

MONTEREY NEWS

May 2019
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 5



Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand, Swap Shop, Church foyer



Melissa Zdzinski

Jake Martin is receiving funding for an independent video project from Eagle Fund. Jake is pictured above with Catherine Miller, founder of the Eagle Fund. See page 8.

Create something positive with your agenda, and your accomplishments will speak for themselves—if not, be silent.
Letters page 8

Chapin and Kevin Fish, the new owners of the Monterey General Store, will tell us their plans for its latest reincarnation.
Community Potluck page 12



Monterey Arbor Quest page 20

We look forward to the opening of a new iteration of the Knox Gallery.
Knox Gallery News page 9

No, America was not made for kings. But far more people were worried that the new nation might fall prey to aristocratic rule.
The Founding Formula page 29

I'm gearing up to do a plastic fast for one month, and, hopefully, become a little more conscious about my choices.
Talkin' Trash pages 6-7

On April 21, twenty-five children were set loose to find seven hundred eggs, which they did in eight minutes flat.
Library Notes page 11

One early bird writer, Frank M. Chapman, wrote, "The dead leaves fly before his attack."
Return of the Chewink page 24

At this year's Annual Town Meeting we voters will have a chance to take important, necessary steps toward becoming a designated Green Community.
In My View-C. Edelman page 2

We do not need to be adding additional funds for a position that we have so many different opinions on. Let's be smart about this, and make a decision based on intelligent information.
In My View-K. Basler pages 3-4

Would our advancing into the twenty-first century with a modern government be worth the money?
In My View-D. Coburn pages 4-5

We invite everyone to bring their thoughts and questions to the annual town meeting to help decide the best efforts.
Lake Garfield Milfoil page 6

I could hardly figure out who was more vain. Maybe me? And then, not missing a beat, they tore into Mockingbird, their crazy good dance tune.
The Cruellest Month page 26

But a whisper of oblivion,
A sibilance of fear
In the darkness.
Dread page 17



Wildlife pages 26-27

"Why'd he have to be the hero?" they asked, a little disgusted. "Cuz he's a doctor, he couldn't ask for any help?"
From the Meetinghouse pages 14-15

Town Elections Tuesday, May 7

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 7. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the Monterey town hall. Below is the slate for the elections. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks. Party affiliation, or Independent status, is noted in parentheses for contested seats.

This list is as accurate as could be when going to print. Information for this list came from party committees, the town clerk's office, and any candidates who contacted the *Monterey News* directly.

Contested Seat

Constable (3 years)

Kevin Fitzpatrick (R)
Julio Rodriquez (D)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)

Jonathan Levin* (R)

Board of Assessors (3 year)

Stan Ross* (R)

Board of Assessors (1 year)

Gary Shaw* (D & R)

Board of Health (3 years)

Julio Rodriquez* (R)

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

Janet Dutcher (R)

Finance Committee (3 years)

Jonathan Sylbert* (D & R)

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)

Lisa Smyle* (R & D)
Mickey Jervas* (D & R)

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc* (D & R)

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)

Steve Snyder (R)
Julio Rodriquez* (D & R)

Parks Commission (1 year)

Wendy Benjamin (D & R)

Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)

Tom Sawyer* (R)
Roger Tryon* (D & R)

Planning Board (3 years)

Nancy Marcus* (R & D)

Select Board (3 years)

Steven Weisz (D & R)

Tax Collector (3 years)

Mari Enoch* (R & D)

Tree Warden (1 year)

Kevin Fitzpatrick* (R & D)

In My View Will Monterey Light the Way Again?



Can Monterey be part of creating a clean, affordable, and resilient energy future for our town and Massachusetts? Can Monterey po-

tentially receive substantial grants to fund energy initiatives, renewable energy and innovative projects? Can Monterey provide guidance and incentives to new home builders and residents to be more energy efficient, comfortable, and environmentally responsible? Can Monterey encourage residents to bring our town into the Green Communities initiative which has already partnered with over two hundred and fifty communities across the state? At this year's Annual Town Meeting we voters will have a chance to take important, necessary steps toward becoming a designated Green Community.

We have already received a small preliminary grant and have been working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, preparing to apply for Green Community status this fall. In a nutshell, there are five criteria the town must meet to succeed in this effort: adopt by-right siting to allow renewable energy project/s in select locations; expedite permitting for renewable energy projects in select locations; establish an energy reduction plan for town facilities and vehicles; adopt a policy which will encourage the town to purchase more fuel efficient municipal vehicles, if available; adopt what is referred to as the "stretch" building code, requiring new construction to meet upgraded energy efficiency standards. Two of these criteria are being addressed on the Warrant, and will need voters' support.

Article 21 is asking approval of the "Stretch Energy Code" to upgrade design and construction standards for effective

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use of energy. Please note that this applies only to new construction. This would be under the supervision of the Building Commissioner.

Article 22 proposes a zoning amendment for the purpose of creating a "large solar overlay district." This applies to a town-owned property, described in the Article, and would allow by-right the installation of solar generation within that zone. This would be under the supervision of the Planning Board.

Instead of going into detail here, check out the information provided on the Warrant which residents have received in the mail, also available online. In addition, Jim Barry, Western Mass Regional Coordinator for the Department of Energy Resources will have given us further information at the April 26 meeting hosted by the Finance Committee in advance of the Annual Town Meeting. Monterey Building Commissioner Don Torrico will be present at the Annual Town Meeting to answer questions you may have about the Stretch Building Code. And please read up online about the Green Communities program which has already been adopted by many of our neighbors, including Sandisfield, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Egremont, and Becket. Find out more at mass.gov, by entering a search request, "Becoming a designated Green Community."

If our community's clean environment, renewable energy policy, and financial responsibility are meaningful to you, please get informed and consider voting "Yes" on Articles 21 and 22. Let's do our part toward creating a clean, affordable, and resilient energy future.

Looking forward,

—Carol Edelman
Select Board, Chair

Carol Edelman is retiring from the select board after three years of service to the town.

Editor's Note: In My View is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.

In My View Hold off on Town Administrator



As we approach town meeting, there is a movement by a small but determined group of residents to bypass process and force, because they know what's best for Monterey, a decision to hire a town administrator. The question that we all must grapple with is—do we need a town administrator?

Truthfully, I don't know, or maybe better, I haven't reached a final conclusion. As I look back over the last five years, the changes have been major, and we tend not to remember the chaos town government was in four years ago. We, I use "we" because our form of government puts everyone in the picture, endured a two-year period where we had a total of four town accountants, five town treasurers, and three town clerks.

The select board asked for help and the Department of Revenue (DoR) sent in a team to evaluate town hall and make recommendations. We took that report and used it as guide to make change happen. We changed the accountant, treasurer, and town clerk positions from elected to appointed through two town elections. We changed our financial audit from every three years to every year.

And we hired a part-time town administrator, but within three months he had resigned. His overly aggressive and control-oriented style did not mesh with Monterey. As it turned out, we dodged the proverbial "bullet" when we discovered later that the town he ended up in brought charges against him, and within two months of his hiring, had started dismissal procedures, including an Attorney General and FBI investigations over improper use of authority.

His short tenure in both positions should be seen as a cautionary tale of being careful what you wish for, and that what you have maybe needs a closer look. The list of problems that occurred during his short tenure as our town administrator was long and serious. He fired the existing town accountant and forced out our elected treasurer, and brought in his own team. Both individuals left when the town administrator left, and soon after, we discovered the accountant had no formal training and left desk drawers filled with unpaid bills, checks sent out that were never approved by town warrants, IRS inquiries not answered.

After consultation with the Department of Revenue, the select board decided to hire a professional accounting group, approved by the DoR, to handle both our accounting and treasurer needs. Protecting tax dollars is the most important job that we undertake, and we took the position that professional financial overview coupled with yearly audits accomplished this.

I bring all this past up only to point out the steps the select board took to safeguard the town.

It's also important to note that through all this turmoil and conflict the town maintained an even course, thanks to the hard work and professionalism of our town employees. It takes the coordinated work of many, starting with our administrative assistant, to keep Monterey functioning at a high level. It is worth noting that this past year, even with a seriously problematic select board, the town received over \$4 million dollars in state grants. I've written about this before, but in this context it is important today to recall the accomplishments over the past five years while all the other problems were happening:

- Two bridges replaced, one bridge renovated, at a savings of over \$2 million dollars.
- A new transfer station which, because of design and resident recycling commitment, has saved us money and lowered tax dollars spent.
- Almost \$50,000 in transfer station grants received allowing for increased recycling.
- A state grant that has allowed us to help renovate seven houses of income-eligible residents, with more in the works.
- Renovation of the fire house.
- Opening a new community center.
- Renovation and expansion of our library.
- Repaving of one-half of our town's paved roads.
- An agreement reached with AT&T and Vertex Towers for a new cell phone tower.
- A tax rate that is still the fifth lowest in Berkshire County.

All the above does not happen in a vacuum!
Cont. on page 4

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Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner

Cont. from page 3

All the above brings us back to the question, “Do we need a town administrator?”

I don’t know. I do know that Monterey has an enviable record of accomplishment over the past few years. So where does all this negativity come from? Why have some gone to the extreme of writing letters to the *Berkshire Record* and signing them from a nonexistent person? Why would a select board member send an e-mail to a fellow select board member stating, “I don’t know whether you are lazy, venal or just too stupid to be a public representative. You have neither the courage nor moral capacity to do the right thing when it makes you look bad. I look forward with relish to your return to private life”? (Permission granted from the recipient to use this message.) I would normally say that Monterey is better than this, but the past three months have raised my doubts. Have we joined with the craziness in Washington and begun practicing incivility, misogynist criticism, and fake news? I hope not.

Even with the best of intentions, it is very easy to develop positions that one might consider solutions, but without good public discourse, fail to take in the whole picture.

When I think back on the help we got from the state three years ago it seems reasonable to do the same thing again.

So—here’s what we should be voting on at our Annual Town Meeting:

- Change the article that includes money for a town administrator from \$17,500 to \$1. This keeps the line item and it basically becomes a place holder.

- Reduce the health insurance line item by \$23,256, which is the cost of a family plan for a town administrator.
- The total of the above is \$40,756 (Monies that will raise your taxes).
- Vote in favor of the special article that provides money for a town hall management and operations study conducted by the Collins Center for Public Management, a well respected institution that has a stellar reputation of honest, unbiased reporting.

The time line with the Collins Center would give us six months for the study and recommendations. If the study demonstrates the need for a town administrator, then we would hold a special town meeting to allocate funds and move forward.

This year is an especially difficult year with budget requests. The school budget will increase the town budget by \$91,766. The new library will increase the budget by \$125,258 plus an additional \$23,256 for the library director’s health insurance. That’s \$240,280 in addition to the normal 2% salary increases.

We do not need to be adding additional funds for a position that we have so many different opinions on. Let’s be smart about this—do the work necessary and come up with a good decision for the town based on intelligent information.

— Kenn Basler
Select Board

Editor’s Note: The quoted email text above is from a message conveyed via the town web domain and is thus a public document.

