held strictly confidential, and any records will be deleted after your appointment is confirmed. Remember to follow Covid protocols if you come to the library.

What You Need

You need your health insurance information. For people over 65, this will be your Medicare card. For others, this would be whatever health coverage you have. However, if you are uninsured you can still get an appointment.

A valid email address is important for receiving confirmation, and for canceling if that becomes necessary. If you do not have a valid email address, the volunteer supporting you will enter their own email address, and will then confirm your appointment with you.

The appointment process may take twenty minutes or so. While there is no guarantee that at the end of the process you will be able to get an appointment when you would like, the clinics are staffing up, and availability of appointments is improving week by week.

Appointment for a Helper

The state has opened up the current phase for 75-plus-year-old folks to permit making an additional appointment for a person who will directly help you at the clinic. This person need not be a family member. If you have someone to help you at the clinic, we could make both appointments. (An appointment for the helper is necessary.) While this would not guarantee back-to-back vaccination times, the staff at the clinics will do their best to not hold anyone up.

Appointment Anxiety

Many people have had very good experiences with getting to one of these three clinics, getting their shots, and being treated in a very positive and friendly manner. One Monterey woman left saying, "This was almost fun!" But the system has been a considerable frustration as well—folks having to try many many times to get an appointment, rapid changes in the rules, and web capacity being overwhelmed.

Try to relax. We read and hear so much in the media about Covid that it is easy to be frightened. But these are not the early days from a year ago when nobody knew what to do. We do know what to do.

- Wear a properly fitting mask made of good filtration material, double it up even.
- Keep distant from other folks, as much as possible.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently when you're out.
- Limit the amount of time you spend in one place with many people, especially indoors.

Follow these simple rules and you should be safe.

With the pharmaceutical companies gaining in their ability to produce greater quantities, with better weather for more reliable vaccine deliveries, and with more experience as to the best way to get these shots in peoples' arms, the whole vaccination process should smooth out. Our area is a safe place to be right now. You will get vaccinated. We'll all get through this.

Townpeople can thank the council on aging and our local board of health for this initiative.

—Stephen Moore

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

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

Employee's Corner

Welcome to the second installment of the employee's corner.

We have more fantastic grant news! We have received the following in grant monies:

- \$4,084 from our insurer's risk management sector to be used to purchase various safety items for the highway and police departments;
- \$82,000 from the MA Community Compact IT grant for road cameras to be mounted in two outside locations in town as well as on four plow trucks. This system is the same as MassDOT uses and will have many positive impacts on the environment, overtime costs, and public safety. (See details below.);
- \$3,088.41 from FEMA for COVID related supplies;
- The town clerk applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the state to pay for extra hours during the national elections as well as much needed equipment, therefore; the elections budget will have a substantial amount of money returned to the general fund.

Our fire department reports that in 2020 they had a total of 154 calls, up 22% from 2019. Of those calls 67% were fire calls and 33% were emergency medical situations. The chief is very pleased with the duty shift program and is seeing a positive impact with the participating firefighters' morale, skills, and pride for their department.

The highway crew has been hard at work managing the recent storms. They'd like to remind everyone that no private individual shall plow or blow snow onto, across, or otherwise dispose of snow onto town roads as this causes traffic hazards for all motorists. In addition to being a safety hazard, it can cause damage to the town trucks. Violators can be ticketed.

The clerk's office reports that 2021 has started off great with goals and deadlines being met. Local census forms were mailed out the beginning of January and are being returned on a timely basis. This keeps the voter list current and updated. Dog registrations are also coming in strong. Remember the deadline to register your dogs is March 31. The clerk would like to thank Justin Makuc,

Budget Hearing

The finance committee will hold a remote FY22 public budget hearing on Wednesday, March 10, at 5:30 p.m. The finance committee and the select board are working to recommend a target increase in the tax levy of approximately 3.5%, which is estimated to increase the average single family tax bill by \$146, from \$4,159 to \$4,305.

The Town of Monterey welcomes input from residents on the proposed FY22 budget. The proposed budget will be available for downloading on the finance committee webpage (under "Boards & Committees") of the town website at montereyma.gov. Click on the "Budgets" link on the left and download "FY22 Budget (proposed)."

Please visit the town calendar on the town website on March 10 for the Zoom link and call-in numbers to attend this meeting, and to check the agendas for the finance committee.

—Jon Sylbert
Finance Committee

Gary Shaw, and Evelyn Vallianos for their assistance with data entry and the census.

Road Cameras

The cameras are for a web-based road surface and temperature measurement system. MassDOT currently uses them. Through cameras and sensors they produce an algorithm of cold/warm spots, calculating the surface, subsurface, and ambient temperatures to efficiently predict when certain roads will freeze, eliminating guesswork and overuse of road materials and unnecessary overtime. The \$82,000 grant includes associated costs like software and setup and electrical work for the two fixed cameras.

We all thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully,
—Shawn Tryon, director of operations and fire chief; Melissa Noe, administrative assistant; Terry Walker, town clerk.




Transfer Station News

After a long wait, the transfer station now has two clothing and shoes collection bins. The town was approached by Apparel Impact, a family-owned Albany-area textile recycling business. Apparel Impact provides the containers and periodically picks them up. Go to ApparelImpact.com to learn more about this recycling company who are also helping folks who need clothes.

You can help the town reduce costs, provide a high-value recyclable resource to a company that reaches out to folks in need, by keeping a separate container for your fiber and shoe products.

—Beth Parks and Dave Gilmore

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates

 **Berkshire**
Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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

Affirming Monterey as Welcoming and Inclusive

Dear fellow Monterey community members,

We are grateful to leading Monterey organizations for having signed the #AllHandsIn / “Not In Our County” (NIOC) pledge. This campaign is part of a nationwide movement that seeks to “stop hate, racism, and bullying, and build safe, inclusive communities for all.” (See niot.org). Gould Farm, the Monterey Community Center, the Monterey Library, the Monterey Select Board, the United Church of Christ (and there may well be other organizations that we do not know about) have signed the organizational pledge:

“As an institution, organization, or local business, we commit to working together with our constituents, employees, employers, and stakeholders to create a safer, more integrated Berkshire County. As an organization we respond with best intention and practices to not stay silent in the face of intolerance or hate based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or any other factor. We work to acknowledge, address, and act in response to all forms of intended or unintended exclusion, hate, bigotry, intolerance, and bullying. We pledge to renew our commitment to this work every day and to respond to all incidents in a timely, collaborative manner.”

A pledge like this is important in our county because racism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination persist. We believe that it is up to us as a community to help people of all backgrounds feel welcome. Several signatory organizations have made these values visible by installing #AllHandsIn lawn signs, while others have affixed stickers to their building’s entryway. Research shows that such visible forms of welcome promote a greater sense of trust and safety for all.

We encourage more organizations and individuals to sign the pledge. The NIOC campaign, organized locally since 2017 by Multicultural BRIDGE (Berkshire Resources for Integration of Diverse Groups through Education) has collected over three thousand signatures of its ten-thousand-signatures goal. Beyond pledges and



Left to right: Select board chair Don Coburn, Monterey residents Maddox, Tiegen, and Dominic Stucker.
—Photo by Esme Stucker

making values of welcome more visible, the campaign seeks to catalyze meaningful conversations on inclusion and equity, while shifting toward a culture of greater celebration of diversity in the Berkshires.

Learn more, and sign the organizational or individual pledge here: multiculturalbridge.org/not-in-our-county--berkshires.html. Order your #AllHandsIn lawn sign here: yourcolorconnection.com/contact-us.html.

As volunteers with BRIDGE, we are grateful for all that Gwendolyn VanSant and her team do with and for communities across the county. BRIDGE is a minority and women-run nonprofit with a mission to “promote mutual understanding and respect among diverse groups serving as a resource to both local institutions and the community at large.” BRIDGE acts as a catalyst for change and integration through collaboration, education, training, dialogue, fellowship, and advocacy. Learn

more about their work and get involved here: multiculturalbridge.org.

