

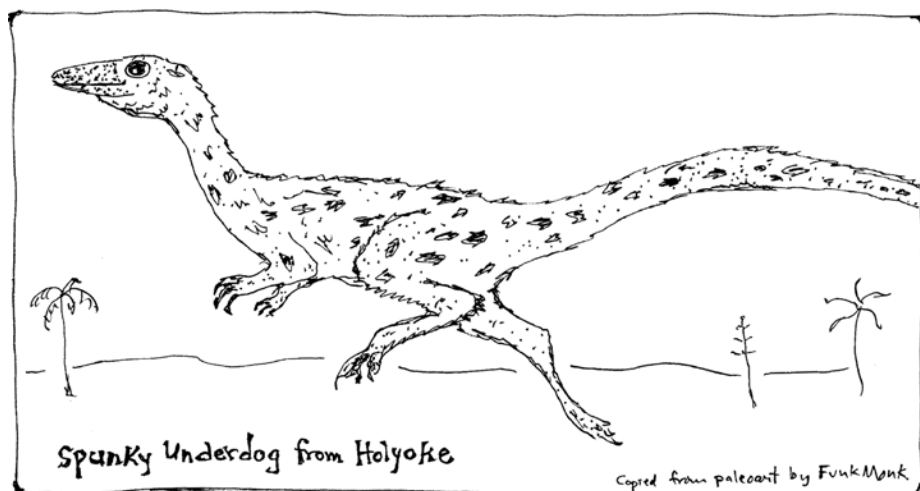
MONTEREY NEWS

March 2023 Est. 1970

Vol. LIII · Number 3



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



Paleontological news: Spunky Underdog from Holyoke named state dinosaur! page 26

This week (February 19 on) will be the fifth time this winter our roads have gone through a freeze/thaw cycle and the "usual" mud season is still ahead.

Maintaining Gravel Roads page 12

The musical mockingbird is well known as a backyard bird with a vast vocabulary of songs and a variety of up to two hundred other sounds to select from.

Musical Northern Mockingbird page 21

The reels are not labeled, but appear to be of Camp Owissa and Camp Monterey on Lake Garfield from the late 1940s to the 1950s.

Summer Camps Film Project page 25

The End of Drum Time tells another story of the clashes between indigenous cultures and European expansion.

Books in Brief page 9

But when I see the women work
To raise the cash that backs,
It seems to me the church is built
On tired women's backs.

Ladies Aid Society page 15

Let's just do our best to be one of the people Mister Rogers' mother told him to watch for when he was a little boy.

"Look for the helpers," she said

Here's a Thought page 22

We are going to celebrate the coming of spring with the return of another favorite: a visit to the Clark Museum in Williamstown.

Council on Aging page 5

The Army being what it is, Private Dean, an accomplished trumpeter, was deployed to Hawaii as a clerk-typist.

Who's Who—Alan Dean pages 18-19

The buildings on the property have been cleared out and are ready for demo. The architectural designs have been completed and sent out to bid.

Roadside 2.0 Update page 4

Purpose: Educate both yourselves and your community on accessing rebates, reducing taxes, and creating jobs.

Climate Forum page 4

Daylight Savings Time "Spring Ahead"

Sunday, March 12, at 2 a.m.

The town always benefits by having a full slate of candidates so that no office remains unfilled.

Upcoming Town Elections page 2

Enhancing Career Vocational and Technical Education (CVTE) opportunities for south county students continues to be a high priority.

8 Town School Reg. Planning page 7

One of the last issues the group will address is the capital budget and one-time major expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. Not an easy task.

Requests for the Budget page 3

Coming across the lawn I heard, then saw a convivial scene. In winter colors and fabrics, a clump of twenty or more were gathered, and Winterfest had just begun.

Winterfest pages 10-11

There was no other adult there, and no telephone. Often Mrs. Phillips had no car. There were no nearby houses, so in an emergency, she had to walk to Roadside Store for help.

Our Older Schools page 23

We should form a steering committee comprised of "REWG members, town administration, finance and department of public works staff, Monterey Fire Company, and other stakeholders as appropriate." This bunch will wrestle with some nitty gritty details.

Solar Energy for Monterey page 3

Upcoming Town Elections

Below is the list of offices that may be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 9. The number of seats is shown in parenthesis, followed by the length of term.

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

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

The last day to submit nomination papers to the registrars of voters is Tuesday, March 21, at 5 p.m. The last time to object to or withdraw a nomination is Thursday, April 6, at 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, April 26.

The last day permissible for the town to publish the town warrant in advance of town meeting, which will be mailed to all registered town voters, is on Saturday, April 29.

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6. Election of town officers will follow on Tuesday, May 9.

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

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

Republican Town Caucus Saturday, March 11

The Republican caucus to nominate candidates for the upcoming town elections on May 9 will be held on Saturday, March 11, at 1:30 p.m., in the Monterey Library. All registered Republicans are invited to attend. Any registered voter interested in any of the seats on the ballot should contact Mark Makuc at mjminmonterey@yahoo.com. Please indicate the seat that you are interested in and include a brief letter of introduction, interest, and any qualifications. The caucus can nominate any voter regardless of party affiliation. There will be a chance for candidates to speak, however only registered Republicans will be able to vote on the nominations.

—Mark Makuc

Democratic Town Caucus Saturday, March 18

Democrats in Monterey will hold their party caucus on Saturday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m., in the Monterey Library, for the purpose of nominating a slate of candidates for the May town elections.