In My View Budget for an Administrator



On Saturday May 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m., Monterey residents will come together at the annual town meeting. We will be called upon to exercise

our judgment on many important issues. In almost every instance the goal will be delivering needed and desired municipal services more efficiently and at the lowest possible cost.

The Monterey Ad-Hoc Restructuring Committee studied those problems extensively and then submitted its reasoned recommendations for improving our local government in June 2015. The report was well received and quickly led to responsive town meeting and select board decisions which have served us well. But we have yet to achieve the committee’s most transformative recommendation—appointment of a town administrator.

On that issue, the Ad-Hoc Restructuring Committee said, “It is heartening to this committee that at our recent Annual Town Meeting the voters approved this concept . . . by a very large majority of 66-10.” The committee’s own vote was 8-1 in favor of a town administrator form of government. And the committee members voting on this issue were these well respected citizens: Larry Klein, Bethany Mielke, Norma Champigny, Susan Gallant, Scott Jensen, Bob Lazzarini, Muriel Lazzarini, Ray Tryon, and Steven Weisz. With only one dissent, they asserted that a “professional Town Administrator would address our lack of a Human Resources person in Town Hall and could provide an environment where communication is open and welcome and all . . . employees could flourish.”

The committee also emphasized this: “One overarching problem is the absence of Select Board influence on the ‘operations phase.’” Indeed, noted the committee, many employees “described them [the Select Board] as not having exercised adequate supervision over the workforce of the town.”

In its conclusion, the committee wrote, “The requirements of administering a municipality are becoming more and

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more complex and it behooves us to get ahead of the curve and have a professional to keep us informed, to keep us running smoothly and to provide accurate information for decision-making. This person would provide supervision over all town activities and would be a resource for all of our employees and citizens.”

Over a year later, at the select board’s request, the MA Division of Local Services, reported on our financial management structure. Noting the continuing absence of a professional town administrator, the report observed the importance of creating that position “to provide oversight, analytical support, and assist the select board in coordinating the town’s financial management.” The report also listed sixteen comparable towns, finding that administrative assistants were used in only three towns, while the rest (81%) used town administrators.

The Division of Local Services also said this: “When searching for the town’s first administrator, the select board should consider hiring a retired town administrator interested in a brief assignment. Working short term with the selectmen to more clearly define and establish the foundation for a permanent position, this person will have the experience to manage daily activities, supervise staff, and coordinate the budget process.”

Rather than follow the suggested procedural approach of the Division, the select board hired a part-time town administrator. The appointment foundered for reasons too complex to discuss here, and the majority of the select board turned its attention to other issues.

At this year’s town meeting, you will be asked to consider two items related to having a town administrator. A partial year’s salary request of \$17,500 (Account 123) for the administrator and a \$6,000 request (warrant article 6) for a study by the Collins Center of the University of Massachusetts on whether Monterey should have a town administrator. Opponents of the salary request point out that with benefits, the total cost of that position would be \$29,170, and suggest eliminating those expenses from the budget until the Collins report is received. As a supporter of the salary request, I think it is pointless to waste \$6,000 on

an unnecessary report to tell us what we already know. If we are serious about wanting to deliver needed and desired municipal services more efficiently and at the lowest possible cost, Monterey needs a town administrator.

To more quickly achieve that goal this fiscal year, I suggest we add the \$6,000 item to the town administrator salary item. To reduce the tax burden, I also propose that we eliminate the \$3,000 budget request (Account 120). There is no point to the town paying for the administrative assistant to be trained as a procurement officer when that position would be filled, if at all, by the new town administrator.

Perhaps the key issue is whether we should appoint a part-time or a full-time town administrator. Obviously full-time is more expensive, but what you get is total dedication to the town’s needs. That cost could be offset by savings on the administrative assistant since the functions of that position would be greatly reduced. Ultimately, the cost per house would be

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no more than about \$150 a year. Would our advancing into the twenty-first century with a modern government be worth the money? That’s one of the decisions we face at this year’s town meeting.

—Don Coburn
Select Board

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Lake Garfield Milfoil A Citizens' Petition

At Monterey's Annual Town Meeting to be held Saturday morning, May 4, Article 19 will present a citizens petition for an appropriation of \$30,000 to continue the work of removing invasive Eurasian milfoil from Lake Garfield, and to support the continued research into lake health by qualified lake scientists.

Eurasian water milfoil, introduced to North America sometime in the late 1940s, has continued to spread through our lakes to the point that an estimated \$400 million is currently spent nationwide to counter its negative impact on aquatic ecosystems, recreation, and property values. While opinions may vary in Monterey as to when the plant was first noticed in our bodies of water, its presence in often abundant and troublesome growth has occasioned both chemical and mechanical interventions. In the case of Lake Garfield, efforts have continued through the last decade with funding from the Friends of Lake Garfield and the Town of Monterey to research its growth and to limit its spread via diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH).

At the 2017 annual town meeting an appropriation of \$50,000 was approved by the voters for the non-chemical mitigation of Eurasian milfoil. This sum was dispersed over the course of the 2017-2018 spring and fall seasons in a contract with New England Aquatics to remove patches of milfoil that were considered the most

dense and likely to spread. While experts in the field agree that it is nearly impossible to completely eradicate this weed, the scientists who have studied Lake Garfield agree that a do nothing approach is the worst option when considering the future health of the lake. The situation is most often seen as analogous to that of the gardener who decides to stop weeding and finds one's plot too overgrown with weeds to continue gardening. In such a complex biological system, it is very difficult to accurately predict the inevitable seasonal variation in plant growth, whether indigenous or invasive. We know that Eurasian milfoil will continue to grow, and that left alone it will choke out native species of aquatic plants, disrupt fish habitat, consume available oxygen in its decomposition, and create dense mats of foliage that inhibit swimming, fishing, and boating. The experience of all our local lakes, including that of Stockbridge Bowl so recently in the headlines of the *Berkshire Eagle*, underline the opportunity we have to engage the situation proactively. We invite everyone concerned with the health of Lake Garfield to bring their thoughts and questions to the annual town meeting to help decide the nature of our best efforts in this regard.

Our next regular monthly meeting following the annual town meeting will be on Monday, May 13, at 7 p.m., at town hall.

— Steve Snyder

Lake Garfield Working Group is a study group appointed by the Monterey Select Board.

Talkin' Trash

Transfer station stickers will be reduced by \$10 for Monterey residents, thanks to a proposal put forth by Kenn Basler at an April 24 meeting of the select board.

The reduction seems to represent one part transparency (given operating costs that have declined by \$1700), one part fiscal responsibility and one part recognition of how well Monterey residents follow the town's bylaws that require recycling. (It may also be a somewhat symbolic gesture, since the revenue will have to be made-up elsewhere in the budget, as Carol Edelman and Melissa Noes pointed out.)

"Monterey takes recycling seriously," Basler said, as he praised the efficacy of the newish facility (which is this month celebrating its second year of operation) and the good work done by its employees.

The careful sorting of materials that takes place at the Monterey Transfer Station, along with its contract with the state-of-the-art Lenox Valley Waste Treatment Facility, which compacts refuse and moves it along to different markets, is responsible for the cost reduction at a time of upheaval in recycling markets. With China having cut down dramatically on what it will buy, some towns are simply bringing items that are considered recyclable to landfills. However, through Monterey's association with Lenox Valley, we have "dodged that bullet," said Basler.

In any case, recycling is just one—and the least efficient—of the three pillars of waste reduction: reduce, reuse and recycle. That's because energy is lost in the transformation of recycled items into something else.

"We talk a lot about recycling," pointed out Michelle Miller at the select board meeting. "We don't talk enough about reducing our use. Every street I go down, I see plastics. Plastics and beer cans."

Some of the beer cans will be picked up in late June during the Berkshire United Way cleanup day, administrative assistant Melissa Noes told the board. The aluminum in beer cans still has value (aluminum is efficient to recycle and expensive to produce), and the glass in bottles is smashed, with some of it ending up in the asphalt pavement of New York City's streets, creating a bit of sparkle.

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Janet Jensen

Plastic, however, is another story. Since polymers are forever, essentially all of the substance ever manufactured is still out there, somewhere. Plastic detritus swirls in anthropocene islands—the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is as big as Texas—in every ocean. It’s downright painful to consider the dead whale found with eighty-eight pounds of assorted plastic in its belly, or to watch a biologist trying desperately to dislodge a plastic straw from the bleeding nostril of a sea turtle.

In response, I’m gearing up to do a plastic fast for one month, just to try it out and, hopefully, become a little more conscious about my choices. Given that plastic only became ubiquitous after I had mostly grown up, it doesn’t seem like it would be such a feat. However, way back then, the milkman delivered milk and orange juice in re-useable bottles and picked up the empties. Now, when I go grocery shopping, and see how many things come only in plastic, I begin to comprehend the challenge that awaits—plastic can be pretty darn useful and is inexpensive to produce.

When I think about recycling, I recall an encounter on a hot afternoon in a park in Chichicastengo, Guatemala, perhaps in 1995. I had stopped at a little makeshift stand for a Coke served in one of those classic 6.5-ounce thick swirly bottles. As I left, drink in hand, the young entrepreneur ran after me, with an almost anguished expression on his face. As he gestured, I realized that by walking off with one of his bottles, I was threatening his paper-thin margins.

What struck me was the value placed upon any manufactured goods in that impoverished country, along with the fact that conservation there was a necessity, rather than a nicety. That stands in such stark contrast to the throwaway mentality that accompanies this country’s extraordinary affluence, and the tendency to slough off thoughts about where our waste ends up.

I think about that boy sometimes when wandering around my old neighborhood in New York City, where one frequently comes upon tiny, ancient Chinese women appearing even smaller in contrast to the huge plastic bags of bottles and cans dangling on either side of poles balanced across their shoulders. Enormous as those bags appear, I calculate that when they are turned in, the women may collect \$5 or so. I’ve long thought that doubling the deposit would be a good way to alleviate a little misery, while at the same time opening up space in landfills and keeping the city cleaner.

On a happier note is the joy of composting. On one level it can seem like a pain in the neck—finding the right-size container and space somewhere near the sink, dealing with the smells and gnats, getting the material to its new home every few days.

On another level, composting is alchemy, pure and simple—the transformation of the dross of kitchen scraps into the black gold of humus. And then, later, the pleasure of shoveling the newly

formed rich soil from the bin where it has mellowed, and later still, seeing another transformation as it produces the flowers or fruits or vegetables that in turn nurture us.

Organized composting programs, like those in Monterey, certainly make the process easier. I especially like the mint-green, lightweight, not unattractive recycled plastic bins that are on sale for \$5 at Town Hall. It’s impressive how much thought and engineering has gone into designing this patented product (by a company called Sure-Close). Its lid is covered in tiny holes—large enough to help moisture evaporate, but small enough to keep out fruit flies. The channels molded into the body of the container help keep air flow to the waste, which helps to dry it out and keep odor at bay. It’s just the right size for a few days of kitchen waste.