With gratitude,

—Esme, Dominic, Maddox,
and Tiegen Stucker
Blue Hill Road, Monterey



Lake Garfield Working Group

At the February meeting of the Lake Garfield Working Group, the discussion focused on updates of current town and regional projects designed to protect and enhance the health of Lake Garfield and the Konkapot and Housatonic Rivers, as well as developing resiliency for the detrimental impacts of climate change that are becoming more apparent from one year to the next.

With funding through a state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program, the Town of Monterey has completed the first phase of the replacement and expansion of the deteriorating Main Road culvert adjacent to town hall. A conceptual engineering design has been chosen by the select board to reduce the potential of flooding along Konkapot River in the center of town. Monterey is now preparing to apply for additional MVP grant funding to accomplish the final design and permitting phase of the culvert project.

Monterey is also about to embark on another water quality design project with recently approved federal funding. This project will be administered through the state to reduce the flow of nutrients including phosphorus into Lake Garfield. Phosphorous contributes to the growth of potentially harmful microscopic

blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) and larger aquatic plants such as the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Garfield. Following early completion of this grant during this coming spring, the town will be eligible to apply for additional federal funding this year for the construction of a pollution filtration system in the Lake Garfield watershed.

On a regional basis, the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) have initiated and organized a program for the past two years to assist the state and the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to monitor the growth of blue-green algae in Lake Garfield. It was reported that with the experience gained from their monitoring efforts, the FLG spearheaded a regional grant application to the state Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the fifteen-member Lakes and Ponds Association of Western Massachusetts (LAPA-West). The grant application requests funding to purchase specialized monitoring equipment and supplies for the long-term water quality monitoring of blue-green algae and bacteria in state regulated lakes, ponds, and rivers of Berkshire County, including Lake Garfield and the Housatonic River. If the state awards funding for the project, the new equipment will be utilized to monitor twenty water bodies in three watersheds to promote the state water quality goals and protect



Beautifully plowed dirt roads look like good carpet vacuuming. —Maureen Banner

these important natural resources. All equipment and supplies will be purchased and available to commence the regional water quality monitoring program prior to June 2021.

The Lake Garfield Working Group continues to be a valuable source of environmental information to the Monterey Select Board for the protection of Lake Garfield. Stay tuned for future updates and join us at our March remote meeting following the instructions to be posted on the town website.

—Steve Snyder
Chair, Lake Garfield Working Group

**Due to health, safety and staffing during the pandemic,
Roadside will remain closed until Memorial Day.**

We can't wait to serve you again. We will also be bringing back the Gould Farm Market so you can purchase all of your Harvest Barn goodies as well. Until then, please stay safe and well. We so appreciate your business and support and we look forward to seeing all of your faces.

ROADSIDE
Roadside Store and Cafe.



March at the Knox Gallery

Currently on view at Knox Gallery, Joe Baker's *Serial Attraction*, offers colorful, appealing landscapes matched by the artist's informative and expressive descriptions of his inspirations and processes. His work is perfect for a library gallery, as he is quite a storyteller in both word and image. We hope you will be sure to see it. *Serial Attraction* will be on view through March 13.

Our next exhibit, *Silver: Michael & Maureen Banner*, is a retrospective of drawings and plans that the Banners developed as studies for vessels that the couple has created over their careers. Photographs of the finished pieces are shown alongside the drawings to give a glimpse of the artists' processes.

Michael and Maureen Banner need no introduction in our community. Hailing from the Midwest (Michigan and Chicago, respectively) the couple made a cross-country tour, leading them to discover that the southern Berkshires was the perfect locale for their life and studio. Since settling in Monterey in 1977, they have served on many Monterey town boards and championed numerous community projects over the decades. For example, Monterey has a community center in large part due to the Banners' passion and support for the project, not to mention Michael's sweat equity. Many of us are first hand beneficiaries of their congenial hospitality, generous sharing of knowledge, and their diverse efforts for individuals and the town. Knox Gallery takes full advantage of their talents; Maureen photographs openings and installations, and Michael installs most of our exhibitions. The Banners are regular participants in our community shows and have exhibited in popular group exhibitions. Recently, Maureen's landscape paintings were included in the Knox Gallery exhibition *Perennial: Artists Working en Plein Air*.

In spite of their high profile in Monterey, and the popularity of their jewelry, many of us may not be aware of the height of their accomplishments and their illustrious reputation. Numerous museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Art Institute of Chicago; and the Smithsonian American



Paul Rocheleau

Mother and Child

Art Museum have collected their work. Many prominent private collections boast Banner Silver; their work is highlighted in numerous periodicals and books. A Banner piece graces the cover of *The Artful Teapot*, by Garth Clark, which is the definitive resource on the subject.

As a penultimate achievement, in 2015 the James Renwick Alliance, an arm of the Smithsonian Museum, declared the Banners Masters of the Medium. Surely the top honor they could achieve, the award is further distinguished by their standing as the first couple ever to be inducted as creative partners.

Viewers may wonder how these holloware vessels are produced. In a time-consuming process, silversmiths use hammers and polished steel stakes to create curved shapes from sheets of sterling silver. While this technique allows maximum versatility for a craftsman, it is an increasingly rare skill. Creating three-dimensional hollow forms from sheets of silver is a premier skill in the silversmith's portfolio.

These artists' attention to detail is further asserted with the use of cloisonné to emphasize subtle accents of the forms. In cloisonné, powdered glass is melted onto pure silver through firing. Tiny wires are used to create dams in order to compartmentalize colors.

The work illustrated in *Silver* represents nearly fifty years of the Banners'



John Polak

Berkshire Summer

exploration of the teapot form as a catalyst for developing their vision through modern silversmithing designs.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; [Facebook.com/KnoxGallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery).

—MaryPaul Yates

The Sweetish Baker

NOW OPEN

Thursday-Saturday 7:30am - 2pm
Sunday 8am - 2pm*

*hours during COVID-19 season

413.645.3470
Find us on

258 Stockbridge Road
Great Barrington, MA

Small Batch & From Scratch

www.thesweetishbaker.com

MCC Volunteers Profiles

Wendy Germain

It has been our good fortune to have Wendy Germain on our team since 2013. She has been an energetic, creative, active volunteer who gets things done. Nancy Kleban spoke on the phone with Wendy since she is in Florida for the winter—her first winter in recent years away from Monterey. Amazingly, her mother's Florida home is in a community that includes quite a few people from the Berkshires.

Wendy was born and raised in New York City. Her father, Jerry Germain, bought a house for the family on Lake Garfield in the 1960s. It was a winterized home, and Wendy spent weekends and holidays here with her family throughout her teen years. She remembers her sweet sixteen party out on the lake, with Tom Mensi, Jim Dutcher, and John Camp. But after Wendy started college, and then as life moved her around from place to place, her trips to Monterey for many years were only to visit her parents.

In the summer of 2013, Wendy came back and focused on helping her mom, Jean, promote her book of jazz photographs, taking her around to local festivals and venues. Jean had been taking photos of jazz greats and big bands at the Sarasota Jazz Festival for many years. Someone saw the photos and said they should be published. And they were, in a book titled



Jazz from Row Six (copies are available in the Monterey Library).

Joe Baker was collaborating with Jean to create a website to sell the book and her photos. That summer Joe mentioned to Wendy that a group was working on turning the Edith Wilson house into a community center.

From her early beginnings in the world of work Wendy was, for reasons unknown to her, attracted to startups. She was drawn to entrepreneurial spirits—people who see things that other people may not see at the time. Her first project was the Music Inn, in Stockbridge, turning it into a venue for rock music in 1970, “We were eighteen-nineteen-

twenty. There was jazz in the 1950s but more contemporary music at Music Inn had never been done before.”