— Barbara Swann

Candidate Statements April or May Issues

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

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

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

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

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The Otis Gazette's 3rd Annual Business Directory

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Capital Expenses Requests for Next Year's Budget



As the select board, finance committee, town administrator, and others bring next year's budget together, one of the last issues the group will

address is the capital budget and one-time major expenses for the up-coming fiscal year. Not an easy task considering it has been a very challenging operating budget because of high inflation.

Items being considered are a police cruiser, police radios, a new tractor and a new pickup for the highway department, fire vehicle(s), town hall upgrades, a consultant for evaluating town hall needs and space usage, and fire company capital improvement expenses. (See the list below.) Also on the list is the milfoil control for Lake Garfield, an electronic voting bundle, and resurfacing the baseball field.

The select board and finance committee will have to determine how the different projects will be financed. There are numerous options: free cash fund, stabilization fund, or bank financing. (Free cash is money already raised from taxes but not spent; stabilization is money set aside for capital and unexpected major expenses.)

The select board, with input from the finance committee, will have the final vote on what items will be put on the warrant for the annual town meeting in May. Ultimately, the citizens will be able to vote yes or no on the items the select board puts on the town meeting warrant.

—Frank Abbott, member

Monterey Finance Committee

As of late February, some of the major requests outside the operating budget include:

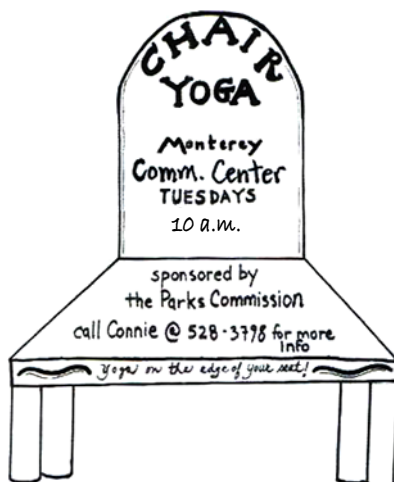
- Fire company requests totaling \$395,000 for firehouse capital improvements and a new truck;
- Police department requests for \$91,000 including new radios and a third cruiser;
- Highway department requests for \$174,000 including a new 1-ton pickup truck, and tractor for roadside mowing; and
- \$49,500 for a study of town hall space needs.

Solar Energy for Monterey Next Steps

The Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG) now has a contract for the Town of Monterey with Beacon Integrated Solutions, an energy consultant, to evaluate “the best and most effective approach to... implementation of renewable generation” on the four most promising town rooftops: the firehouse, firehouse pavilion, town garage, and salt shed.

Time-consuming due diligence preceded this elemental step. Last fall the REWG submitted its application to the select board for \$15,000 in ARPA funds to pay a professional consultant; the select board approved our application. To meet procurement requirements, we drafted our “Scope of Services” and submitted it to four firms listed on CommBuys, the state’s list of vetted and approved contractors. Beacon responded with its proposal, which was precisely tailored to the scope of services we sought, and together we drafted a contract. The select board submitted the draft contract to town counsel, and with certain additions deemed legally advisable, to which Beacon readily agreed, the final contract was signed by all parties.

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



Now the real work begins. Beacon has recommended that we form a steering committee comprised of “REWG members, town administration, finance and department of public works staff, Monterey Fire Company, and other stakeholders as appropriate.” This bunch will wrestle with some nitty gritty details. What are town goals? Are the roofs sufficiently strong and durable for solar panels? How much electricity can be generated? Should it be stored or net-metered? Both? How much independently-generated clean energy can the existing grid accommodate? Who will own the generating hardware? The power? How do townspeople and the fire company want to use the power? Shall we use any revenue from the sale of power to reduce the tax base? Can we? Could the power serve an electric vehicle charging station? Who might be authorized to charge an EV at such an installation? Should the town buy an EV van for scheduled trips to Great Barrington? How much will all this, or any of it, cost? Who will pay?

These are just a few of the questions that require well-considered, widely-supported answers.

Stay tuned—and, if you want, send your thoughts by email to rewg@montereyma.gov. Love to hear from you. Better yet, volunteer for the steering committee. We are all stakeholders.

—Peter Murkett, Chairperson
Renewable Energy Working Group



Climate Forum: Benefits Outlined in Recent Legislation

The Berkshire Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby is hosting a forum on Monday, April 3, on the ways recent federal and state climate legislation benefits all residents of Berkshire County. Monterey residents are extended a warm welcome and invitation to the free event.

The ninety-minute forum will include three prominent panelists who will explain the benefits of several state and federal climate mitigation bills passed recently. This will include how to access monies available for everyone in the towns and cities in the Berkshires.

The members of the panel are:

- Paul Mark, Massachusetts State Senator for Berkshire 2nd district;
- Judy Chang, former Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions for Massachusetts;
- Larry Chretien, executive director of Green Energy Consumers Alliance.

Meeting Details

Time: 5:30-6:15 p.m., reception and finger foods; 6:15 pm panel begins.

Location: Pittsfield's Berkshire Innovation Center, 45 Woodlawn Avenue, Pittsfield, MA.

Format: Panel presentation followed by moderated questions from audience.

Purpose: Educate both yourselves and your community on accessing rebates, reducing taxes, and creating jobs.

The Berkshire Eagle, Ener-G-Save, and Pittsfield's Berkshire Innovation Center are partnering with us on this event.

If you have any questions contact Pauline Banducci, pbanducci@gmail.com or phone: (413) 645-2035

—Pauline Banducci, Monterey
Massachusetts Media Manager,
Citizens Climate Lobby



Roadside Cafe 2.0 Update

While it may not look like much is happening at the Roadside, behind the scenes, things are cooking! The buildings on the property have been cleared out and are ready for demo.