Another pleasure of composting is the slight sense of virtue I feel every time I contribute to the composting bin rather than relegating organic matter to the trash. I was impressed to learn at the select board meeting that Monterey residents last year deposited around 4.5 tons of kitchen waste to the transfer station bin, which was turned into compost at Gould Farm. “That’s 4.5 tons of kitchen waste that did not go into the landfill,” Basler said. In addition to the heaps of compost available to depositors at the transfer station, residents have been rewarded for their efforts by a price reduction on their transfer station stickers.

— Janet Jensen



Letters

I would like to express a thumbs up to Carol Edelman's piece in "In my View" in the April Monterey News.

Just saying something doesn't mean it's true. We see evidence of this in our current political climate. When a politician, public figure, or selectman (in this case) has little to offer in agenda or their accomplishments, they resort to fabricating personal attacks or questionable statements about an individual (and receive the support of their base, sound familiar?). Create something positive with your agenda, and your accomplishments will speak for themselves—if not, be silent.

—Marc Gordon,
Monterey

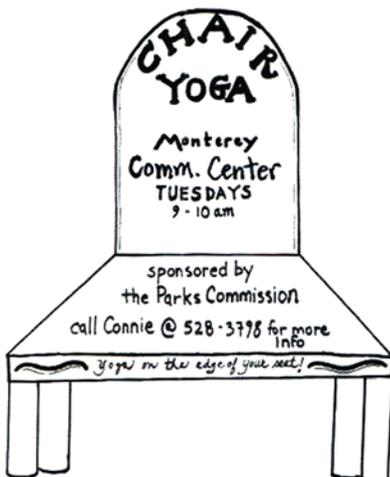
Candidate Statement

Jon Levin, ZBA

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

Thank you for your consideration.

—Jon Levin,
30 Elephant Rock Road



Eagle and Janet's Funds Award

The Eagle Fund, created in 1998 to make possible exceptional and innovative educational opportunities for Southern Berkshire Regional School District students beyond the district's core curriculum, has awarded \$56,745 in grants to the SBRSD community, in partnership with our sister endowment, Janet's Fund, both under aegis of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

The funds granted support to a diverse number of initiatives, which will enrich and complement the SBRSD curriculum and are exceptional for such a small school district. The projects, both new and ongoing, were awarded to over thirty applicants, including nine written by and for students. The activities will engage students in educational experiences in climate change, weather, fine arts, film,

robotics, multiculturalism, field trips, culinary, design, and farming.

An award was made to Monterey student, Jake Martin. Jake's grant will be used to make a short film, "An Aussie Adventure," following an Australian teen named Ned. Jake's group consists of six eleventh-graders with an interest in filmmaking who are looking to expand their knowledge of the technical aspects of making a film from concept to completion.

The Eagle Fund is an endowment that is primarily funded through an annual student-led phone-a-thon each November. Supporters include residents and businesses in the five towns that make up the Southern Berkshire Regional School District—Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough and Sheffield—as well as from nearby towns that also send students to the district. To learn more, please visit sbrsd.org and click "Eagle Fund" in column on right.

—Erna Lampman & Melissa Zdziarski

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Knox Gallery News

We look forward to the opening of a new iteration of the Knox Gallery.

We will all be enjoying the beautiful new library soon, and we are pleased that we are able to organize exhibitions in the new space. We plan to introduce our new space with a show of small works by Monterey artists. We won't know exact dates for drop off, installation, or exhibit for a few more weeks, but would appreciate hearing from you by May 15, 2019, if you are interested. Please drop us an email at mpy@yatesdesign.net to let us know.

Specifics of overall size and medium on the piece you intend to show would be helpful. Please note that these must be two-dimensional works, or works that will hang on a wall. Our countertop display space will come along later.

Thanks to all the artists who have participated for our nine years of existence. We look forward to many more. Please check the June *Monterey News* for announcements about our first exhibit in the new space.

—MaryPaul Yates



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Council on Aging Events in May

First of all, everyone vote! Vote on Saturday, May 4, at our Annual Town Meeting, and then again in the Tuesday, May 7 town offices elections.

Health

Thursday, May 9, 2 to 3 p.m. the Berkshire Visiting Nurse will hold a wellness clinic. No appointments necessary.

Thursday, May 23rd, 9 a.m. to noon, the foot nurse will be at town hall. Please call 413-528-1443, ext. 247 for an appointment. We will call you back with a time. The cost is \$25.

Movie Night

Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m., at town hall, the movie this month will be the award-winning *Amadeus*, a highly fictionalized account of Mozart's life, from the point of view of a rival. This came recommended by Wendy Germain, and popcorn will be served, thanks to Mike and Maureen Banner.

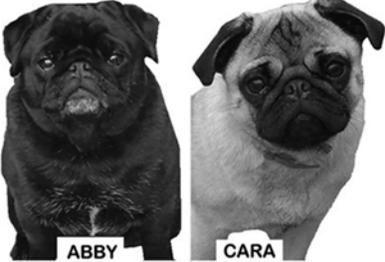
Looking forward to June, we are planning a bus trip to Mount Greylock, with lunch at Bascom Lodge, possibly Wednesday, June 19. In July, we will be having our annual outing to the Pittsfield Suns baseball game.

— Kyle Pierce

Council on Aging, 528-9213

Lost Pugs

Have you seen my girls?



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Elder Law Education May 10

Local seniors can learn about Massachusetts Elder Law issues at a free event hosted by the Monterey Council on Aging on Friday, May 10, at 10 a.m., at the Monterey Community Center, with Pittsfield attorney Benjamin Smith presenting.

The event is part of the statewide Elder Law Education Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA). It corresponds with the publication of the revised and expanded "2019 Elder Law Education Guide," the tenth edition of the resource guide, which is available at Monterey Town Hall and online at the MBA's companion website, MassLawHelp.com, under Estate Planning/Elder Law.

Among the topics discussed at events throughout the commonwealth this year are Aid and Attendance Veterans' Benefits, how to protect your home and assets, power of attorney and health care proxies, reverse mortgages, Medicare/Medicaid changes, and alternatives to nursing home care.

The Elder Law Education Program matches attorneys from the MBA and the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) with more than one hundred councils on aging or senior centers throughout the state to make free presentations about the law.

Volunteer attorneys have participated in the Elder Law Education Program since 1987. Past topics have touched on the Homestead Act, estate planning and long-term health insurance. The program is presented with the generous assistance and continued collaboration of the Massachusetts Chapter of NAELA.

Refreshments will be served.

— Kyle Pierce
Council on Aging



Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

May Events

Gardeners: The community garden has some spaces available. Please get in touch by phone or email now (see below for contact info) if you are interested in an 8 x 16 plot for organic growing.

Writer's Work-out: Out of shape? Blocked? Unable to finish? Unable to begin? Whatever your reasons for not writing, the Writer's Work-Out offers a regimen for both experienced and emerging writers. A highly effective method of working will be introduced with exercises to help get your writing ideas down on paper.

Sonia Pilcer, screenwriter and author of six published novels, will be leading this introductory workshop on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. \$25. register after May 1 (see below).

Birdwalk: Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the community center grounds and neighborhood while we listen and watch the day's birdlife in those habitats. Monterey birder Joe Baker will lead the walk and help with identification using visual and auditory features of the birds we find; we'll also discuss various bird habits, lifestyles, migration patterns and ecological requirements. All welcome, no fee. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing and footgear, bring binoculars if you have them.

June Events

Mosaics: Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. Bits and Pieces—Don't throw out those broken dishes, as artist and educator, Marilyn Orner Cromwell, helps you turn them into new works of art in her mosaic workshop. The workshop is \$35—\$30 for the class, \$5 for materials. Preregistration required.

Yogurt making: Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. No need to buy Fage, Oikos or Siggi's ever again, after you attend a yogurt making demonstration with Wendy Jensen. Preregistration required, limit of ten. \$10 donation goes to the MCC.

Kitchen knife sharpening: Saturday, June 15, 10:30 to noon. Stephen Moore will teach the basics about knife materials and geometry, and guide you in sharpening two or three of your own kitchen knives using a folding diamond file. Preregistration by June 5 required, limit of twelve. \$25 includes \$10 donation to the MCC and \$15 for your file.

Saving and preserving food: Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to noon. Author and food-writer, Kevin West, will speak on how to save the seasons by canning and preserving the fruits of your harvest in his "Saving the Seasons" workshop, on canning and preserving the fruits of your harvest. There will be samples, and copies of Kevin's book for sale. Free.

Ongoing activities

Darn Yarners: First and third Thursday of each month (May 2 & 16) 1 to 3 pm. This is an informal group of fiber artists (knit, stitch, mend, spin, crochet and such) meeting to work on individual projects in a somewhat social setting. Facilitated by Wendy Jensen. Free.

Ping Pong: Adult ping pong continues to bounce back and forth between Saturdays and Thursdays afternoons. In May, join us on Thursdays, May 2 & 16, from 3:30, and on Saturdays, May 11 & 25, from 2. Please come and enjoy the thrill of play with your friends and neighbors. Free.

See our Event Calendar: Many additional activities are listed on our Event Calendar. These range from Council on Aging weekly events to Library Book Club monthly meetings to individually presented events on many topics.

For preregistration and payment, go to the events page of the MCC website. Visit us at any time through our website (ccmonterey.org), where you will find the Event Calendar, use policies and other information. You can always contact Mary Makuc, Event Coordinator, at 413-528-3600 or calendar@ccmonterey.org. The Monterey Community Center is located at 468 Main Road, Monterey.

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Library Notes

Easter Egg Hunt

At 1 p.m., on April 21, twenty-five children were set loose to find seven hundred eggs, which they did in eight minutes flat. Thanks to the Monterey Parks Commission for the use of the ball field and playground in the center of town, the coffee club for financial support, and The Friends of the Monterey Library for the work of holding the hunt.

Children's Summer Programs

Also thanks to the Friends of the Library, with some support from the Monterey Cultural Council, there will be children's programming at the library on summer Saturday mornings. Mark your calendars: the first three Saturdays in July, and the first three in August, at 10:30, bring your children down. On July 6, Tom Seiling will perform and get everyone singing and moving around. Tom has been a favorite for many years. John Porcino will bring his musical instruments and stories to the library on July 13, and another favorite, Magician Jim Snack, will be here on July 20. August will feature the Bubble Man, live animals, and Science Tellers.

—Mark Makuc

From MontereyMassLibrary photo blog:

Top photo: All the runoff from the impervious parking surface will go into a catch basin. From there it will go into a chamber with an oil hood which will keep any oil from going further into the system. The water from the gutters on the building will join at that chamber as well. Once full, it will drain to what is in essence a septic-type leach field of stone from whence it will percolate into the ground and not go directly into the river. The inverted tubes are hollow to allow the water to collect and naturally sink deep into the subsoil. There is provision for overflow which will go into another dispersal area. The system is designed to not add water volume directly to the river. The water will eventually enter the river, but it will have been filtered by the soil and should be much cleaner than if it had run straight off the parking surface.

Middle photo: Siding is mostly on.

Bottom photo: This drone shot shows what a tight work site this has been. We are lucky to be able to fit this project here.