She went back to college and studied Social Justice, particularly intrigued by work being done in New York City to establish street academies in some of the rough areas. With financing from the Vanderbilts, Wendy started a street academy in the basement of a church in North

Adams. These schools were primarily for inner city kids who have been through the court system, providing a different type of education for kids who can't make it in public schools. It was 1971 and she was still in college.

Over the years, Wendy was part of a team of five or six people working in a basement in Cambridge, who started Lotus Development, a computer software company, creators of Lotus 1-2-3. That was in 1981. Wendy says opportunities just fell into her lap, she did not go out looking for them. Another notable one: she met a woman working with homeless families and got connected with *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. A BHG editor came to Boston, met them, and set up the Better Homes Foundation, providing programs and grants for homeless families all over the United States.

Hearing Joe Baker talking about a vision for the Wilson house sparked that entrepreneurial part of Wendy. Joe invited Jean and Wendy to a fundraiser party. Jean knew a lot of people in town, had done a lot of volunteer work in the library. Wendy met Cara Carroll, Karen Anderson, Mary Makuc, and Evelyn Vallianos that evening. She felt this group was building not just a community center but a whole community. Here was another attractive opportunity that just appeared. They brainstormed ideas for raising money in a corner at the party. Cara had an idea: Octoberfest. And then her husband Felix, Del Martin, and others

SUSTAIN YOUR HOME'S VALUE

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FIBER CONNECT.
WE NEED 51% OF THE TOWN TO REGISTER
AND PAY THE \$50 INSTALLATION FEE
SO WE CAN RECEIVE STATE FUNDING TO
COMPLETE WIRING OF TOWN!**

GO TO BFCMA.COM

**BERKSHIRE
PROPERTY
AGENTS.COM**

413 528 6800

12 RAILROAD ST GREAT BARRINGTON



BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS LLC

in the fire company got on board to grill the bratwurst, and bring their long tables and chairs. The whole event was pulled together in less than six weeks. It raised some money and a lot of friends, so in retrospect was known as a “fun” raiser.

Still many people in Monterey knew nothing about the plans for the Wilson house. Joe Baker, like the captain of a ship calmly keeping it steadily on course, pulled together a group including Laurie Shaw, Evelyn Vallianos, and Shirley Olds. Slowly more community support gathered for the center. As the project moved forward Michael Banner and Stephen Moore volunteered to help with the renovation. Octoberfest was held four times giving people a chance to see the property, see the house, see the architectural renderings, and most of all witness the progress.

It was exciting to see the house coming to be a place where people could participate in programs not easily held at other places in town. The official opening was in April 2017. People started showing up with ideas, and with follow-through. “Let’s play ping-pong,” said someone. Hy and Myrna Rosen donated a folding ping-pong table, and Dennis and Elaine Lynch began hosting the games. Barbara Dahlman and Roz Halberstadter said, “We want to play cards there.” Mary Makuc, Wendy, and others organized lectures and talks, and Wendy videotaped some of them. Her experience at the local access TV station provided training in videography and editing. Connie Wilson taught yoga. JoAnn Bell came to do yoga, got drawn in, and is now on the program committee.

“It has been so wonderful to see how it’s grown into something that people can’t imagine being without,” says Wendy. This year, as soon as weather permits, the MCC will have outdoor activities and the big tent will be back, providing some long-awaited opportunities for us to come out and join again in community!

Wendy also sits on the Monterey Cultural Council. And, along with Mark Makuc and Joe Makuc, she is interviewing, recording, and transcribing stories of Montereyans for the Monterey Oral History project. Following the precedent set by NPR’s StoryCorps, there are now twenty-eight recorded interviews, with four transcribed and available at credo.library.umass.edu.



And a fun fact about Wendy: She is a pilot! Primary training was completed at the Great Barrington airport many years ago, in 1991, at a time when her partner was in the Ukraine doing a documentary. Wendy’s dad used to take her to watch the planes coming in over the cornfields. It was like a 1940s movie. Now she was able to spend her weekends flying.

The MCC is grateful for Wendy’s caring and perseverance in many areas. She has given countless hours of help with fundraising, videography, advocacy, and planning since reconstruction of the house was in its earliest stages, and recently assisted in Covid safety protocols. Wendy, you may be behind the scenes or behind the lens, but you have also been an outstanding hands-on key player. We are looking forward to having you back at Lake Garfield and under the tent at the MCC in June.

—Nancy Kleban

Having a Good Day

- You finally got in for your first vaccination shot,
- And they sent you an appointment for your second dose!



Fine Garden Care | (413) 207-1281
Embracing the Native Beauty of the Berkshires

WWW.BERKSHIREGREENSCAPES.COM



Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
Beautifying Monterey and Southern Berkshires
One House at a Time!

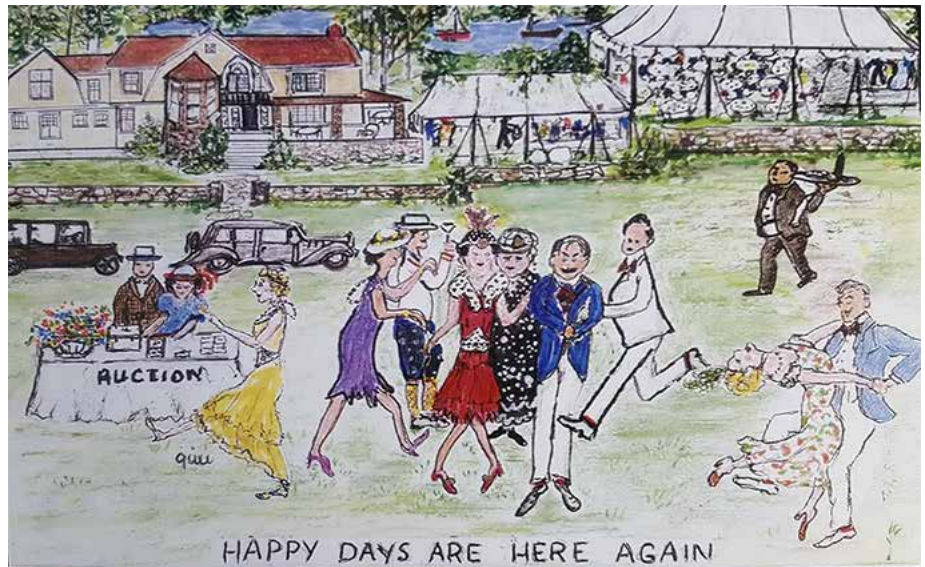
Josh Allentuck: 413-329-6260

Bidwell House Museum A Sweet Spring Sugaring Event

It has been a long, snowy winter but spring is almost here and with the change in season comes the rising temperatures that lead to flowing maple sap. Did you know that the Stockbridge Indians who lived in Stockbridge and Great Barrington came to Monterey and Tyringham to make maple sugar? Did you know that Native Americans often called late winter “maple moon” or “sugar moon?” Maple syrup is ubiquitous in New England now, but for European settlers it was a new flavor introduced to them by the Native Americans. In late March, visit the Bidwell House Museum to learn all about maple sugaring through the centuries with Rob Hoogs as he demonstrates the Native American techniques for collecting and cooking the sap and then describes how maple sugar was made both before and after contact with Europeans.

We are planning this event for Saturday, March 27, at 10 a.m., but it depends on weather conditions and when the sap starts to run. Check the website and Facebook page in early March to confirm the date and time. This program will be limited to twelve participants and pre-registration on the events page of the museum’s website will be required. This event is free, but donations are welcome.