The architectural designs have been completed and sent out to bid. We hope to be able to announce the contractor and construction team soon. The site plans have been completed, including specs for a new well and expanded septic to enable us to double the seating capacity in the new building. We have gotten initial approvals from the conservation commission, and planning board review is next. We hope to officially break ground this spring.

Roadside 2.0 is made possible thanks to many generous donors and a wonderful team of professionals, staff, and board members who have helped Gould Farm bring this vision to life. "We cannot wait to welcome everyone back to Roadside!" said Roadside Café manager, Francie Leventhal. "Roadside 2.0 will retain the warmth and charm that our customers know and love, while adding a bakery counter that will showcase Harvest Barn treats and a dedicated market space selling farm products and other locally sourced goods. Our new kitchen space will provide our guests and staff with more cooking and prep space, and an expanded griddle capacity to serve up more of our beloved pancakes."



Speaking of pancakes, the Roadside pancake recipe will be in the Monterey 175th anniversary book, griddle not included. And if you haven't seen \$1 million-plus in pancakes, you can check out our Roadside capital campaign donor chart, which uses pancakes to represent contributions. We still have a ways to go in our fundraising campaign as construction costs have escalated due to the pandemic and inflation. If you'd like to make a donation contact Gould Farm's Director of Philanthropy, Melanie Brandston, at mbrandston@gouldfarm.org. And for news and updates, follow us on Instagram: [instagram.com/roadsidestoreandcafe/](https://www.instagram.com/roadsidestoreandcafe/).

—Lisanne Finston
Executive Director

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Council on Aging

We are going to celebrate the coming of spring with the return of another favorite: a visit to the Clark Museum in Williamstown. We look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces enjoying a lovely ride, extraordinary art, and lunch. The featured exhibit is "The Visionary Art of Paul Goesch." He lived in Germany from 1885 to 1940, and his work has been described as "inventive, peculiar, and poignant," as well as "a playful and pluralistic embrace of history." Please sign up right away, and we will keep everyone posted on details as the Tuesday, March 21 date gets closer. While it may still be winter when you are reading this, by the time of the Clark Museum trip it will officially be spring! Come join us to celebrate.

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

—Kathryn Roberts
COA Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Events

Monday, March 6: Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website, montereyma.gov. All are welcome.

Wednesday, March 8: Movie night in the Monterey Library at 7 p.m.



This Italian-French production is considered by some to be one of the greatest movies of all time, and won the 1989 Oscar for best foreign film. It is the story of a young boy, from the time he is befriended by the local projectionist in his small town, through to adulthood, centering around his life-long love of film. It's described as a life-affirming ode to the power of youth, nostalgia, and

the movies themselves. Refreshments will be served. (Movie night is always the second Wednesday of the month.)

Thursday, March 16: Wellness check continues at the community center, from 2 to 3 p.m. TriTown Health nurses will check blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen level. Flu and Covid vaccines will also be available. No appointment necessary. For those who are homebound and unable to come to the community center, please call Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209 to arrange for vaccines at home.

Tuesday, March 21: Clark Museum trip! The featured exhibit is "The Visionary Art of Paul Goesch." Be sure to reserve ahead by contacting Kathryn at the phone number or email address above.

Wednesday, March 22: Documentary film at 2 p.m., in the community center showing *The Eagle Huntress*. This 2016



Kazakh documentary follows a thirteen-year-old girl as she trains to be the first female in twelve generations to be an eagle hunter. It's described as a heartwarming story with thrilling visuals. The CoA will serve light refreshments.

Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, March 2, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Monterey Library. Richard Pargament began our APDA-approved, well attended support group over one year ago. Richard along with Roberta Weiss create a kind, compassionate and informative two hours. Caregivers encouraged to attend. Call the CoA at the number above if you'd like more information about the program.

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

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

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running or on your bike are available in town hall for walkers and bikers.



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Energy Assistance and Tax Credit Programs

We are all coping with an extremely challenging home heating winter season. There is help available to pay your heating bills through the Home Energy Assistance Program (also known as Fuel Assistance and LIHEAP—the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). You can get help with your water bills too.

The program is based on household income and runs through this April 30. You can apply any time during the season and the benefits are retroactive. Funds are available for fuel, weatherization, and heating system repair and replacement.

To apply, visit: toapply.org/Mass-LIHEAP.

Additional Resources

For utility company problems, call the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) at (877) 886-5066. Learn more at mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-public-utilities.

For limited-income households who are not eligible for fuel assistance, contact The Good Neighbor Energy Fund operated by the Salvation Army at (800) 262-1320.

You can also find help with energy issues at masssave.com. They provide help with energy costs and assessments.

For non-emergency social service programs, dial 211.

Tax Credit Program for Seniors in Massachusetts

You may qualify for cash or credit from the State if you pay rent or property taxes.

The Massachusetts “Circuit Breaker” tax program is for qualifying persons age sixty-five or older whose property tax exceeds 10%, or their rent exceeds 25%, of their annual gross income. You may be eligible even if you receive a property tax exemption through your town.

Whether or not you owe taxes, you may be eligible for cash or a tax credit of up to \$1,200 this tax year. To obtain the benefit for tax year 2022, you must file by the April 19 filing deadline. You may also file retroactively for any benefits you could have qualified for the past three years.

To qualify, you must be sixty-five or older, and your primary residence (owned or rented) must be in Massachusetts. Other qualifications relate to your income and the value of your home. The credit is not available if you rent in public or subsidized housing.