Community Potluck Wednesday, May 15

At the April potluck, Wendy Germain showed the movie *Monterey Lights the Way*, the story of how an international competition in 1980 for decreased energy consumption brought disparate members of the Monterey community together for a common purpose. This was right at the same time that the fire company was building the new fire house, which is included in the movie. The movie was suggested by Wendy Jensen, and facilitated by Wendy Germain, who provided a copy and all the equipment to show it from CTSB-TV, local access. What fun it was to see some of the same people at the potluck, who were in the movie from forty years ago at the potluck. Of course, no one's changed a bit!

We have a nice surprise for the May potluck supper. Chapin and Kevin Fish, the new owners of the Monterey General Store, will tell us their plans for its latest reincarnation. We all wish them well and, of course, can't wait for its opening.

The next (and last of the season) Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held Wednesday, May 15, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Kyle Pierce

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A good crowd turned out to remember, to laugh, and to point out folks they recognized from thirty-nine years ago.

Blood Donation Drives

As a lifelong blood donor, I had a surprising thought a short while ago. I was sitting on the bleachers at Simon's Rock College awaiting my turn. I looked around at the typically low turnout and thought again about how few people donate blood. I'd just finished my fifty-seventh issue of the *Monterey News*, and it suddenly hit me that I could help out by listing the upcoming blood drives to our area in the *News*.

It is worth pointing out that while the most common blood types are in high demand, unusual blood types are also needed due to the limited number of donors in the population. Estimates vary, but the best guess is that only 3% to 5% of the population has ever donated blood (only about 35% to 40% are eligible.)

A donation typically takes about an hour from arrival, through the medical screening, to being able to leave.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross regularly schedules blood drives in south county, and it is easy to view their upcoming blood drives by going to redcrossblood.org, and entering your zipcode in the box labeled "Find a Blood Drive." I subscribe to email alerts for upcoming blood drives, and schedule appointments online for my convenience.

They not only take single units, but also do "Power Red" (apheresis) donations. These are similar to a whole blood donation, except a special machine is used to allow you to safely donate two units of red blood cells during one dona-

tion while returning your plasma and platelets to you. This has the added advantages of not depleting your blood system fluids as much, and with a power red donation, folks wait a minimum of 112 days for their next donation, versus 56 days for a single unit.

Berkshire Health Systems

Berkshire Health Systems (berkshirehealthsystems.org) operates a state-of-the-art bloodmobile which collects blood donations in locations around Berkshire County for use exclusively at Fairview Hospital and at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. You can find their calendar by going to the BHS website (above) and searching for "bloodmobile calendar."

Upcoming Blood Drives

American Red Cross

Thursday, May 10, from 2 to 7 p.m., at Berkshire South community center on Chrissey Road in Great Barrington.

Friday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road (Route 23), in Great Barrington.

Friday, June 21, from 1 to 6 p.m., at Race Brook Lodge, Route 41, Sheffield.

Berkshire Health Systems

No scheduled opportunity in south county in May, though near the end of April they had one at Iredale Minerals on Church Street in Great Barrington.

It is only through donations that blood is available to folks in need.

— Stephen Moore

Free Gong Bath A Sound Healing Evening

A gong bath sound healing experience is being given by Susan Cain at her home on May 14, the second Tuesday in May. This can be experienced lying down or in a chair. Yoga mats are generally used and a light blanket is best to stay cozy. A thirty-six inch gong will be played for forty-five minutes, allowing the body to come into a deep meditative state. The body can then release stress and anxiety and much more. This form of vibrational healing can affect the body's functions, allowing the body to let go and let the resonance of the gong free the body of conscious and unconscious thoughts. This ancient healing tool is becoming very popular in hospitals and health clinics. One has to only let go and let the sound of the gong do the work. Look on the bulletin board in the town hall and at the General Store for more detailed information.

This is free to all, but gently used clothing will be accepted for the needy as your donation. Light refreshments and a community gathering will follow. Join us at 5:30 p.m., at 9 Heron Pond Park, Monterey. Contact me for more information at susan Cain9@gmail.com.

—Susan Cain

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Roots

Celebrate your roots at the Monterey Community Center this month.

Our connections with each other, along with our various preferences in music, food, sports teams, vacation spots, and so on, are all very personal. They aren't just personal though. They're also roots which anchor us in home, family, community, and even a sense of self.

Together they're the roots of a kind of macro-family tree. It both includes our family relationships and expands our understanding of how wide the understanding of family can be. Join us as we discover ways to nourish and celebrate these roots, and to experience more joy and wonder in our daily lives.

We have three opportunities to gather at the Monterey Community Center this month on Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

May 8: Roots Need Earth and Water

May 15: Seedlings Grow in Light and Air

May 22: Maybe We're a Garden Party



Peter Munkett

I hope to see you then. Come for one, two, or all three Wednesday afternoons. Wear comfortable clothes—bring a notebook, your sense of humor, and your open mind.

Fee by donation. Registration appreciated, but not necessary.

To register or with questions, contact Mary Kate Jordan at 413-822-7671, or by email at marykate@thejordancenter.com.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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From the Meetinghouse

I teach a course on the short story at the Berkshire County House of Correction. We write them, the inmates do, in class around the table or back in their pods; and we read them, longer ones as homework and shorter ones aloud, around the table—Flannery O'Connor, Ray Bradbury, Tobias Wolff, James Baldwin.

An interesting thing happened last month while the six inmates in my class and I gathered around a gem of story by Andre Dubus, "The Doctor," four pages of economic, heartrending perfection.

I'd read the story before, of course.

As it happens, Andre Dubus was a friend of mine. He lived in Haverhill and I, following a first attempt at graduate school, a master's program in creative writing, lived back with my mother just over the border in New Hampshire. Though my mother was a teacher, she worked part-time in a friend's dress shop in Newburyport near the bookstore where Andre shopped. She'd crossed paths with him several times, and she knew his daughter-in-law from the dress shop. So she called on those connections, asked some favors, pulled some strings, and landed me a place in Andre's Monday evening writing group.

I was the youngest one in the group, and the least of the writers. I hadn't even read much of Andre's work, had little idea of the master in whose living room I'd proceed to pretend at knowing anything at all.

I tried to catch up on my reading.

"The Doctor" is one in particular that has stayed with me.

I'm not alone. It's also stayed with Sheela Clary, a member of the church and a writer herself. She often appears with me on the Religious Roundtable, a radio program that airs on Sunday mornings and that's sponsored by WSBS and the Southern Berkshire Clergy Association. Early in April she'd agreed to appear on it again, that we'd read aloud and discuss a short story. But what story, we wondered, passing ideas back and forth between us. It would have to be short enough to fit into the thirty-minute show along with a discussion of it. And it should be, if not religious in any strict sense, then at least spiritual or truthful in such a way that speaks to the human spirit. She suggested it: "How about 'The Doctor'?"

I hadn't read it in twenty years.

A man, a doctor, an obstetrician, goes out for a run on an early spring day. It's April and his whole neighborhood is out after the winter hibernation. They're raking their lawns, watering fresh plantings, firing up their grills. They're playing on the bridge, three brothers, middle-school aged. One ends up fallen off the bridge, held under water in the creek by a concrete slab that's fallen on him, that holds him just deep enough that he's drowning. The doctor, this obstetrician, tries to save him. He fails. He sleeps that night for having had several stiff drinks, and he realizes the next morning that what he'd needed to save the boy was right there all the time:

a garden hose, several of which he'd run past and even noticed. But he put it all together too late. So now he'd carry a small piece of one around with him as standard safety equipment, keeping a makeshift air tube in the first aid kit in his car trunk. He hadn't saved the boy, but he'd be able to save someone else in the future—and the tragedy of it is that this was just like a birth, that all the boy needed was an umbilical cord, which is something that, if anyone was going to think of it, it should have been him.

Sheela and I sat in silence for a moment: the tragedy of it, the heartrending sadness that the story evoked. We assumed our heartbreak at hearing the story would be shared by others who "loved" the story.

The next night at the house of correction I'd share it with the inmates.

But, no, was the collective response after reading it aloud and after some discussion. No, this doctor was a jerk. He tried to play the hero. He just had to play the hero, when what he should have done is breathe into the boy's mouth, blow oxygen in there, one inmate insisting, "just to buy him some time, just to buy him some time." And he should have hollered to the whole neighborhood, should have rallied everyone around. Someone else



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could have run to call the police: why did it have to be him to make that call, running up from the creek and across the wide lawn, when he should have been breathing oxygen into the boy's "just to buy him some time."

No, a whole group of people could have joined him in trying to lift the concrete slab, which the story notes was indeed eventually lifted, though by five men and one woman, so why did the doctor try to do it all himself?

"Why'd he have to be the hero?" they asked, a little disgusted. "Cuz he's a doctor, he couldn't ask for any help?"

It was fascinating to me because I could see it from all sides, could muster tremendous sympathy for the fictional situation but also anger that the doctor made such a terrible decision, and out of egotistical insistence. Two different discussions with the two different groups of people, and a whole new outlook on what had long been familiar: this is the wonder of literature, the wonder of the arts in general. They call us deep into our humanity, ask us to see things from various points of view and to notice things at work in them that are multi-faceted, even paradoxical.

In church, we might call this project that the arts invite us to engage in *metanoia*. A Greek word meaning a change of mind, having second thoughts or a widening of consciousness, *meta-* means

that which is behind, beyond, or before, and *-noia* means knowledge. Sad to say, it's most often translated into English as "repentance," thus casting it as a whole other thing, a perhaps far less appealing thing. And, to be certain, there is some "repentance" in the project of *metanoia*; there's some regret to be found whenever we have second thoughts, some humility to be felt whenever we reconsidered something we ourselves did or failed to do, said, and failed to say. But it's bigger than just coming to feel regret or humility or worse yet shame. *Metanoia* is an invitation to come and have your mind changed, made wider and wiser.

The arts will do that for you, as could church. We're amidst the season of Easter as of now, and will be throughout the month of May, until early June. It's not a particularly *metanoi-ish* season, but the project of changing your mind, expanding your thinking, and your circle of regard and concern, are never far from what would be going on in that old meetinghouse. If you're considering again the worth of worship in your life, you've already begun on that project, so come join us some time.

—Pastor Liz Goodman



Annual Otis Arts Festival Artists and Craftspeople Needed

The twelfth annual Otis Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Farmington River Elementary School, in Otis, MA.

The Otis Cultural Council invites local artists and craftspeople to join in this fantastic indoor event to display and sell their artwork. Entry fee is \$20 for Otis residents, \$25 for non-Otis residents. Check payable to Otis Cultural Council must be submitted with application, available online at: townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil. For information, email culturalco.otis@yahoo.com, or call 413-269-4674. The deadline for applications is on July 3.

Otis Tag Sale

The Otis Cultural Council will once again sponsor the annual Otis tag sale on Saturday, May 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Otis Ski Ridge parking lot.

For more information, call Vicki Ernst at 413-269-4008.