In 2021 the museum is planning to finally celebrate our thirtieth anniversary



2003 Bidwell Summer Gala party invitation by Jan Emmons.

season, after postponing the celebration in 2020 due to the pandemic. As we plan a small exhibition about the history of the museum, we are looking for local residents who remember Jack Hargis and David Brush, the two former owners of the Bidwell House and the men who started the museum. If you knew them and would be willing to talk to us, please contact us at (413)-528-6888 or bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

Finally, this is our monthly reminder that the Bidwell grounds and trails are open year round, free of charge, so get out of the house and get some fresh Monterey air with a walk in the woods. The grounds

have been a busy place this winter and the museum staff have noticed cross-country ski tracks, snow-shoe trails, and animal footprints all over the property. As always, trail maps can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the “Trails” page at our website.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For more information, go to bidwell-housemuseum.org.

Happy Spring everyone!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Every Community
Has At Least
One REALTOR®
Like Nancy Kalodner

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

413-446-1111

nancykalodner@gmail.com

**COHEN + WHITE
ASSOCIATES**

DISTINCTIVE TOWN and COUNTRY PROPERTIES

www.cohenwhiteassoc.com

Town Party Meetings

Democratic Party Caucus

The Democratic caucus will meet remotely on Zoom on Saturday, March 20, at 11 a.m. All registered Democrats are welcome to participate in the caucus. The Zoom link for this meeting is: http://bit.ly/Monterey_DTC_Zoom. For more info, email Jon Sylbert at monterey-dems@outlook.com

Republican Party Caucus

The Republican caucus will be on Saturday, March 20, at 1:30 p.m. This will be a socially-distanced, in-person caucus at a location to be decided. The location will be posted in public places around town. You can email Mark Makuc, at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com for more information.

After the Blizzard

It may be on this shrouded day
we sighed, "To think the lawn was green
last spring!" (the wooden way we say
the names of faces long unseen).

Yet when a sun as white as stone
last August caused the lawn to glow,
a mourning dove dropped by to moan
that fall was on its way— then snow
—Don Barkin

Sunny Morning

I sit in silence
In the morning sun,
Counting my blessings
One by one.
My body is old
But my heart still feels young,
With so many songs
That are yet to be sung.
And when I do sing
My voice does feel free
To bring forth the joy
That is still within me
The wind now has died...
The sun is aglow
And there are the sparkles
That dance on the snow!

—Judy Hayes
After the last storm
January 30 2021

The Tenant

Sparks fly upward from the wood
piled in the hearth, then weave and float
and cry in the chimney's dark throat
until they reach the chimney-hood

where letting out their small breath
they turn the pale gray of death
and go like ghosts into the night,
while just outside the fire-light

his face is painted by a spark
that would have warmed him back to life
waiting for her in the dark
who would, then wouldn't, be his wife

long weeks ago (now gone to smoke,
with his brave scheme to buy the place)—
as, woken by her frozen face,
he gives the dying fire a poke.

—Don Barkin

Remembrance

Larry Klein

On January 3, Lawrence “Larry” Klein, 86, formerly of Seaford, NY, passed away peacefully. He was a wonderful and dedicated husband to his beloved wife of fifty-six years, Sondra. Larry was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1934 to Ben Klein and Sadie (Horowitz) Klein.

Growing up in Far Rockaway, NY, he attended Far Rockaway High School. A methodical thinker with a keen zest for learning, Larry became an Eagle Scout. After graduating from high school, Larry enlisted in the US Navy and served during the Korean War, from 1953 until his honorable discharge in 1957. He flew in a Grumman S2F submarine tracker, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Philippine Sea.


Larry studied electrical engineering at the RCA Institute and New York Institute of Technology. He received a masters degree in finance from CW Post University. An avid private pilot, Larry and a friend flew a private plane across the Atlantic Ocean, following the northern “Blue Spruce Route” to Europe in 1964. At the age of forty-eight, after working for Sperry Rand for twenty-two years, Larry, along with two partners, started Robocom Systems, a robotics engineering firm, which automated warehouses for clients such as Coors, AT&T, Boeing, and NASA. His business travels took him around the world.

When he retired, he and Sondra moved full-time to their weekend home in Monterey, MA, while also spending the winter month of February in Coronado, CA, where



he loved to watch the Navy SEALs train along the shore. Larry did not slow down in retirement. He spent his time fostering his passions. He loved cooking, baking, reading, astronomy, and carpentry. He shared his vast knowledge while serving on the Planning Board of Monterey, and the boards of Gould Farm and Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome. He was instrumental in bringing broadband service to western Massachusetts. He enjoyed enriching his life by taking classes and lecturing as a member of OLLI, spending mornings with the Monterey Coffee Club, attending the opera, Tanglewood, and theatre with Sondra. His labor of love was building his RV-10 single engine airplane.

He is survived by his wife, his two children Nancy (husband Arthur) and Brad, two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

*Innovative Icelandic
Horse Programs*
Solstice Farm

in Monterey
www.solsticeicelandics.com
(508) 873-9489



Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local
References



Sliding
Scale

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified
*"The best massage I ever had." – E.D.,
Monterey*

413-528-3798

Recollection

Larry Klein

When I first attended a Monterey Coffee Club meeting many years ago, I was struck by the diversity of its members, particularly in light of a community population totaling less than a thousand persons. When referencing the coffee club to third parties, I often described it as a very diverse group in terms of backgrounds, from an exceptionally astute elderly farmer who had attended the town's one-room school house to a fellow that single-handedly actually built an airplane in his garage. Obviously, the characters in question were Dick Tryon and Larry Klein. Two very different people, but both genuine pillars of the community.

Larry Klein will always be amongst the most intelligent and most memorable of the individuals that I have met in my many years on this earth. His intellect was never used to show any kind of superiority to anyone else, but rather to add insight and interest to any topic under discussion. He was a treat to any gathering or conversation. Did you know that he had a relative that

was Secretary of the Interior, and who was partly responsible for Mount Rushmore? His stories about working out the logistics for the US Navy and about building a company to provide the same service to NASA were rich with interesting insights. As an accomplished pilot, he provided the coffee club unusual insights about the plane that landed successfully in the Hudson River. He loved to cook and even worked as a chef at Wheatleigh in Stockbridge to better his culinary skills. Isn't that something? If someone raised a question that Larry did not have a ready answer for, Larry would take the time to fully research the subject and return with a full report. Even with all of his "brain-power," he had an excellent sense of humor and a wonderful sense of fairness. Most importantly, he was a loving partner to Sondra and very proud Dad to his son and daughter. These traits never diminished in anything he did or said. His life story would be an outstanding book.

One man's recollections of someone who is sorely missed by anyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

—George Cain

Youth Summer Cultural Grants April 16 Deadline

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set April 16 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, a fund of the foundation. The fund awards grants of \$200 to \$800 to young people ages thirteen to nineteen for participation in cultural or creative summer programs that foster their interest in the arts, such as theater internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folksinger who died in 1999. He had a deep understanding of and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help them purchase an instrument, study dance, or participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

Applications and guidelines are available online at BerkshireTaconic.org/SearchGrants, using the key words "Simple Gifts."

DOWNING & LANE, LLP


— ATTORNEYS AT LAW —

623 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040

FAX: (413) 528-5095

COURTNEY S. LANE
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM



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



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



Open Year Round

HUME
NEW ENGLAND
CHRISTIAN CAMPS

Summer Camps • Winter Camps • Weekend Retreats

Sharing The Gospel Of Jesus Christ

413.528.3604 • hume.org/newengland
73 Chestnut Hill Road • Monterey MA, 01245



Memories of Jan

When Jan and I were approaching ninety years of age and both daughters were living a long day's drive away, it seemed to be time to sell our home at 585 Main Road and move closer to both of them. We had put our hearts and souls into renovating the vacant cottage there by moving it to one side, digging a full basement, reinforcing all the structural beams, and then moving it back onto the original foundation. Jan had done a phenomenal job of decorating the new basement walls with cartoon characters of our four grandsons misbehaving. The whole house had become a truly picturesque landmark that we treasured. Bill Brockman had been the agent for selling it to us and said we should list it with his new man, Chapin Fish, who he said was the smartest he had ever met. Sure enough he found a buyer after just two weeks. Then we were quickly gone, leaving behind perhaps the best twenty years of our lives together.