Your accountant can assist with determining your eligibility. Or, you can call the MA Department of Revenue customer service at (617) 887-6367, or check online at mass.gov, click on the option for “Personal Income Tax,” then scroll down to the box for “Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.”

—Monterey Council on Aging

Berkshire Taconic Scholarships March 15 Deadlines

McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships

Of special concern to Monterey students is the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund. Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion.

The scholarship funds for students in Berkshire County managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) are accepting applications by March 15. Some scholarships are specifically available to students in our immediate area.

The majority of BTCF’s scholarships accept one common application with a few exceptions where noted. Applications and guidelines for all scholarships are available online. Go to berkshiretaconic.org/ to find information on all their scholarships.

Youth Summer Cultural Grants

The Simple Gifts fund awards grants of \$200 to \$800 to young people ages thirteen to nineteen for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs.

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

Applications and guidelines are available online at BerkshireTaconic.org/.



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Data @ the Speed of Light

support@bfcma.com 413.429.4555
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8 Town Regional School District Planning Board

CVTE Focus: Enhancing Career Vocational and Technical Education (CVTE) opportunities for south county students continues to be a high priority. In 2022, south county had only two Chapter 74 CVTE programs (automotive and horticulture, both offered at Monument Mountain), serving about forty-seven students. By comparison, over five hundred students are served by Chapter 74 CVTE programs in both north and central county schools.

50% of our high school graduates do not earn a college degree, and upon graduation, most of those do not earn a living wage. An 8 Town merged district could more than triple our current Chapter 74 offerings, potentially with six to eight comprehensive CVTE programs. A CVTE advisory group drawn from our local employers, schools, workforce/economic development groups, and colleges is evaluating over sixteen possible CVTE programs, looking at local workforce

needs, student interest, available partners, space requirements, and earning capacity. We expect to report that group's recommendations later this spring.

Educational Visioning: With support from the Barr Foundation, we have been working with two skilled facilitators to explore what possibilities community members see for a merged high school. At site visits, interviews, focus groups, and community gatherings, our facilitators have asked:

What are the strengths of the two districts?

Where are the gaps?

What might we be able to do better together? What innovations are possible?

Timeline: The complexity of the assessment methodology work has pushed our targeted date for a board vote back to April/May. This new timing works well with the recommendation of certain select board members that if the RSDPB makes a recommendation to merge, that recommendation be put before the voters at special town meetings this fall (rather than at the annual meetings in May/June) to allow sufficient time for presentation and discussion.

—Lucy Prashker, Chair, 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board, and Jake Eberwein, RSDPB Project Manager

Contributions in February

Peter & Linnea Grealish
Elizabeth Boulanger
Susan Schmerler
Phil Castille & Shannon Amidon
Will Marsh & Glynis Oliver
Linda Tryon Pilloud
Anonymous
Anonymous

Thank you again to everyone who supports the *Monterey News*.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Wednesday, March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Please fly your flags.

—Linda Thorpe

GOTTA BE KIDDING!!!
*An Ode to the Sometimes-Farcical
Nature of Modern Art*
James Boneparth
thru March 11

Reused/Revision

Celeste Watman

March 17 - April 29

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Getting the Monterey News

Pick up in several locations in town.

Have it mailed free of charge.

Receive it via email.

The *News* has been financed by voluntary contributions for over fifty years without a subscription.

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Monterey Community Center

Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly activities

Mondays: Simple Meditation—all are welcome. Bring a cushion for comfortable sitting, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (Note the new time.)

Tuesdays: Chair Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

Tuesdays: Mahjong and Scrabble, 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesdays and Fridays: Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1: Renewable Energy Working Group, at 6 p.m. First Wednesday of the month.

Thursday, March 2: Darn Yarners, at 10 a.m. First Thursday of the month

Thursday, March 16: Wellness Check, 2 to 3 p.m. Third Thursday of the month. With TriTown Health nurses. Checkups include blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels.

March 2, 16, and 30: Chorus, 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 2 and Sunday, March 19: Biweekly Music Jam Session with Mark Andrews, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark Andrews at mc-cjamgroup@gmail.com.

Fridays: Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email james-boneparth76@gmail.com.

Fridays, March 3 and 17: Support group for people with diabetes, at 11:15 a.m.

Saturdays: Coffee Club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Saturdays, March 11 and 25: Art sessions for painting and drawing with Margaret Buchte, 1 to 2:15 p.m. There is no fee. For details and materials, please email margaretbuchte@gmail.com. Please register by sending an email to calendar@ccmonterey.org or phoning (413) 528-3600.

Saturdays: Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m.

Sundays: Al Anon family group meeting, at 9 a.m.

Special Events

Thursday, March 16: Draw Monterey, 10 a.m. to noon. A morning of sketching, conversation, and cookies, with Beth Hoffman. Please bring your own art supplies. Register by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Coming up

Saturday, April 1: Spring Renewal—A mindful approach to replenishing and nourishing ourselves. Saturday, April 1, 11 a.m. to noon. Join our community mindfulness facilitator Sandrine Harris for an experience of remembering the energy and possibility of new growth in spring. This program is a fluid mix of brief meditations, conversation, and reflection, and time to integrate and embody renewal, in all of the seasons of our lives. No experience is needed to join us, and all adults (eighteen and older) are welcome.

Saturday, April 8: Backyard Ecology Talk, 11 a.m. Getting ready for spring. A talk sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group.