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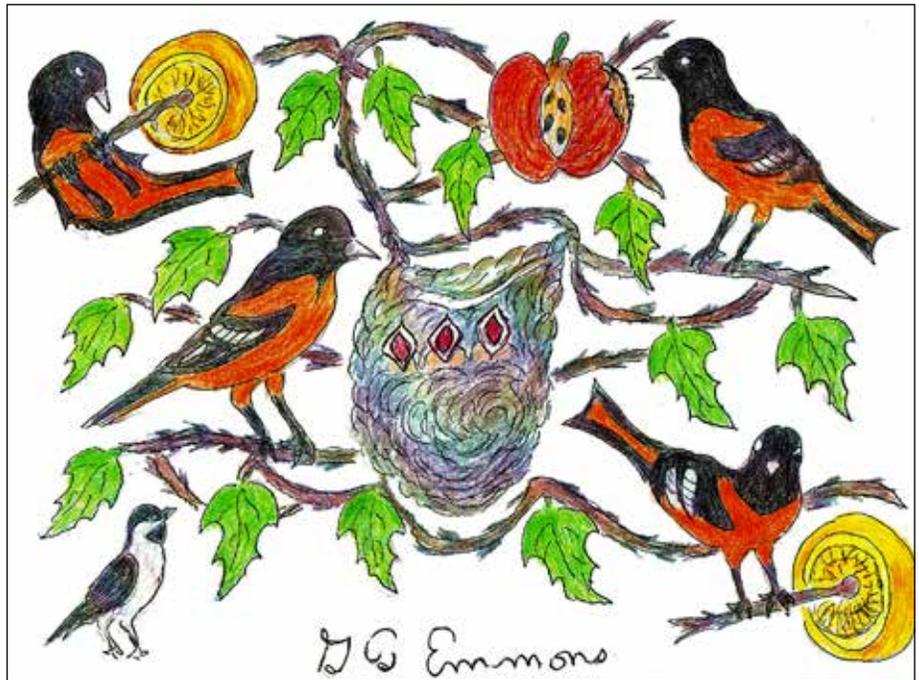
The Declining Baltimore Oriole

During the spring migration of Baltimore Orioles from Central and South America to their breeding grounds in North America, you will find them high in deciduous leafy treetops, but not in deep forests. They prefer edges of urban groves in proximity of human settlements. After both the arduous spring and fall migrations, nectar and fruit comprise most of their diet, in addition to insects for protein. The sugary content readily converts into fat, which replaces the energy consumed during migration. To attract orioles to build a nest near your house, oranges and apples may be skewered on the fork of tree branches to satisfy their craving for revitalizing nourishment, as I've illustrated.

Baltimore Oriole populations have been declining throughout their range here and in Canada. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the Official Partners In Flight Survey show a population loss of approximately 3% each and every year. This is a decline of 24% over thirty-four years, from 1966 to 2000. With the breeding population already down to twelve million, this decline puts them half-way down the list of the twenty species in the category of serious concern. The main cause of this diminishment is attributed to widespread deforestation, resulting in habitat loss.

You, as an avid bird watcher, can help by supplying a supplementary diet near your house. You can, as I stated and illustrated above, skewer fruit on tree branches, for their nourishment. Other attractions are actual oriole feeders with sugar and water, like nectar, or even open jars of jelly and peanut butter. Natural plantings around the yard of brightly colored fruit like raspberries, crabapples, and trumpet vines can also be a sure attraction that orioles passing by will visit for sustenance.

The reward for your effort might be watching the female build the signature sock-like hanging nest. The remarkable process begins with a gathering of slender fibers. She anchors her nest by hanging them over a small supporting branch on either side. With this as a foundation she adds a collection of grass, together with thin strips of grapevine bark, all wound with loose horse hair, wool, or other pliable



fibers. She then pokes and darts her bill in and out to tangle up any loose pieces. While no knots are actually tied, random placement and tucking together somehow makes tangles as good as knots. The nest finally takes its shape with a narrow opening of two to three inches wide on the top and a bit wider at the bottom.

The inside of the deep sack is where her eggs will be laid, upon linings of natural materials like grasses, animal hair, and downy feathers. She might also use artificial fibers such as cellophane, twine, or fishing line. She may even use recycled fibers from a recent nest to speed

things along, as the entire process can take about a week. Then, after her eggs are all deposited in the bottom of the sack, they will hatch out after a two-week incubation. They only lay one clutch of eggs during the entire season. When you see the pink open mouths and hear the joyous juvenile chirping clamor of the hatchlings for food from parents, you will be rewarded for your job well done, having played one small part to reverse a declining population.

You can take pleasure in your own yard watching a happy cluster of Baltimore Orioles singing their appreciation.

—George B. Emmons

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In the Wake of Eden

I hold on to things:
to our old home made of Jerusalem stone
and the endless streets of my childhood.
To the white light and the summer sea.
I hold onto inner distances
I travel but do not bridge or reach.
To the balcony on Carmel
looking out over the bay
where it is still yesterday.
I hold on
partly out of love, partly out of fear.
Afraid of not weathering the climate of losses
and the pain that remains long after one leaves.

I hold on to you
and the years
with the waning strength of yesterdays,
with old truths turning to lies,
and with each breath of memory.
I hold on
to what tomorrow may leave behind.
Not wanting to be left alone again
I hold on to my fears
and arrive here
not knowing how to live at this distance.
—Amos Neufeld

*This poem first appeared in Jewish Frontier,
May 1985*



Dread

I have something in me	I cannot defeat it.
That is not perfect.	It must be cut out,
It is an aberration of life	And the well
Growth gone mad.	That held my children
A proliferation, mutation	Will be gone.
That thrives without	Leaving nothing
benevolence,	But a whisper of oblivion,
Pushing aside my existence	A sibilance of fear
Devouring my sanctity,	In the darkness.
My frail certainty.	The shuffling sound of division,
It lives without regard	Little steps of death
For anything I have become	In me.
Or would be.	

—Lesley Givet
May, 1999

Stonemason

A chalk line lives for a chisel to find,
and powders out
like scattered moonlight on the sound.

I live where my stones touch,
eye pushing hand
through time's haul.

Turning the tumblers of time,
rock fitted against rock,
secret matching secret in the lock.

Each stone awake
in the wet mortar
The slightest tap can plumb the world.

Scribe. Score. Split. Set.
With the last heave of day
the sun trowels my shadow into this wall.

—Mark Mendel
March 1999

Here's A Thought... Consider the Oak Trees

A great number of the trees directly around my house here in Monterey are oaks. They're happily mingled with maples, white pines, a few birches, and hawthorns. We even have a few ash trees still standing, like rosemary, for remembrance of things past. But ever since we moved in, I've been thrilled and comforted by having so many oak trees around. I'm not sure why.

Maybe it has something to do with the magnificent oak that cast refreshing shade over the farmhouse where I spent many childhood summers. Maybe it's visceral memories of happy summer hours on the swing my grandfather hung in that tree for me.

Or maybe it was the hundreds of historical novels I've consumed since I was that girl on that swing. Their settings often involved oak trees, especially the novels set in England, where the oak stands as a symbol for all that is long-lasting, noble, strong, and good.

But, whatever the reason for my affection for oaks, I was stunned to read that the now-fallen roof of Notre Dame Cathedral contained the wood of fifty-two acres of them. It's said that some of those trees were close to four hundred years old when they were felled. If so, they sprouted from acorns that fell during, or slightly after, Charlemagne's rule as first Holy Roman Emperor, 800-814.

The feeling of watching that fire burn and those timbers fall reminds me of a



These trees all live in Monterey. Where's your nearest oak tree? Photo by Mary Kate Jordan.

quote from Dan Groat's *An Enigmatic Escape: A Trilogy*: "The bones of the oak tree that had stood...during my youth were scattered about the ground, pieces of the skeleton of a majestic life that had passed while I was off growing up and old."

Reports say that France today no longer has trees tall enough to replicate the old cathedral roof design. Nevertheless, there are cries of purists demanding that the wood only come from forests within that country. Meanwhile, a consortium of owners of more than one hundred historic estates in Britain have offered trees planted hundreds of years ago on their properties to aid in the reconstruction. While these, too, are also smaller than the oaks used in the original construction, they're significantly taller than the trees used in the contemporary construction industry.

In either case, no decisions are final yet (as of April 20) as to what materials will be used in the new roof, or what blueprint the new roof will follow.

If wood is used at all in Notre Dame's new roof, no matter where the trees come from, we still won't be recreating the preparations given to the wood that burned.

I've read that, after the chosen oaks were felled, they lay on the ground along a north-south axis for a year so that the wood would come into greater alignment with the energies of the earth. They then went through a twenty-five-year process to prevent insect or fungus damage. After the wood was finally cut into beams, it was allowed to dry for another quarter-century before it was deemed fit to use.

Even if the people trusted with reconstruction recommended these steps, can you imagine the outcry if the cathedral isn't rebuilt in close to the proposed fifteen years? We've lost not only

the cathedral roof, but also the world view that allowed for its creation in the first place. We as a people, even we who live here in Monterey, whose original name was almost Green Woods, have lost the sense of what it meant to live like forest people. We're too individualized for that. We're not, overall, folks who understand "life" as the life of the forest, rather than the life span of a single tree.

That's less a complaint than a pained observation. We're people of our own time and place, and throughout history, that gain has always implied loss. But all is not lost. We may not have much primal forest or acres of trees sprouted when Maine was still part of Massachusetts, but we still have forest, and we still have oak trees.

Since all of us in Monterey are perched somewhere in our wonderful shared forest of mixed hardwood and evergreens, I'm tossing out a challenge. It starts like this: carve out time to get out into the woods these spring and summer days. Begin to notice the oak trees.

Start close to home and stop when you find one. Spend some time with it. Go back again another day, spend more

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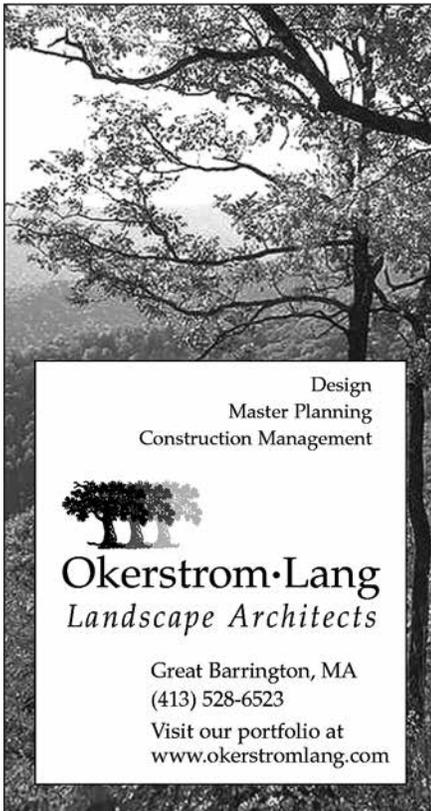
time with it. Some other day, find another oak. Repeat the process again. And again. Notice how they're the same, and notice their differences. Notice how you feel when you're with each one. Risk really seeing them.

None of us are going to notice as many as the 1,200 to 1,500 oaks it took to create the first Notre Dame roof. Please don't try. But any of us who do take up this challenge will inhale riches of consciousness just as precious as oxygen.