Jan died a short time ago and my memory of happiness together is now mixed in with our move to Fairhaven, just around the corner from our daughter Elizabeth. The illustration on this page shows Jan sitting in our living room at Christmas time, looking out of our picture window toward the coastline wildlife. The drawing shows her needlepoint pillows and a decorated tree, waiting for a gathering of family together. As in Monterey, she had planted and land-



scaped all around the property, just as she had planted gladiolas around the Monterey Church, town hall, post office, store, and library. With her talents, she had been chair of the Bidwell House Museum gardening committee, and on annual clean up days in the flower beds, she served lunch and Bloody Marys to volunteers.

Jan was also a very talented artist and illustrator, designing and painting the cover of invitations to the first Bidwell fundraising parties, one of which was at Trustee President Bob Duffy's house at Rock Ridge, with cartoon drawings of the Tryon's Lowland Farm vehicles and

antique automobiles. She was well known as a very creative member of the Monterey Piecemakers Quilting Club organized by her best friend, Barbara Tryon. And as a new resident at the corner of Main Road and Bidwell Road, she was a popular visitor around the neighborhood, greeting Marie Maxwell, Betsy Camp, and Paula Moats, whose mother who was also a Bidwell family member. Paula moved near us here in Fairhaven, and we were very happy the friendship could continue. Other Monterey residents that lived further down Main Road like Bonner McAllester, Joe Baker, and Ray Coddington, always thought of Jan when they drove by into town, seeing her tending her gardens.

She was a very supportive wife for all of the time and energy I spent at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery and on the buildings and grounds committee at the Bidwell House Museum, not to mention writing and drawing a monthly column for the *Monterey News*. Editor Steve Moore visited us in Fairhaven and Jan soon became his best friendly critic after receiving every monthly issue. Both Steve and his wife Wendy suggested that I remember Jan planting flowers everywhere so that when spring comes the flowers will come to life and bloom in honor of her green thumb, bringing memories of her in Monterey and Fairhaven to live again like the reincarnated spirit of her love for gardening.

— George Emmons

The Berkshires' Premier Boutique Real Estate Firm

Taking care of people and working hard just like our founders, Jack & Bill, did for decades.

#1 Selling Realtor in the Berkshires
Chapin Fish, Broker-Owner

Visit us at our store
276 Main Street • Great Barrington
berkshiresforsale.com 413-528-4859

BROCKMAN
real estate
berkshiresforsale.com

Considering Selling?
Contact us for an honest and professional market analysis.

farm & home
American-made & Quality Goods, Gifts & Furniture for the Home & Garden

Remembrance

Janice Pinkham Emmons

Our beloved Jan—daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, hostess extraordinaire, dog lover, gardener, third-generation Appalachian Mountain Club Three Mile Island camper, and overall tour de force has left us peacefully after a brief illness, on January 22, under the wonderful care of her daughter Liz. She was the wife of George Beale Emmons for sixty-four years.

Her parents, Jan and Cliff Pinkham, met during the Great Depression and married with \$50 and a car to their name. Jan was born in Chicago in December 1929, and grew up at Highfields, her parents' farm and orchard in Groton, MA, with her brother Bill.



Jan's life might be described as a never-ending series of adventures and escapades full of grit and glamour. Tomboy, Acorn Street party house organizer, RCA career girl in New York City doing busi-



Jan Emmons at the time of her marriage to George.

ness with the likes of Elvis Presley, and creator of wonderful homes, gardens, and communities in Tuxedo Park, NY, South Salem, NY, Monterey, MA, and finally in Fairhaven, MA. Her beauty, sense of humor, boundless love for her family, and passion for a dazzling array of interests will live on forever in our hearts.

She leaves behind her husband George, brother and sister-in-law Bill and Sue Pinkham, daughters and sons-in-law Alice and Tim Maciejowski, and Liz and Mike Mulroy, and best of all, four highly-prized grandsons: Ames Colt, John Connery, Robin Connery, and Alex Colt.

Jan will be returning to Three Mile Island on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH. Please raise a toast in her honor.

—Alice Maciejowski

McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund

Deadline March 15

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, supports seniors who are residents of Monterey and are entering their first year at a college or university, as well as prior McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship recipients. Grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded. For more information and to apply by March 15, go to BerkshireTaconic.org/McLaughlinWilson.

Contributions February 2021

One of the nice things about this monthly publication is that it contains information that might be useful throughout the month. Many folks save their back issues as reference or historical record of the town.

But a little known use for this paper is as mulch for your garden paths! This is printed on nice quality paper, with biodegradable inks. It is wonderful to lay down in garden paths in the spring, and by mid-summer, both the weeds and the *Monterey News* will no longer be in evidence.

So thank you to the folks listed below, and to all the gardeners who've discovered this wonderful resource.

Jean Germain
John Callahan
Bonner McAllester
Paul DePreter
Judith Friedman
Andrew Somers
Bob Cutick & Lin Saberski
Glenn Heller
Matthew Tannenbaum



SUSAN M. SMITH

Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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

Power Outage?

Now that Donald Trump has exited the White House, how much influence will he wield on the political scene? Only time will tell. Our history, however, does offer a possible answer. Very, very few American presidents retained much power upon leaving office. Most passed quietly from the scene, some became respected “elder statesmen,” but not the “decision makers” they had formerly been. Of course this is not an entirely fair inquiry since our greatest presidents, Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, did not enjoy a post-presidency, and Washington died shortly after leaving office.

Still there are some notable exceptions who should be considered in this survey. Andrew Jackson, who left office in 1837, remained an acknowledged player in the Democratic Party,

forcefully supporting the annexation of Texas and the selection of James Polk as the party’s presidential candidate in 1844. Our sixth president, John Quincy Adams, after his term of office, became a nine-term Congressman from Massachusetts and an outspoken champion of the antislavery movement. William Howard Taft, after leaving office in 1913, joined the Yale law faculty, and then in 1920 became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during a period in which judicial conservatism was in the ascendancy. Though resigning after the disgrace of “Watergate,” Richard Nixon nevertheless managed, in the view of many, to “rehabilitate” himself and to enjoy an extended career as an elder statesman and sagacious analyst of the international scene. It’s been forty years since Jimmy Carter left the White House and his reputation as President still seems

to register not much beyond lackluster. Nevertheless, his post-presidency has been remarkable, not in terms of wielding power, but rather for the “good works” he has performed. His peacekeeping, election monitoring, and humanitarian efforts have been widely acclaimed, his religious convictions admired, and his writings widely appreciated.

So we finally arrive at the President who, compared to all others, managed to remain influential well beyond his White House years. Teddy Roosevelt, who became president in 1901 upon the assassination of President McKinley, could have run again in 1908 but to his lasting regret publicly announced well before that he would not. But upon breaking with his successor, President William Howard Taft, he chose to return to the political wars. He re-entered the fray in 1910, this time championing a “New Nationalism” and laying out an extensive progressive agenda. He ran for president in 1912 under the banner of the “Progressive Party.” And though he lost to Democrat Woodrow Wilson, he far exceeded Taft’s tally and gained the largest percentage of the overall vote of any third party ever. He determined to run again in 1916, but failed to gain the support of Republican leaders. Nevertheless, he did obtain Congressional support to raise a separate military unit under his command, to fight in World War I (as he’d done in the Spanish-American War). President Wilson, however, would not approve. Still, as the 1920 presidential campaign was getting underway, it appeared that Roosevelt had the inside track to his party’s nomination. It would not be. Roosevelt died in 1919 at the age of 61.