Shodo is Japanese calligraphy—the art of writing with ink and brush on special *washi* paper. With these basic tools, you can create attractive pictorial characters. The art came from China two thousand years ago, and has developed into an aristocratic Japanese pastime, a scholarly skill, and a traditional art taught in elementary school. Michelle Arnot, who holds a license in this art from the Japanese Calligraphy Society, will guide you in both writing and painting with ink.

Two sessions are scheduled:

Sunday, April 30: Writing with Ink, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday May 7: Painting with Ink, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For questions, or to register, please email calendar@ccmonterey.org, or call (413) 528-3600. Registration is strongly advised.

You can find more information on events at our website ccmonterey.org or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator
and Nancy Kleban

Christopher J. Tryon & Associates



Perc Testing

Septic Design

Sewer & Water System Design

Residential & Commercial Site Design

Drainage Design

Structural Evaluation & Design

Retaining Wall Design

Foundation Design

Construction Layout

Driveway Design & Permitting

Scenic Mountain Act Permitting

Wetland Permitting

Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction
Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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MONTEREY UNITED

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

Online worship is available on the
Lenox website blog:

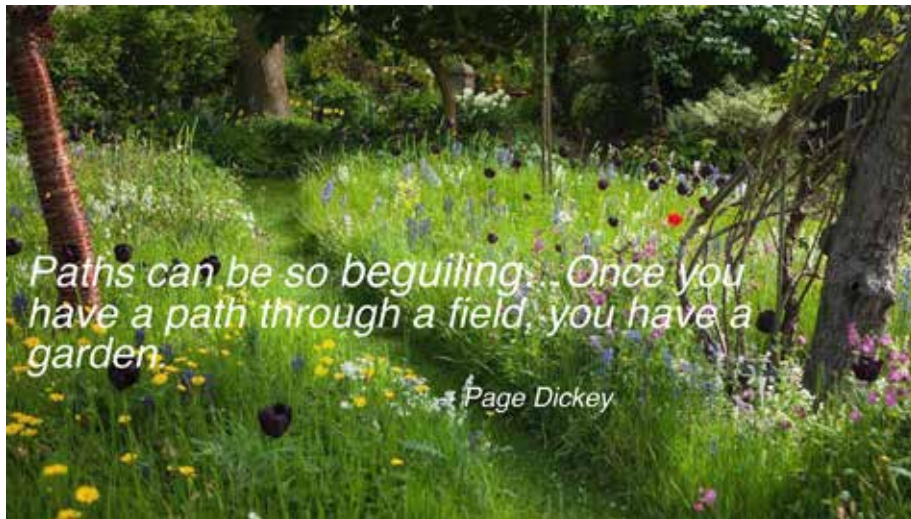
lenoxucc.org/blog

For Information and Assistance:

413-528-5850

www.montereychurch.org

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Bringing the Meadow into the Garden, with Page Dickey

A lifelong and passionate gardener, Page Dickey is also a major influence in American horticulture. She has lectured and written extensively, including eight books and numerous articles, and serves as director emeritus for the Garden Conservancy.

In a free talk and slide show on Saturday, March 11, at 11 p.m., in the Monterey Library, Ms. Dickey will take you on a virtual tour through some of her favorite gardens and meadows. Along the way, she will share some of her strategies for increasing meadows and wildflowers in her home in Falls Village, Connecticut, where she has lived since 2015.

Beauty, for Ms. Dickey, is a given. But she is also forging a new aesthetic in gardening, one that considers function as well as form. This evolution was accelerated by her relocation from Duck Hill, a gorgeous but high-maintenance property in North Salem, New York. Eight years ago, she and her husband, bowing to practicalities, said good-bye to their beloved gardens and re-settled on seventeen acres of rolling fields and woodlands. That journey is described in her most recent book *Uprooted, A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again*.

Dickey's challenge was how to manage a site that was six times larger than her former home with less effort. Her solution: less curation and more appreciation of nature's sensibilities. She used native plants to amplify the beauty of untamed meadows

and woodland and kept cultivated beds small and manageable. She discouraged invasives and encouraged native plants. And then let Mother Nature have at it.

The problem with lawns, she explained in a recent talk, is that they take a lot of energy to maintain, while providing almost nothing for birds and other pollinators.

Another theme of Ms. Dickey's gardening philosophy is ensuring that gardens and landscapes exist in harmony with what she calls "the spirit of the place." She finds a "satisfying calmness achieved by plantings that blend with the natural landscape." Signed copies of books that illustrate her vision of beautiful and resilient gardens will be available at the talk.

The Backyard Ecologist series, sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, aims to help realize Monterey's resolution to become a pollinator-friendly community, which was adopted last year. Talks and workshops are generally offered on the second Saturday of each month. There is limited seating for this free event, so kindly register in advance by emailing Pollinators01245@gmail.com. You can also let us know if you want to attend virtually and we will send a link. Questions? Feel free to call or text me.

—Janet Jensen,
(347) 712-9884

Books in Brief

The End of Drum Time

The End of Drum Time tells another story of the clashes between indigenous cultures and European expansion. Set in the 1850s, this historical fiction, without being a collection of specific dates, places, events, captures the essence of how these struggles play out.

Northern European culture, religion, and politics were pushing further and further north into the Scandinavian peninsula, and by the 1850s were beginning to displace Sami reindeer herding culture in an area of indistinct borders between Norway, Sweden, and Russian Finland. The Samis used the whole region collectively as they herded their reindeer across traditional migration routes.