Any of us might catch a glimpse, right here in the 21st century, of the best motivations of the craftspeople and others who dedicated themselves to a project they'd never see completed. We might begin to experience a little more of the pleasure that comes from being happily involved with non-human lives both larger (the oaks) and smaller (the acorns) than our own. We might find a peaceful place within the community of beings who came before us, live with us, and will outlive us—if not the individual oaks, then the forest herself.

And who knows? That may rub off on our relationships with ourselves and each other.

—Mary Kate Jordan



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Fiber Connect Update on Phase 2

April brought the warmer weather needed for our construction season to get fully underway. Fiber optic cable has been distributed and lashed along Route 23 between Chestnut and Hupi, with splicing into the network to come this month. Steel support cable has been stranded on the eastern section of Hupi Road from Broderick Road to Route 23, and on Broderick and Dowd Roads. In the next few weeks crews will return to distribute and lash fiber optic cable to the steel support cable. We've also been able to schedule conduit builds. If you need conduit laid, please call 413-429-4109 to get your request in now.

A pole hearing was held before the select board on April 24. The board decided to take under advisement our request to place poles in specific locations on Routes 23 and 57, Blue Hill, and Elephant Rock. If and when the board approves our request, we will be able to move forward faster with make-ready work, and our Phase 2 build will speed up.

Locations where pre-construction discounts apply are published on our website (fiberconnect.website/berkshire-ma-towns). The \$500 saving on our standard installation is time-sensitive and is suspended when our crews begin to distribute fiber optic cable along pole lines in formerly identified pre-construction locales. If you have any question as to your premise qualifying for a discount, please contact us at 413-429-4109, or email sales@bfcma.com. Completing your service agreement will lock in your discount and rates.

If you have questions regarding what is a standard installation, you'll find a summary of our standard installation policy on our website, fiberconnect.website/fiber-connect-policies.

To clear up what may be confusing to some residents, the anticipated town/state subsidy for Phase 3 locations will assist Fiber Connect in bringing fiber optic cable to the nearest curbside pole to your premise. Thereafter, per our installation policy, the cost to bring the fiber to the premise is the owner's responsibility.

—Adam Chait, CEO



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On With The Arbor Quest Who Will Find Our Oldest Tree?

The Monterey Arbor Quest, created by the *Monterey News*, has begun the search for the oldest living tree in Monterey.

You may have heard the expression, “You can’t see the forest for the trees.” Simply put, this means that someone may get so involved in the details of a problem that they miss the whole or big picture. Well, the Monterey Arbor Quest asks residents and property owners to embrace the details for the sole purpose of finding the oldest tree in the town.

If you look closer at the details of trees, you do begin to see them in a different and interesting light. Most of us appreciate the beauty and shading qualities of trees, whether they be evergreens or deciduous, which turn from green to the many different colors in the fall before they lose their leaves. Some people may view trees from a more scientific point of view, perhaps as so called “carbon sinks” as they pull greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the air to create food for new growth during photosynthesis, using the energy of the sun and releasing oxygen as a byproduct. Because of their ability to capture carbon dioxide and release oxygen, green plants such as trees are important in the battle to adapt to climate change.

Monterey Arbor Quest

Tree circumference _____ inches

Tree type _____

Simple descriptive location _____

Name _____

Email _____

phone _____

Enter by: Emailing info to montereytreequest@gmail.com
or dropping information in the outside **Monterey News** box at parking lot of firehouse library.

However, if you’re looking for the oldest tree, you may come to realize that you are actually seeking a time capsule. A tree that may be many hundreds of years old, if it could speak, would tell us about the history of events from the time of its first growth to the present. The arbor quest is a way to recognize these many aspects of trees and their importance in our lives. They comfort us with shade, amaze us with beauty, and stand as silent markers of our history.

Please join with your family, neighbors, and friends in the Monterey Arbor Quest, which started in April and will end at the annual Monterey Fire Company steak roast on July 27. Fill out the coupons that are available in the *Monterey News*, on flyers found in Monterey Town Hall and in the *Monterey News* distribution box at the current library location near the firehouse on Main Road. Simply measure the circumference of the tree and indicate its location, the type of tree and your contact information. Or you can email this information to me directly without a coupon.

At this early stage in the Arbor Quest, several residents have submitted coupons with estimated age determinations in the hundreds of years as found by Bonner McAllester, Dick Tryon, Mary Kate Jordan, Peter Murkett, and JoAnn Bell.

Seek out those trees and keep those coupons coming during the quest for the oldest tree in Monterey.

—Dennis Lynch
MontereyTreeQuest@gmail.com



Mary Kate Jordan’s Red Oak has a circumference of 103.5,” which divided by 3.14 gives a diameter of 33.” Red Oaks grow at an approximate rate of four years per inch, so this tree is probably about 132 years old.

Below: Peter Murkett sent in photos of a magnificent American Beech. His beech measured 112” in circumference, with the real possibility that it might be well over one hundred years old, much like most of the larger trees in forests in the area, according to state forester Tom Ryan.



Arbor Day Celebration

This April Arbor Day fell on Friday April 26. In recognition of Arbor Day, albeit a few days later in hopes that more folks could attend, a celebration was held in a light rain at the Monterey Community Center. Dennis and Elaine Lynch, along with the Monterey Coffee Club, purchased a lovely young flowering crab tree to be planted just south of the community center for the whole town to enjoy.

About twenty-five people attended, in raincoats and holding up umbrellas during the outside portion of the gathering. In attendance were Dennis and Elaine, Steve Kahn representing the coffee club, Joe Baker for the community center, Kyle Pierce, president of the Monterey News, Don Coburn for the select board, and guest Tom Ryan, a state service forester and Monterey resident.

The young tree had been purchased at Ward's Nursery, which sold the tree at a discount for the celebration, delivered it, dug the hole, and placed the tree. Ward's help was much appreciated.

The ceremony began with Joe Baker welcoming everyone despite the weather. He then called on Kyle Pierce, who introduced the various important personages in attendance and passed the attention over to Dennis Lynch. Dennis spoke to the importance of commemorating Arbor Day and formally presented the sapling, which was in full flowering to the community center. He then called on Bonner McAllester to do a reading of Joyce Kilmer's well-known poem, "Trees."

After the reading, everyone moved inside. Once folks were settled, Stephen Moore, editor of the Monterey News and co-initiator of the Arbor Quest to find the oldest and largest trees in Monterey, spoke briefly about the Quest and how to participate. At that point forester Tom Ryan took over to talk about trees—the factors that influence their growth, noting that the size or appearance of trees can be deceptive in terms of judging their age. He made the point that the oldest tree in Monterey might be a very slow growing individual with an unremarkable appearance. He provided information about his work as a Massachusetts state service forester, and said he is available to consult with



Stephen Moore

Steve Kahn, Joe Baker, and Dennis and Elaine Lynch planting the flowering crab apple.

landowners over questions or concerns they might have about their trees.

Conversations continued over cider and cookies as people looked at the various tools, printed information, and wood samples Tom had brought with him.

Next time you visit the community center, before entering the door, look to your left and see how that flowering crabapple is doing, and remember the importance of trees to each of our lives.

— Stephen Moore



Lowland Farms recently acquired a new Pileated™ Woodchipper to help with their forestry operations, especially for producing biomass wood chips as fuel for boiling off maple sap. These two photos are of the same tree, demonstrating the efficiency of this chipper.

Another Bidwell House Museum Summer

The Bidwell House Museum is very excited to welcome you to the 2019 season. We have some wonderful things planned for this year. First up is the opening celebration and concert with Diane Taraz on Sunday, May 26 when she will perform *A Free Woman: The Amazing Grace of Mum Bet*. In 1781, during the American Revolution, a slave named Bet sued for her freedom in a court of law in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. She won her case and chose a new name: Elizabeth Freeman. Her fierce desire to be a free woman led her on a path that illuminates the experiences of women in the early days of our country. Diane explores the life of Elizabeth Freeman in the music of the time and performs in the sort of clothing Elizabeth wore. She also accompanies her singing on a lap dulcimer and an instrument similar to the English guitar played by women in the 1700s. A reception to celebrate the start of the season will follow the concert. Please note that the museum is closed for tours on May 26 and will open for the 2019 season on May 27.

On June 15 our summer history talk series begins with a talk by Vassar College Professor James Merrell titled, "Coming to Terms with Colonial America: Another Look at Natives and Other Early Americans." Scholarly study of Native Americans before circa 1800 has flourished recently, extending our knowledge of Indian peoples during that era well beyond Squanto and Pocahontas. Nonetheless, to a surprising degree, when talking about the continent's first peoples we still use language that would be familiar to William Bradford and Captain John Smith. Is thinking about our loaded vocabulary an exercise in "political correctness?" Or is it simply "correctness?" Please note that this talk begins at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. All history talks are held at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham.

If you prefer to spend your summers outside enjoying the fresh air and verdant landscape, we also have some fun events planned on the grounds and trails of the museum. On Saturday, June 22, at 1 p.m., join Rob Hoogs for the first of three guided



Heather Kowalski

walks along the museum's recently created Native American Interpretive trail. Retrace the steps of the Native Americans—specifically the local Stockbridge Band of the Mohican Tribe—who lived and hunted in this area for thousands of years. The cost for non-members is \$10 and children and members are free. A guided tour of the house can be added before or after the guided walk for a cost of \$15 for non-members. This walk can also be done any time using a self-guided brochure found on the porch, though we guarantee that the walk with Rob will be a lot more fun.

On Sunday, June 30 join us for our second annual Open Mic Music Festival. We had a blast last year and look forward to another evening of fantastic music. The event will go from 2:30-6 p.m., with an hour of open-mic for anyone interested in performing, followed by a fantastic concert by local favorite Lucky 5. Tickets will be \$10 per person if purchased in advance, \$15 at the door. If you are interested in performing during the open mic portion, contact the museum at 413-528-6888 or email bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

Looking ahead to July we are calling all bakers to enter the Pie Baking Contest at our Bidwell Country Fair on Saturday, July 6. We will share all of the event details next month but in the meantime, if you have a great pie recipe, plan to enter the contest. All pies must be baked from scratch and there will be two categories, "adults 18 and over" and "under 18." The judges, Michele Miller of Bola Granola,

Rachel Portnoy of Chez Nous, and Clayton Hambrick of Church Street Café can't wait to taste your delicious desserts.

Finally, save the date for the Bidwell Summer Garden Party to be held on Saturday, August 3, at the Bidwell House Museum. The theme this year is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Woodstock. If you are interested in volunteering with the party planning committee or helping out at any of the summer events, call the museum at 413-528-6888.

The museum, located at 100 Art School Road, is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour, Memorial Day through October. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski

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Phone 528-3795

Contributors April 2019

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to our annual fund appeal. It often takes three months or more to get everyone listed, so if you haven't seen your name yet, check back in June.