So, what does this excursion through our past reveal? It’s clear, if you exclude TR, that no other president has been able to remain the master of events after his term in office ends. The nation moves on; other individuals move up and take control. Donald Trump, in essential ways, is no Teddy Roosevelt. Still, Roosevelt was the consummate showman, was bombastic, played to an attentive press, loved the military, threatened war, and attracted an adoring public. Sound familiar?

—Richard Skolnik



TheBerkshireValet.com / 413.449.1202

Grocery Delivery

CONCIERGE LEVEL SHOPPING
FROM GUIDO'S FRESH
MARKETPLACE, GREAT
BARRINGTON

DELIVERY TO YOUR DOORSTEP

CONTACTLESS ONLINE
ORDERING AND PAYMENT

OUTSTANDING SHOPPER/CLIENT
COMMUNICATION

NEXT DAY DELIVERY ALWAYS
AVAILABLE

SAME DAY DELIVERY IF ORDER
IS RECEIVED BY 9 AM



WE MAKE THE GRADE

WEBSTER

design landscape horticulture

1719 North Main Street Sheffield, MA 01257

413-229-8124 websterlandscapes.com

Here's a Thought
What's in a Name?

One of the constant comments I've heard from folks who know my family story is, *What a huge cast of characters; how do you remember who's who?*

I guess the answer is threefold. I'm the one with the motivation. I've met, or lived with, enough of them to have a structure for understanding something about the others as well, and I enjoy exploring systems so I've created family trees.

My first family tree is the one I created for my milk family, the nurture family I grew up with: Mom, Dad, and my brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, great-aunts and -uncles, and, yes, great-grandparents, on both sides. Most records are easy to find, back to the last half of the 1800s, but unless I hire a professional genealogist, or spend more time on research than I do breathing, there's not much earlier documentation available to me as a casual explorer of these Irish, German, and Italian lines.

Then there's the tree for my blood family, my DNA relatives. My maternal line is the one I know best, the family where I'm one of eleven sibs, and have a collection of nine aunts and uncles. I've met four of my sibs, along with nieces, a nephew, cousins, my one remaining aunt, and five of their assorted spouses, but the connections don't end there.

Here's a good example, one of many. My maternal first cousin Katie (Mary Catherine) was the first blood relative I ever encountered. While I'm Mary Kate now, my adoption birth certificate confirms I was named Mary Katherine and my memory confirms my childhood nickname: Katie.

Oh, and as I got to know her sister Mary Gin, who was given up for adoption, we discovered that she was baptized in "my" parish church. We lived on parallel streets for almost a year while she was in foster care, so we were neighbors long before we became friends.

My paternal line? Good direct-line records back to the mid-1700s on this continent, but connections with living people? Not so much. Better description? A perfect storm of events at first connection exquisitely orchestrated to screech to a halt and go no further.



"That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet." Act II, Scene II, Romeo and Juliet.

Two members of my father's extended family line have been a great help with research over the past few years, but there's a personal reserve there that I respect and honor. I figured from the start that if I'm to get to know any paternal relatives, someone will want to get to know me, too, and make themselves known.

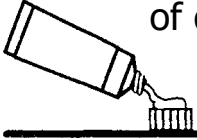
Very recently, someone did. We're related through his birth mother, one of my paternal first cousins. I knew from earlier research that her name is Catherine, but I was still surprised when her son told me she's known (of course) as Kate.

Who knows, I may get to know her, too. And since the cast of characters is growing faster than the available roster of names, I may have to print a playbill as well as create family trees, just to be sure I really do remember who's who.

—Mary Kate Jordan

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Jacob's Word Ladder

Nadia Makuc wanted to share a fun school task with everyone. (The answers are on page 27 if you get stumped.)

- Left column clues are hints for four-letter words in the right column.
- Each word rung differs by one letter from the words above and below.
- The first two word rungs are done—your turn! (And one rung halfway down so you can start again if you need to.)

With final rung, GB Bibliophile location	BOOK
The Swedish Chef's tagline	BORK
Humane Society sounds (but not Purradise)	
Roadside sights, or wedding venues	
Arms in the summer	
Taxi price	
High Lawn, Taft, or Gould	
Cheese, found on top of Baba Louie's food	
Lenox's Kennedy	
FedEx alt., Barrington ___ & Ship	
Pushpin AKA	
Cantina 229 serves this on Tuesdays	
Central Texas City	
Crazy, to Redcoats	
Bag, or maybe football tackle	
Blue Q makes this footwear fashionable	
Used to keep secure	
Crazy, on the Iberian	
GB's ice cream	
Little, on the Iberian	
One trillionth	PICO
Do this to apples at Windy Hill or Riska's	
Do this to a lollipop from Robin's	
Deficient	
Dainty white material	
Mansfield, Garfield, or York	
Shiro sells this adult drink	
Identical	
Membership club owned by Walmart	
MMRHS and MERHS students take these	
There's five in volleyball and tennis	
There's seven of these around the world	
Harney and Sons Products	
Two of these in a pod	
Dirt you burn	
Chicken or beef from local farms	
Surrounding some castles, but not Searles	
Not the least	
e.g., 01257 needed for the	
Hiker gone awry	
With first rung, GB bibliophile location	

Burning up the woods: It's About More than BTUs

"I think that I shall never see . . . " anything as wonderful as a tree, or sentiments to that effect. And then there is this even better chorus from "Big Green Tree," a song by Dennis Murphy.

By golly, I admire a tree!
Big tall and sappy,
Really makes me happy.
I love'em 'cause it seems to me
Nothing could be finer than a big green tree.

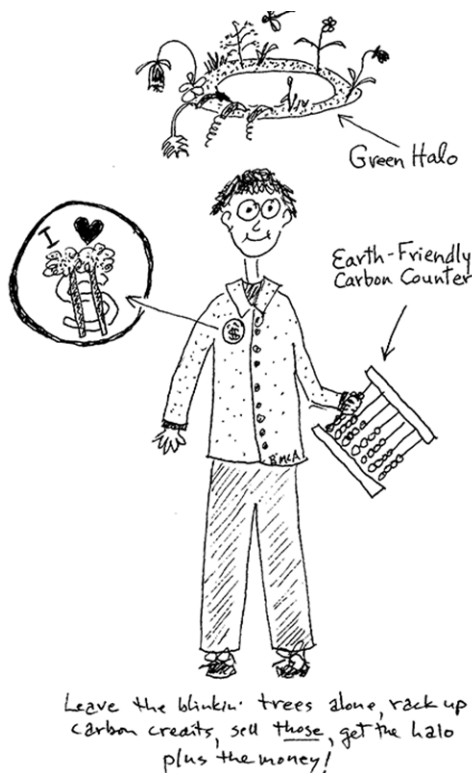
Poets are not the only folks inspired to write about trees. There was Christopher Stone in 1972 who wrote *Should Trees Have Standing, toward legal rights for natural objects*. This book has been called a "rallying point" for the thriving environmental movement of the time, but Joyce Kilmer's tree poem came much earlier (1913) and simply made a case for beauty and god-createdness. Kilmer himself died young a few years later in the Great War, gone to his god, like many a tree.

Here in Monterey trees have gone down, even in quite recent years, in the name of forest management, even in the name of habitat creation for cottontail rabbits. Some folks have cut trees to build a house, and then cut many more to keep it warm over the years. That was us, back in the day and then in the forty-five winters here on the rocky wooded hillside. Trees were our only fuel for heat, but we even cut them to make maple syrup to sell, so now we were knocking them down and burning them to make some money.

We used to visit old friends up by the St. Lawrence and we gave them some syrup. We told how we boiled the sap, here in our sugarhouse, and Alison Murie said, "Sounds like a lot of BTUs for a little sugar." She never did mince words to make nice. As one of her daughters put it, she liked to scoff.