The conflict plays out in the lives of a small group of evangelical Lutherans and a few extended Sami families through a love affair. The prose and dialogue are beautiful: the descriptions of the region, and the thoroughly researched lives of the Sami, are intensely drawn. The author, Hanna Pylväinen, has personal family connections to some of the story, and made extensive research journeys into Sami lands.

Listen to a seven-minute interview by Scott Simon on NPR, recorded this January 28. Go to npr.org, and search "Scott Simon with Hanna Pylväinen."

—Stephen Moore

Editor's Note: I have long wondered why people don't submit book reviews to share with their neighbors. The Monterey News would welcome short reviews of books from the Monterey Library collection. The review above is two hundred words which should be sufficient.



Winter Fest—A Gathering of Our Community

On Sunday, February 19, over one hundred people celebrated Winterfest at the Monterey Community Center. Although we didn't have snow or sledding, no one seems to care. Folks charmed each other into feeling comfortable, introducing the new transplants to long-time residents. Visitors had a pleasant surprise; there was no charge for anything!

Kyle Pierce cooked and served three kinds of piping hot, crock-pot chili. Roz Halberstadter presented an array of baked items including Margy Abbott's gluten-free corn muffins for the chili. Oh! And I can't forget the delicate parmesan crisps provided by Hanna Jensen, the rich double-chocolate brownies by Elaine Lynch, and the perfectly grilled hot dogs by Dennis Lynch and Mark Andrews. It was a bounty!

Inside the community center Marya Makuc, helped by sisters Bernadette and Bridget Starczewsk, set up several stations for young and old alike to make greeting cards, beeswax candles, noodle people, and luminaria. My daughter Julia, husband Rick, and I thoroughly enjoyed making cards and beeswax candles. Those candles are lit and gracing our table as the ice comes crashing down tonight. We are hoping they will keep the dark winter at bay.

We drank some delicious hot chocolate and whipped cream supplied by Cynthia Makuc. My daughter Julia was thrilled she



This image is from a roving video Wendy Germain made showing some of the one hundred folks who turned out to enjoy some fun food, activities, and community.

could eat the gluten-free vegan chocolate chip cookies, which were outrageously good. Josephine Hurst, sister Stella, along with brothers Vim, and Samuel, cooked "to order" thin dessert crepes filled with fruit and Nutella. We might as well have been in France!

There was an air of festivity as my family and I danced, roping in Joseph Enoch to join us, while DJ Andrew Shaw played 60s, 70s and 80s music. Tom Ryan and daughter Josephine started and kept watch over the bonfire, where gooey marshmallows were roasted and enjoyed by my family.



MCC committee members Mark Andrews and Dennis Lynch working the grill.



Forester Tom Ryan made a nice firepit and supplied wood for marshmallow roasting.



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There were plenty of kids craft activities inside. (See page 15 for another example.)



Caylee Vella with her candle project.



The Hursts: Stella, Samuel, Vim, and Josephine, at their crepe station.

Gerry Clarin was the day's electrician, and, when there was an electrical snafu, Gerry got help from Joe Baker and Tomer Ben-Gal. That's what community is all about. Justin Makuc and others provided the muscle for the grill set up, tables, and miscellaneous cleanup, a job which often goes unnoticed, but is so necessary for a smooth event. The community center's official videographer, Wendy Germain kindly recorded the event. It would be fun to view in about twenty years to see if we can recognize ourselves.

Lastly, a big thank you to Parks Commission for contributing \$100 to the day.

—Pauline Banducci

Winterfest Reflection

Coming across the lawn I heard, then saw a convivial scene. In winter colors and fabrics, a clump of twenty or more were gathered, and Winterfest had just begun. On my right, Kyle was manning the chilis—both vegetarian and chunked with meat, amazing cornbread muffins and crispy, layered slices of pasta dusted with cheese and herbs by the artistic hand of Hannah. Great, old rocking songs filled the air as Andrew Shaw spun the platters, so to speak. Hot cocoa and cider stood by to wash down hot dogs with all the fixings.

And now, more folks came spilling down the hill, where a fire pit drew the young and the not-so-young. I saw a pair of marshmallows toasted just right by an undaunted youngster. Next, I ducked inside the community center where a fair number of artisans were at work on an array of kids crafts creating candles, cards, mobiles, and luminaries.

By the end, I'd met some new folks who'd just moved to town this year, and we'd made plans to see each other again. And everywhere, I'd seen old friends working the crowd, making sure everyone felt included.

—Maggie Barkin

Thanks to the many folks who sent in photographs whether they are published or not. Elizabeth Evans, Mary Makuc, Mia Plehn, Wendy Germain, Tom Ryan, and anyone not mentioned.

Cultural Council Awarded Grants

Your local cultural council has chosen twenty grant applicants which we hope our community will enjoy.

For the young, the Berkshire Children's Chorus will perform "Circle: a Multimedia Concert"; Flying Cloud Institute's "MakerSpaces: Making the Future Brighter" will be offered in the schools; and Jane Burke will offer "Sparks," a learning program at Flying Cloud Farm.

We have funded some events nearby; the New Marlborough Village Association presents their Meeting House programs and gallery shows. In Housatonic, Pulse Studios offers "Moving Life Stories." Berkshire South community center continues to offer free weekly musical activities for adults: Berkshire Sings! and Berkshire Ukulele Band (BUB). Over in Sheffield, Dewey Hall offers events all through the year. Programs with Monterey funding include Jazz Jam sessions, TapRoot Dances, Use Your Words, and Young at Heart. You can get more information on their website deweyhall.org/. Keep an eye out for Festival Latino of the Berkshires in Great Barrington, and The Garage with Steve Butler.