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Francine Eget
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Mick Burns
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Stella Bodnar
Edward Cohen
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Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us May 15 to hear
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The new owners of the Monterey
General Store will talk about their
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See the community potluck supper
article on page 12.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
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What I Do

I look too often
to make sure
I'm still here.
— Peter Shepley
September 1999



These geese come back every year to mate and raise their young. They are fiercely protective parents. —Bonsai Cox



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The Return of the Chewink

The chewink is a bird busy on the ground, raking leaves with both feet at the same time, then hopping back to examine the place just cleared and dive in for anything good to eat. One early bird writer, Frank M. Chapman, wrote, "The dead leaves fly before his attack."

We had dead leaves flying in the middle of April here under an old laurel bush downslope from our kitchen. At first I didn't see the bird, and what came to me was a memory of years gone by when we joked about the chewinks, calling them little chickens of the woods. We had four chickens at the time, and they were on the loose, rooting around for worms and such. We enjoyed our lunch breaks, sitting out beside the driveway watching the chickens forage. Besides these four large hens, we watched the chewinks.

These birds are sparrow cousins, and they have several common names: towhees, chewinks, ground robins. Back in the day, they were called "Rufous-sided Towhees," and were considered to be in the same species as a more western towhee. Now the taxonomists have split them up, with the western bird called "Spotted Towhee" and the one in these parts "Eastern Towhee." Whatever the name, none had been seen on this hillside by me in many years. I hadn't heard them, either, and their call is distinctive and easy to remember. "Chewink!" Also, "Towhee!" and the longer line which puts both of these ideas together, "Drink your tea!" Ernest Thompson Seton wrote it this way: "Chuck-burr, pill-a-will-a-will-a." The last notes are high in pitch.

Even if you don't remember or hear any of this, you will know this bird by that ground-feeding, with powerful feet and legs scattering the leaves and the backwards two-legged jump. Besides this, the colors are remarkable, with the male's dark black head, neck, and upper breast, and nearly all of his back and tail. He has white on the outer corners of his tail, and on places at the tips of some wing feathers. His sides are rich chestnut-colored or "cinnamon-rufous," as Edward Howe Forbush puts it in his *1925 Birds of Massachusetts*. His lower breast, all the way to the tail, is white, except right under the tail, which is a lighter chestnut color. His eyes? They are red. This is a flashy bird.

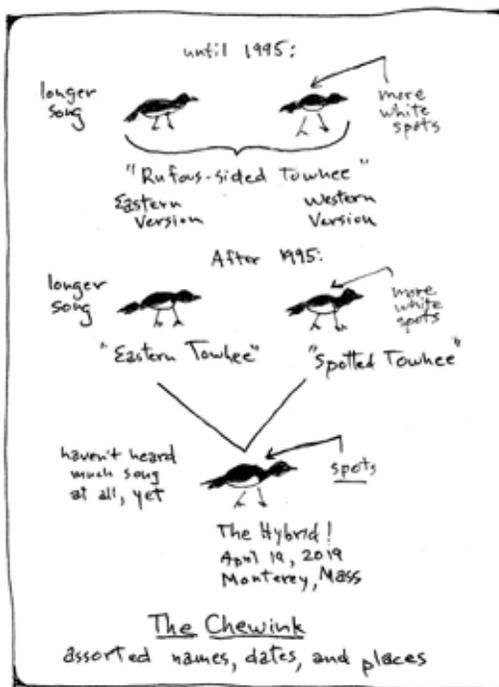
The female is striking, too, in the same pattern, though the dark contrasty blacks

of the male are brown on her. She does the incubating of the eggs, in a nest on the ground, and becomes invisible there. She makes the nest, almost always right on the ground, and builds it in three to five days, sunk down. The nest is four inches wide, with the inner cup two inches across and an inch and a half deep, lined with fine grasses and sometimes animal hair. The rim is level with the ground and may be partly roofed-over.

Chewinks, as my dad and others of his generation called them, lay four to six white eggs, with fine reddish-brown dots, and, Forbush writes, "usually some lilac." In about two weeks they hatch. The nesting season here is mid-May to mid-June. The predators on the ground are many: cats, snakes, raccoons, and even chipmunks. Chewinks often raise two broods in a season and have a good survival rate. What has put their numbers into a decline has been habitat loss. The Cornell researchers write that between 1966 and 2015, they have dropped by 49%.

You live long enough on the same wooded hillside and you see some changes. Sometimes they are short-term. This winter we didn't see a single blue jay here, but that happened a few years ago, too. And then back they came in great numbers. Evening grosbeaks have vanished from our place in recent years, though we hear about them in other parts of town. As for the chewink, we are thrilled to see him back, arriving right on April 19, the day Forbush writes is their return date here. The males come first, then the females.

I am watching every day, as are all of us as spring comes on. We see the coltsfoots blooming along the roadsides, trilliums in



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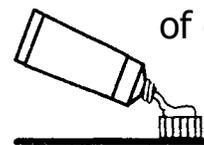
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Blooming at Bidwell Sunday, May 19, 2 to 3 p.m.

The Bidwell House Museum Gardens are blooming, and so can you. Come to the Bidwell House for a stroll in the gardens, get together with your “best buds,” and learn more about this Monterey treasure trove. We’ll have light refreshments and a brief presentation about the museum house and grounds. New members are especially welcome. People who attend will get a free pass to the museum’s opening concert on May 26.

To RSVP for this event, call 413-528-6888, or email bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

heavy bud, salamander and frog eggs in the ponds. This year, at least, we have one male chewink on the place. Two days after his leaf-kicking arrival, we heard him or his relative, calling from somewhere under the laurels across the road.

When the taxonomists divided this species into two geographic groups, someone also did the genetic research to discover that they hybridize, and that the hybrid, an eastern bird crossed with a western one, has certainly been seen here in Massachusetts. I think that’s who is spending the summer here, because he is flashy in every way, including white spots on his back. Since 1995, these were listed as characteristics of the “Spotted Towhee,” found only in the west. That would be *Pipilo maculatus* (which means spots). The eastern towhee is in that same genus (along with sparrows and juncos) and still has the same name both birds used to share: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (means red-eyed). Our male leaf-kicking bird has got it all. I hope we get to see what he passes along.

—Bonner McAllester

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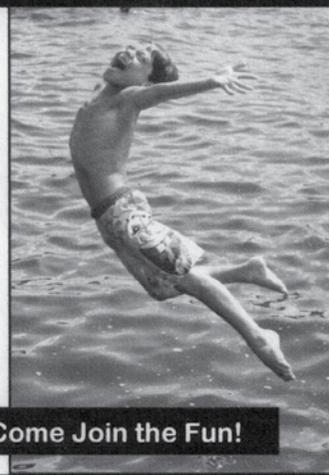
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Wildlife Report

This report covers mid-March to mid-April, that exciting changeover time for all of us. The year-round local residents, botanical and zoological, feel the change as the days start to outstrip the nights. We all respond in our own ways, some predictable and some not. Many make travel plans, head north or south depending upon how we are designed, what works best.

Carol Edelman, of Hupi Road, lives in a regular “Wild Kingdom” and has been hosting a small band of white-tailed deer in her yard. She says this group of four has been “browsing up and down Hupi Road.” One is looking heavier than the others, may be due to have a baby soon.



All of them are pruning the flowers at Carol’s, and especially the Siberian squill (below). These are, or were, little blue flowers in the lawn, grown from bulbs.



We have a new deer experience at this end of Hupi, which is deernibbling down the daylilies that come up all along the road by our upper pasture. Once I saw deer walk up to a tall blooming orange daylily and chomp it right down. But this is extensive browsing now when the leaves are only about six inches up and are a long way from blooming.

Carol also found a handsome spotted salamander in her yard and got a good photo (at right). These big amphibians almost never show themselves except at this time of year as they move overland to their natal pools to lay eggs. The eggs appear in masses or blobs and hatch into pollywog-like larvae which stay in the water until adulthood, when they climb ashore and enjoy a moist and hidden life-style. There are several species and as a group they are called “mole salamanders,” because, like moles, they stay in dark, hidden places.



had their wings drooped down, which is usually part of their display (below). Ed and Arrie also saw a bald eagle, early one morning at the Fish Hatchery pond.



Back in March, Jimmy Zell sent a photo (above) and an account of a fox in the snow. In the picture it looks like the fox is eating the remains of a winter squash. Maybe it had been left out on the vine in a garden, or maybe in a compost pile.



Besides all this, Ed and Arrie have a big woodpecker working on a tree along their driveway. They expect it is a pileated woodpecker. These are big holes. I heard from a visitor recently of pileated woodpecker excavations that went through a tree and out the other side. This can be seen by the trail up Monument Mountain and I hope to get there soon. I never heard of a woodpecker window right through a tree before.



Also in March, June Thomas wrote about a barred owl that flew into her window. She kept an eye on the big bird, which seemed a little stunned, and in the end it flew off. She’d not heard of an owl hitting a window before, and neither had I.

The turkeys are in mating season now, with the toms displaying their big fan tails. By May the hens will be sitting on eggs. Chris Goldfinger sent a photo of a turkey on the porch railing in late March (top right), and Ed Salsitz wrote of three turkeys displaying about a month later. These three



Early in April, Gordon Fontaine of Pixley Road saw a bear cub that “was hanging around our pond and rooting around our apple tree for about half an hour.” He never did see a mama bear, and he took some photographs of the youngster. We had a bear here, despite our usually effective bear-chasing dog. It looks like the bear leaned against the



twelve-foot wooden pole that holds our platform feeder, because it just tipped over. The ground had recently thawed and was soft with rain. We'll set it up again in the fall. Meanwhile, we have a few cylindrical feeders hanging from the roof, out of reach of any bear, we think. The purple finches, goldfinches, red-winged blackbirds and all the usual suspects come every day. There are bluebirds in the orchard.

Thanks, everyone, for staying in touch and for passing along for all of us that which is wild. We love it and we need it, inside and out.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com

The Cruellest Month

Exciting to read about the concert in last month's *News*. I knew there would be a huge crowd, so I got tickets right away.

Carly Simon—I sat next to her at a dinner party, you know. About 1972, in Manhattan, where I lived then. Or maybe a little later. That is, while the Vietnam war raged and before Nixon quit, but after Johnson bowed out and hippies campaigned Clean for Gene in New Hampshire; after King was shot and the cities went up in flames; after RFK went down; after the riots in Chicago; after the Soviets rolled into Prague; after Nixon won again. After Kent State. Back then. Funny how I don't remember the dinner conversation. How did we speak of The Situation in those days? I mean, as against how we speak of it today? What was the situation then? What is it now?

On the other hand, it's not really surprising that I don't remember discussing The Situation, because I do remember the leggy singer, a rising star, sitting next to me. She was hot, I noticed. My friends Dick and Jill were hosts. They invited me. They were in publishing and Carly was a Simon of Simon & Schuster, so they were all family. Dick and Jill remained good friends for decades. Carly? Um...

I made sure that I went to see her perform soon after that dinner, at a club in the Village (Café Wha?). I made sure to go backstage and say hello afterward. But it wasn't like sparks flew—meaning from her, in my direction. I crawled home. I was a guy with a shop who made furniture, and

no match for a guy with a guitar. There were bunches of them. Certainly James. But he attended Riggs, where I went to MacLean, and it's just not the same. Whatever. I don't rush off to Tanglewood every summer braving the crowds to keen over having him for a friend. It's a nice song, but hey.