She was right, though. Her partner Martin kept a few lightly tended bee hives and happily brought in a big pot full of honey, wax, bee bodies, and propolis. He was beaming, but Alison said, "It's all right if you like that crap."

We have to sort out what is crap and make good choices, especially when it



comes to trees. For the absolutists among us this is easy. "Leave the effing trees alone!" to borrow the sentiment of Doug Peacock who was writing on the subject of grizzly bears. (*Grizzly Years: in search of the American wilderness*, 1990.)

Here in Massachusetts there is a rush to go green, get off fossil fuels, look around for what seems like it is "renewable, clean," and handy. Unfortunately, this search has led many a politician, investor, and old-style forester to the cutting of trees on both private and public lands in the name of biomass. Biomass is a good-looking word, kind of like natural gas. Biology, natural, these are healthy notions we think. It used to be we biologists used the term "biomass" to mean a volume or weight of some living or organic thing, as in plant or animal tissue. You see a large elephant and say, "Hmm. Plenty of biomass, there." Or the bigger person on the other end of the seesaw has got "more biomass" than me.

Now the word has been co-opted by extractive logging and burning to greenwash clear-cutting and chipping trees in the name of electricity production. Because "biomass" is such a friendly looking word, one we can identify with as organisms, we are lured into thinking it is a good idea to cut down our forests

and burn them, green even, as a clean, renewable fuel. In fact, we are expected as ratepayers to subsidize this industry because it sounds like we should want to support it

Words, words. They matter so much and this one is doing tons of harm. In this time of emergency, of existential crisis loaded with horrible racial and economic inequities all over the world, the worst thing we can do is destroy forests and burn them. This is a source of fuel for electricity far dirtier than coal. If we count up the tons of CO₂ spewed into the air per unit of electricity produced, biomass lets out 150% as much as coal. Yes, coal should be left in the ground. And living trees especially should be left standing because they function as carbon sinks, sequestering CO₂ and storing it in their biomass, both above and below ground. Not only this but forests of course provide habitat for all sorts of fellow organisms, from the teeniest to the very large. Cottontail rabbits not so much. The deep woods are not their habitat and never have been. Other things live there and like the trees, should have standing to do so. Let's have bunnies in the meadows and wood thrushes in the woods.

When we heard William Moomaw give a talk about the woods, we decided to quit burning trees. This has been a household revolution and not an easy one. We did cut down two plum trees in our orchard to put up a "solar system," as Dan Quayle would call it, to make the electricity to cover our new mini-splits, or heat pumps. We go sweep the panels after a snowfall. Our house is comfy, and the woodstoves sit quiet, where once they were like living personalities, audible. You could sidle up to them and roast a little on one side. We cooked on our old Glenwood range. We are still grid-tied, and if the power goes out we will fire it up and thank our gods for the woodpile and a little compromise. Otherwise, we look to our long-johns and the sun. And to the trees for clean air and so much more.

"Nothing could be finer than a big green tree."

—Bonner McAllester



A Life on Skates, Part 2

From Steel to Urethane "Blades"

My life on skates took an unexpected turn decades after racing in the Silver Skates at Madison Square Garden. I was eighteen then, a college freshman. What with finishing college, graduate school, starting a career, family, children, then grandchildren, skating slipped into the background. From my twenties through my fifties, there were occasional visits to the Wollman Rinks in NYC. The Brooklyn Ice Palace had long since closed.

Crowded with families and kids, at Wollman there was little opportunity to dash in and out among the skaters as at the Ice Palace. Still, there was the joy of pushing my little kids around the rink. "Faster, faster," they'd yell, as I held them in front of me, their skates wobbling on the ice like some drunken rudder. Occasionally they'd give me a break to zip around for a couple of laps. But it wasn't hockey.

I was well into my forties when I next had a chance to play. My cousin Julie, living in a northern NJ suburb, equally prone to the family hockey addiction, had somehow found a pick-up game played late at night on an outdoor rink nearby. He invited me to join him. One really has to love hockey to drive from Brooklyn to NJ on a cold winter night, get knocked around, and then drive the hour home. Such is the fate of a hockey addict.

What Julie neglected to tell me was that many of the men were Canadian ex-pats, experienced players, not above delivering the occasional body check, despite an unspoken understanding that this was a no-no. Inevitably, checking led to fighting, which led to Julie hopping over the boards to join the melee. I stayed put, preserving both my dignity and my teeth.

All these events preceded my knowledge of the Berkshires and Monterey. In 1982, my wife Laura and I joined a share house on Lake Buel. Share houses, usually associated with the Long Island Hamptons, were also prevalent in the Berkshires. Our house, directly across the lake from Deerwood, had seven bedrooms and a large western-facing dock. Advertising "canoeing, coladas, and conversation," we attracted singles and couples from the city eager to escape for weekends of merriment. One of the weekend "must-do's" was the



Lin Saberski

Saturday afternoon co-ed volleyball games played adjacent to the Monterey Town Hall. There were also Sunday morning softball games, but those, as best I recall, were understood to be just for full-time residents of the town.

From the rollicking good times the share house provided, and the love of the area it produced, came three marriages and three homes bought near Monterey. On one winter visit to our friends' just off Sandisfield Road, we went to skate on York Lake. The conditions were perfect. A smooth surface from one side of the lake to the other. The skating was like a dream, almost like flying. This presaged a later experience I had, also visiting those same

friends, which I will describe next month. But first, the unexpected turn of events.

It was sometime in the mid eighties that the first inline roller skates came into use, but they were hardly common. Earlier versions lacked brakes and were designed for hockey. Then there was the Rollerblade, which became popular enough for the brand name to become synonymous with inline skating. Still, "blading" was a niche activity. Roller rinks still used the traditional four-wheel skates which, compared to ice skating, felt clunky and slow the one or two times I went. Essentially, I hadn't roller skated since my teens.

Occasionally, I'd see a guy blading on city streets. Then more in Central Park doing >

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT^{INC}



- PPG Paint Guarantee
- BBB Accredited Business
- Eco-Friendly Waterborne Paint
- Laser Frame Measuring
- Plastic Welding
- We Arrange for Rental Cars
- Open Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00



PERFECTING THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1979

1939 N Main St (Rt 7), Sheffield MA 01257 - (413) 528-1457

www.precision-auto.com email: precision.auto@roadrunner.com



Life on Blades, Part 2, cont.

tricks that were astounding: threading rapidly through a line of closely spaced pylons, their feet scissoring as they sped between them; dancing to rock music; racing and stopping in hockey fashion on the edges of their wheels. I was impressed and intrigued.

Before committing to buying a pair, I rented one from a nearby sports store. These Rollerblades did have brakes; a hard rubber piece attached to the heel which you pressed down to slow or stop. Figuring that I had enough skating experience to handle myself, I set out, albeit tentatively. The first thing I discovered was that almost anything could make you fall, especially if you were moving slowly. Twigs, uneven pavement, pebbles, cracks in the sidewalk. Going faster, they were less likely to put you down, but the fall, of course, would be worse. Caught between a rock and a hard place. An expression coined by a blader, no doubt.

Despite the cars, I felt safer skating in the street than on the obstacle course of the Brooklyn sidewalks; uprooted slabs of bluestone, pebbled concrete that shook my whole body, and of course, pedestrians.



Lin Saberski

Bob's eightieth birthday cake, blading up the Brooklyn Bridge.

But the streets I soon realized were not without the perils. On my first outing, I skated slowly to the Brooklyn Heights promenade, a short distance from my home. With a wide walkway and a beautiful view of the harbor, this was a place I knew well. I skated its length easily and with increasing confidence, practicing stops and turns. Stopping at its northern end, I debated whether to double back on

it or return on the side streets. Choosing the latter, and registering no awareness that it wasn't called Brooklyn Heights for nothing, I suddenly found myself going down hill...fast! Pressing the brake as hard as I could, I slowed but couldn't stop. Starting to panic, I turned sharply toward the sidewalk and fell. Fortunately, I wasn't hurt. And importantly, no one saw me. I had some very scary moments that day. When I got home, shaken, I realized two things: first, that I was lucky to have survived, and second, that I had to try it again.