Here in Monterey our local venues will be busy. The Bidwell House Museum will host an early American reenactment weekend. The Monterey Community Center will produce three concerts and a talk, "Foraging in the Local Forests." Don Barkin will lead discussions on three poets, and Travis Lusk will guide participants in creating magazines in three sessions of "Eazy Zines." The Knox Gallery will continue to host talks by the artists whose work will be on display. Over Thanksgiving weekend, Monterey will once again gather to light the holidays. Later this year we are looking forward to seeing newly restored film footage from Monterey's summer camps.

Feel free to reach out to any of us for more information on these programs, or if becoming a member of your local cultural council interests you.

—Maggie Barkin, Janet Jensen, Erica Stern, Dorene Beller, Carole Clarin, Stephanie Sloane, and Barbara Dahlman.

Maintaining Gravel Roads Beartown Mountain Road

What a great month to talk about roads, especially gravel roads in Monterey. This week (February 19 on) will be the fifth time this winter our roads have gone through a freeze/thaw cycle and the "usual" mud season is still ahead. The common practice of dumping more gravel on top and grading/rolling the road smooth has worked in the past when there was just one mud season in the spring but, going forward, the search is on for a better approach. Monterey is embracing the challenge.

The state, through its Massworks Program, awarded Monterey \$1 million to correct the problems on Beartown Mountain Road. This is a positive development for all the small towns with deteriorating gravel roads. Usually grants of this size are focused on paved roads and the hope is that the state is finally understanding the need, and recognizing that monies are necessary from the state to reverse the longtime neglect of our gravel roads. Over 90% of grants from the state for road repair are aimed at paved roads, while in Monterey, as in other Berkshire towns, 50% of the roads are gravel.

Beartown Mountain Road represents the worst of the gravel roads in Monterey, but this grant will allow the town to explore alternatives to past practices and develop new "best practices," for how better to deal with the frequency of freeze/thaw cycles. What we learn from this project will have a direct effect on how we deal with our twenty-five miles of gravel roads.

Freeze/Thaw Cycles

In the fall of each year our gravel roads begin to freeze, starting at the road surface and moving deeper. When water has entered the road base, soils ice lenses are formed, and the soil begins to move upward causing frost heaves, potholes, and rutting.

During the spring, when temperatures rise, the once-frozen roads begin to thaw from the top downward. Keep in mind that this process is now happening multiple times during our winters. As the ice thaws, the meltwater is trapped in the soil above the still-frozen lower layers causing the thawed layer to be saturated. In this condition, the structural integrity of the roads is weakened, making them more susceptible to damage from heavier passenger vehicles and trucks. The spring thaw is particularly noticeable for our gravel roads because the road surface turns to mud; vehicles driving on the roads can sink to the frozen layer leaving behind large ruts that refreeze and form water puddles.


The most problematic roads have water in the soils below surfaces. The source of water can come from shallow groundwater tables, precipitation, streams, or wetlands. Many of our gravel roads were built through wetlands. In the good old days gravel was plentiful and cheap.


There are three main problems that affect our gravel roads and the Beartown Mountain Road project will deal with them along with a few others. The first is drainage. There are thirty-three culverts to be replaced. Our highway department, along with Forsyth Engineering, will be conducting a comprehensive survey of the

existing drainage, identifying those that need to be replaced or enlarged and areas that need new drainage. Proper drainage, especially in the wetland areas, will be critical to creating a road that will withstand the increase in freeze/thaw cycles.


The second problem is improper road base construction. This project is a full-depth reclamation in some areas. This will mean digging down to and below the existing base, replacing with the properly-sized gravel and then, in some sections, adding a geotextile fabric. This is a newer development in gravel road building.

The geotextile role here is to reinforce the road and separate the subsoils from the road gravel to prevent the gravel from sinking into the soil. As a result, less gravel will be required (a cost savings) and rutting is considerably decreased. Without the fabric, tons and tons of gravel would sink in the subgrade, and the road would still not be strong enough: potholes and ruts would be inevitable. Monterey experimented with this type of road rebuilding when the lower section of Eaton Road was rebuilt two years ago. This section went through a wetland area. The results were good with fewer ruts and no deep mud.

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The third major problem is the actual surface of the gravel road. The current common practice is grading and rolling. By using the correct gravel mix a hard, travel-ready surface is formed but it starts to break down after the first rain. Each subsequent storm breaks it up a little more and washboarding and potholes form. Then the grader is back with more gravel packed in and the cycle continues to repeat. In the past new gravel and grading in the spring and fall was all that a gravel road would need for maintenance. Maybe a touch-up with the grader on some of the more traveled roads. Now, with our new winter climate, the game has changed. It's not unusual to gravel and grade three to five times a year on certain roads. There must be a better way and there may be. Our director of operations, Jim Hunt, recently spent time on a Zoom call with a company in Ohio that has developed a new approach to gravel road maintenance.

The company, Midwest Supply, has developed a liquid polymer that can be mixed with existing soils to create a hard, water resistant surface and base. It is created by incorporating one of Midwest's patented, environmentally-friendly products into the existing soil or aggregate to create a strong, high performance sub-base and road surface using the existing in-place material. The base is then profiled, compacted, and allowed to cure for twelve hours. The polymer used is EPA-approved for use in wetland areas.