Of course all that's long past, although it did come rushing back when I heard about the concert. What a great thing, I thought. Carly and James healing old wounds, moving on—and free! Right in Greene Park! I had no idea what Monterey had done to deserve such a treat, but I was not about to miss it.

The evening did not disappoint. It was a Monterey crowd, not a Tanglewood crowd: our people more than their people. And on a weekday! Partying late on a school night, that's Monterey for you. The weather was balmy, and Michele and I decided to walk (one less car to park somewhere, like at the Steak Roast). We could hear Good Friend Coyote warming up the crowd as we came down the hill. That was a nice touch. The high point was her all-time greatest hit, which they did together! Fabulous! The two of them belting it out nose to nose across the mic singing right at each other. Knocked me out. I could hardly figure out who was more vain. Maybe me? And then, not missing a beat, they tore into Mockingbird, their crazy good dance tune. I went at it so hard I nearly bent my metal hip.

We walked home delirious. What a town. We'd be fools to live anywhere else.

—Peter Murkett

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Stalwart groupies from all over Monterey, having braved fire and rain, eagerly waited to enter the James Taylor-Carly Simon concert at Greene Park on April 31. The elders rejoiced in being together again, forty years or more since their last concert by the duo. For some, this was a déjà vu experience, though now the Berkshires seem dreamlike compared to the earlier event. And, it was discovered, no one brought a pen for the album signings!

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The Concert

Weatherwise, it wasn't ideal, but the diehard fans showed up anyway. It was hard to know just what to expect. Cheryl Zellman, a member of the Monterey Cultural Council, said that communications with the performers had been difficult, so they weren't 100% certain that the duo would show up. Zellman said, "We heard from many folks that they thought scheduling an event on April 31st was some kind of a joke, but really, it was the only date when both Taylor and Simon were likely to be available."

Ticket inquiries were so slow that the council decided not to rent portable stadium seating. The performers seemed to indicate that they would only have acoustic instruments, so they would only need basic sound equipment for a typical folk concert.

For the fans who showed up and stayed through the concert despite the weather, it was a wonderful and memorable event. James Taylor played many of his old songs from years in the Berkshires, and Carly Simon sang folk versions of some of her most popular pop songs. And they did some duets, gazing at each other the way they might have back in the 70s.

Zellman added, "This went so well that we're probably going to see who else we can get for the very end of next April." Monterey is a special place.

—Bonner McAllester



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The Founding Formula

Interest in the “Founding Fathers” remains high. (Just try getting a ticket to *Hamilton*.) Can any contemporary statesman compare in stature to those transcendent figures? Accordingly, “originalists” these days are consumed with uncovering the meanings and intentions of those hallowed architects of our nation.

There is one aspect of the debate at Constitutional Hall in 1787 and beyond that needs to be highlighted—most of those present were worriers. Some harbored the notion that the prospective governing structure should include a king, because only a monarch would be capable of binding together a rancorous cluster of states that, despite success in the American Revolution, had not demonstrated much willingness to get along with each other. But most thought this to be a ridiculous idea, given the fact that the colonists had just overthrown a king who, they claimed, had oppressed them and rejected their pleas for greater home rule. Besides, a king in France had just lost his head for having turned a deaf ear to the plight of his subjects. Moreover, the only American who possessed monarchical credentials, George Washington, showed no interest, thought it absurd that anyone could ascend to a throne in the new republic where every free man thought himself the equal of any other.

No, America was not made for kings. But far more people were worried that the new nation might fall prey to aristocratic rule. After all, throughout the period al-

most every colony (excepting perhaps Rhode Island) saw a self-appointed elite take command (albeit under the ultimate authority of England). These cliques monopolized power in each province, maintained their exclusivity, and proved adept at accumulating wealth (via land ownership, speculation, and trade). Americans traveling to England could not help but note that aristocrats ruled the mother country. John Adams was more outspoken than anyone else, warning against the threat the “Dons, the Bashaws, the Grandees, the Patricians, the Nabobs, call them by whatever name you please,” posed even in a society that recognized no formal aristocratic titles.

Did that mean that democracy should reign in America—that the common man could be entrusted with governing, determining matters of state? Few, if any, at that time thought that to be a good idea. Far too easily could the “people” turn into a mob—(mob activity was fairly common during the revolution). In revolutionary France they appeared to have acted in precisely that fashion. The people, united, could also threaten the rights of property (after all, large numbers owned no property themselves and thus would have little at stake.) Indeed, in Massachusetts in 1786-87, common folk had been on the march (Shay’s Rebellion) against state authorities, who they claimed had levied onerous taxes upon them. Furthermore, relatively few people enjoyed the benefits of a formal education and thus could not be expected to think clearly and dispassionately about weighty issues. Finally, history offered no instructive examples of societies based on

the widespread participation of ordinary folks. It was, therefore, too risky to launch such an experiment at this time when the need for stability was paramount.

So, if such obvious limitations discredited exclusive rule by a monarch, or an aristocracy, or by the common man, what was to be done about devising a government that would provide for the general welfare and would have a decent chance of surviving and succeeding? The answer the founding fathers settled upon incorporated a little bit of this and a little bit of that. They called it a “mixed government” and provided for an executive, the president, who might seem like a king but who was not, a senate that was thought would be the preserve of the local elites who would engage in lofty debate, along with a house of representatives (“the people’s chamber”) where ordinary Americans might express more down-to-earth concerns. Thus, no single point of view prevailed—each camp had to accept some portion of the ideas they opposed. Somehow their collective fears produced a sturdy framework. In short, they found out that the jumble of approaches they blended together could work. And that’s why they’re called the “founding” fathers.

—Richard Skolnik

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

MontereyMA.gov

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

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, May 6 and 20, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, May 8, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Monday, May 13, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, May 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, May 1, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, May 9 and 23, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesday, May 1, at 9 a.m., and May 15 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

All meetings are held at town hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

The town hall will be closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

Other News

By now you have probably received or seen a copy of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., at the Monterey Firehouse, 411 Main Road, on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

A quick review of the articles:

Article 4 is a request to amend the Regional Agreement Establishing the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Copies of the proposed amendment were attached to the warrant. The SBRSD Superintendent and Business Administrator will be at town meeting to answer any questions.

Article 5 is a housekeeping issue for the current year to cover additional monies assessed for unemployment insurance.

Article 6 seeks permission to use free cash to pay for a study by the UMass Collins Center to follow up on a commitment made at last year's town meeting to have a professional organization review the current organizational structure and operational practice of the town with a view to identifying changes that might improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the town, and whether or not these changes require a town administrator.

Article 7 is a request from the council on aging to hire an outreach worker. The council intends to use this money only if they do not receive the state grant they are applying for.

Article 8 is to purchase new computer equipment for the new cruiser.

Article 9 requests permission to purchase new thermal imaging equipment for the fire department.

Articles 10 and 11 are requests from the highway department to upgrade their failing furnace and replace the 2011 F550 truck.

Articles 12, 13, and 14 are all requests to deposit monies into stabilization accounts. Article 13 requests to set up a new, separate stabilization account just for the fire department's needs.

Article 15 pays the town's portion of retiree health insurance benefits.

Article 16 is a request to pay a portion of the capital improvements made on the fire company building.

Articles 17 and 18 are housekeeping items which will close out open amounts the

town granted the treasurer permission to borrow that were not used.

Article 20 is required since the term of the contract is longer than three years. This contract allows the town the ability to participate in the recycling receiving and processing services. The current contract expires June of 2020 and Requests for Responses are being sought now for the new contract by the Springfield MRF Advisory Board.

Article 21 allows the town to continue with the process of becoming a Green Community which will afford us grant monies from the state. Building Inspector Don Torrico will be on hand to answer any questions regarding the impact of the "stretch energy code" on any new building projects.

Articles 22, 23, and 25 are all requests to amend bylaws. Members of each group will be present to explain and answer any questions.

Articles 24, and Articles 26 through 30 are articles that must appear on the warrant each year.

—Carol Edelman, Chair
Kenn Basler and Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

Upcoming Blood Drives

American Red Cross

RedCrossBlood.org

Thursday, May 10: 2 to 7 p.m., at Berkshire South community center on Chrissey Road in Great Barrington.

Friday, June 7: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road (Route 23), in Great Barrington.

Friday, June 21: 1 to 6 p.m., at Race Brook Lodge, Route 41, Sheffield.

For more information, see page 12.

May Calendar

Sundays: Slow-pitch softball, Greene Park. 10 a.m. batting practice, 10:30 games.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Thursdays:

May 2 and 16: Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 10.

May 2 and 16: Ping pong, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Fridays: Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Saturdays:

May 11 and 25: Ping pong, 2 to 4 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Saturday, May 4: Annual Town Meeting, Monterey Firehouse, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 8: Roots: Roots Need Earth and Water. Community center, 1 to 2:30 p.m. See page 13.

Friday, May 10: Elder Law Education, community center, 10 a.m. See page 9.

Saturday, May 11: Fishing derby, Berkshire Fish Hatchery, 9 to 10:30.

Monday, May 13: Lake Garfield Working Group, town hall, 7 p.m. See page 6.

Tuesday, May 14:

Gong Bath, with Susan Cain, 5:30 p.m., at 9 Heron Pond Park. See page 13.

Movie night. *Amadeus*, town hall, 7 p.m. See page 9.

Wednesday, May 15:

Roots: Seedlings Grow in Light and Air. Community center, 1 to 2:30 p.m. See page 13.

Community potluck supper. Plans for general store. Church basement, 6 p.m. See page 12.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to monterey-news9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Saturday, May 18:

Writer's Work-out, with Sonia Pilcer. 10 a.m. to noon, community center. See page 10.

Saturday, May 18: Lenox Contra Dance. Live traditional New England dance music with calling by Steve Zakon-Anderson. 8 to 11 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Lenox-Contradance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Sunday, May 19:

Bird walk with Joe Baker. 11 a.m., community center. See page 10.

Blooming at Bidwell, 2 to 3 p.m. See page 25.

Monday, May 20: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., community center. *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens.

Wednesday, May 22: Roots: Maybe We're a Garden Party. Community center, 1 to 2:30 p.m. See page 13.

Saturday, May 25: Otis tag sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Otis Ski Ridge parking lot. See page 15.

Sunday, May 26: *A Free Woman: The Amazing Grace of Mum Bet.*, Bidwell House Museum. See page 22.

In June

Saturday, June 8: Mosiacs with Marilyn Cromwell. See page 10.

Sunday, June 9: Yogurt making with Wendy Jensen. See page 10.

Saturday, June 15: Kitchen knife sharpening. See page 10.

Saturday, June 22: Saving and preserving food with Kevin West. See page 10.

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.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call **528-3211**.

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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

center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136

chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734

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montereylibrary@gmail.com

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SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Tristian Goik, p. 17; George Emmons, p. 16;
Bonner McAllester, p. 24.*

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