It wasn't long before I became comfortable on my new skates. Blading was great fun and terrific exercise. I'd skate over the Brooklyn Bridge to the traffic-free bike lanes on the west side of Manhattan. Returning to Brooklyn was a long, hard climb on the bridge. But it had its rewards. Views of the harbor, the city, the Statue of Liberty never lost their magic. And I loved the long downhill. Swooping in wide arcs, leaning into the curves, I felt once again as if I were flying.

As well as being great exercise, skating was by far the easiest, quickest way to shop. Forget about parking in crowded downtown Brooklyn. On skates, I could cover many stops along bustling Court Street and Atlantic Avenue. Admittedly, it took awhile for storekeepers to trust that this funny-looking septuagenarian wasn't going to wreak havoc, crashing into shelves or tumbling customers like so many bowling pins. In time, on the rare occasions that I came by without blades, helmet-less and inches shorter, they'd jokingly ask, "Where are your skates?" For them, my blades had apparently become part of my identity, just as they had for me.

Instead of a chore, shopping became fun, not least because of the attention I'd get. At first I was puzzled by the querulous stares, the looks of surprise or disbelief I'd see as I skated by. But far more often, and more gratifying, were the smiles, the thumbs-up, and even the occasional "You go Pops." It took awhile for me to realize that I looked much older than I felt, and that the sight of someone my age on skates was, to say the least, unusual. The pleasure in skating and the smiling faces and expressions of wonderment it sometimes evoked seemed all of a piece. I felt as though I was sharing joy with strangers. What could be better?

—Bob Cutick

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

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

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

JOHN FIELD
TREE SERVICE, INC.

QUALITY TREE CARE...SAFELY DELIVERED

fieldtreeservice.com 413-329-6519



Wildlife in February

Early in February Steve Snyder discovered a bird's nest in a multiflora rose bush. It had been taken over and put to use as a cache for delicious rose hips, and the creatures known for this are the deer mice. They will sometimes roof over a bird's nest to make a safe home for themselves, up in trees or bushes.

Also early in the month, Bob Cutick sent in a photograph of a Carolina Wren at his bird feeder. There is a junco there, too. In the bird department we also have accounts of Pileated Woodpeckers in the woods at Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen's place, on New Marlborough Road, and a Barred Owl farther along down the road, in the middle of the month. Joe Baker found the track or impression in snow of the place where a Barred Owl found a meal, even though the snow was deep, and took a photograph. About that same time, Joe reported the first singing, or coo-ing, of a Mourning Dove here on the eastern part of Hupi Road.

Anna Poirier wrote of a rare sighting she'd had of a female Common Redpoll in late January eating seeds on dried plants along the side of Gould Road. Redpolls are rare winter visitors here, but when they come they almost always travel in flocks. Usually, they spend the winter much farther north, feasting on the crop of birch seeds. When there is an off-year for northern birch seeds, the flocks of redpolls head farther south and we see them at our feeders. These unusual appearances are known as "irruptions." We have not seen any of these in some years, and neither has Anna. Anna heard the solo bird give her "high nasal call," as she was foraging. We hope she found her flock.

Chris Goldfinger has sent in the first very early report of a Yellow Bellied Sapsucker, on February 11. We have always looked forward to the return of these birds, but generally not until we are well into our sugaring season, when we drill for sap ourselves.

As for the local mammals, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have seen plenty of deer tracks along Wellman Road. Our neighbor in Otis sent photos of the tracks of the Mountain Lion he saw last month, also recent photos of



Joe Baker's Barred Owl hunting print. Note the drops of blood.

what must be a woodchuck in the snow near his place, though we think of them as staying down in hibernation until life gets easier up above.

We have a report of an otter slide trail from Kit Patten, who saw this near Brett Road. Otters will take a few running leaps and then slide on their bellies, as a good way of traveling, even upslope. I saw some otter slide trails up in the woods across Route 23 from here, and our Otis neighbor saw otters playing in the snow, near where he lives, back in early February.

Steve and Wendy have seen bounding fox tracks in the deep snow near New Marlborough Road, also the tracks of voles and squirrels, though there was no sign of personal encounter: lucky for the small rodents, too bad for the hunting foxes.

Here we have our first chipmunk of the spring, up from hibernation, headed for spilled seeds under the bird feeder. The birds have begun their spring songs and seasonal drumming. People wonder if it is time to take down the bird feeders, but we have seen no bears here, yet. And we sure enjoy seeing and supporting the birds. Any day now, the sappers and tappers will be out in the maple groves looking for sugar.

Thank you for all your reports.

—Bonner McAllester

528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com



Above: Steve Snyder's rosehips nest.

Below: Bob Cutick's Carolina Wren.





Jonny Bill Wilkens drew out the bear family and the winter wind goddess when she and Bruce were living at their farm in west Kansas. Bruce cut them out.



Alarm Response - Security Checks
Key Holder - Property Management

Residential - Commercial

KMB

HOUSE CHECKING
UNLIMITED

Kristopher M. Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington, MA 01230

kbalestro@aol.com
home 413.528.3944
cell 413.429.7094

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136

chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

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

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

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

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

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

vivint.Solar

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

Caption Contest



This photo by Bonsai Cox just looked like the beginning of a joke...

Send in a caption, or a joke, and a panel of arbitrary judges will pick the best—maybe it'll be all of them—to print in April.

MontereyNews9@gmail.com

Subject line: Three squirrels...

Jacob's Word Ladder, page 21 Answers

Book, Bork, Bark, Barn, Bare, Fare, Farm, Parm, Park, Pack, Tack, Taco, Waco, Wack, Sack, Sock, Lock, Loco, SoCo, Poco, Pico, Pick, Lick, Lack, Lace, Lake, Sake, Same, Sams, SATs, Sets, Seas, Teas, Peas, Peat, Meat, Moat, Most, Post, Lost, Loft

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Online worship is available on the

Lenox website blog:

lenoxucc.org/blog

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information

or Assistance:

413-528-5850

www.montereychurch.org

Find us on Facebook too.

Police Emergency Contacts

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

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us

- Police dispatch service number:

413-236-0925.

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

528-3211

Monterey News

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

For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413)-528-4007 or email.



I'm happy to do the small jobs!

(413) 528-9323

CORASHIRE CARPENTRY and HOME IMPROVEMENT

A Lifetime of Experience - Professional Results

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

Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner

Get IT Solutions Software Hardware Networking Smart Home Systems



support@bfcma.com 413.429.4555
bfcma.com

MONTEREY NEWS

PO Box 9

MONTEREY, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Summer hours begin March 14

Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Change Service Requested

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Note additional Weds. & Fri. hours

Monday.....7-9 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,
.....& 2-5 p.m.
Thursday4-8 p.m.
Friday.9 to 12 a.m., & 4-8 p.m.
Saturday ..9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
..... & 7-9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Rick Mielke Seasonal Caretaking

Professional Year-Round Maintenance
of Your House and Grounds

(413) 329-0331

• Fully Insured

roadmaster333@yahoo.com

P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Copyright © Monterey News 2021
email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels Joe Baker
Treasurer Cindy Hoogs

Contributions from local artists this month:

Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 19;

George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 22.

Corashire Realty
Assisting Buyers & Sellers since 1966



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



Nancy Dinan, founder

215 State Road, Great Barrington, MA
Call for an appointment to see our Monterey listings
Member of MLS.

BIZEN

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

On the Cutting Edge

備前

"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times

Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.

413-528-4343

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