The surface course will protect the stabilized base by preventing surface deterioration such as erosion and raveling, in addition to stopping harmful moisture from penetrating into and weakening the base. This reduction of moisture penetration greatly extends the performance life of the base material, especially in areas prone to freeze-thaw cycles. The new surface increases driver safety by creating a dust-free, bound surface with good skid resistance. Could this be the future? The success of this process in other parts of the country could mean a cost savings for the town. Imagine only grading every three to five years or longer with the reduction of gravel used. Jim will be following up with this company and may incorporate this process on a section of Beartown Mountain Road.

The Bidwell House Museum Two Great March Programs

As I write this article in mid-February, we are spending a lot of time in the office talking about the mud on Art School Road. A quick thaw along with some rain means treacherous conditions and a road that seems to have a mind of its own as drivers try to avoid sinking into the deep ruts made by previous cars. The museum grounds are open year-round but during "mud" season it is best to call ahead or check the museum Facebook page for updates on road conditions or closures. The main museum number is (413) 528-6888.

March Programs

Coming up in March we have our last Zoom lecture in our winter series along with an in-person maple syrup demonstration.

Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m.: Russ Cohen, wild edibles enthusiast and author of the book *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten* will give a talk titled "Springtime Wild Edibles in the Southern Berkshires" covering at least two dozen wild edibles available during springtime. These include plant species everyone knows well, like daisies and dandelions, to species they may never have even heard of, like calamus and carrion flower. This lecture will be held via Zoom and will be followed in June by an in-person foraging hike on the museum grounds. Pre-registration is required and the Zoom details for the talk will be sent via email a few days in advance.

Saturday, March 25, at 10 a.m.: Learn how to make maple syrup using techniques perfected by the Native peoples of the Berkshires. Watch Rob Hoogs as he demonstrates the Native American methods for collecting and cooking sap

and then describes how maple sugar was made both before and after contact with Europeans. This program will be limited to fifteen participants and pre-registration is required.

To register for either of these programs, head to the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/events

Looking past the spring, the Bidwell House is planning a wonderful 2023 season which will include a textile theme, history talks, and a weekend long reenactment event on June 23-25. Look for more on that in the April issue. We will also be offering four stipended internships this summer for local high school and college students. If you have a child or grandchild who loves history and is looking for an internship this summer, check out bidwellhousemuseum.org/internships for more information and to download an application.

Finally, road conditions permitting, get out of the house and get some fresh Monterey air with a walk in the woods. As always, trail maps can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the "Trails" page at our website.

Happy Spring everyone!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Heather Kowalski

As frustrating as the gravel roads are when they turn into what may feel like quicksand, our highway department understands the concerns and is working hard to correct existing problems today while incorporating new methodology for the future.

With budget season upon us I am planning to do a little town budget analysis in next month's issue.

Any questions send an e-mail to kenhnb@gmail.com.

—Kenn Basler

Monterey Historical Society Custodians of Church Records

Monterey Historical Society Becomes Custodian of old Church Records

Monterey Historical Society Becomes Custodian of old Church Records

The church and the Monterey Historical Society are very pleased to announce that the church's historical records have been given to the historical society to preserve for posterity.

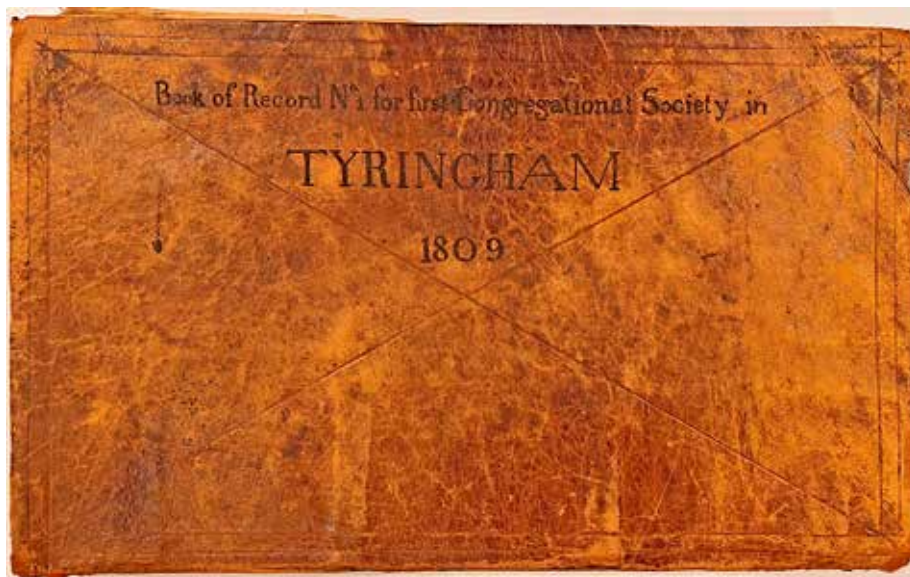
The church has a long history—longer, in fact, than the Town of Monterey, which was incorporated about the same time that our present church building was erected in the village. Almost one hundred years earlier, in 1750, the church first gathered in the Old Center of what was then Township No. 1, when Rev. Adonijah Bidwell arrived to serve as the first minister. Over the years since then, church clerks and others—in graceful longhand, carefully typewritten pages, or hasty scrawls—have recorded membership lists, celebrations, comings and goings, expense reports, the minutes of meetings of all kinds, and all manner of concerns, joys, and challenges that have faced the community over the years.

These records have lived for a long time in the church building. Recently, however, the members of the church have decided that it is time to find a safe custodian for these documents so that they can be cared for properly and live on as the historic treasures that they are. Our old building, subject to temperature swings, humidity, and occasional leaks, is certainly not the best place for them!

At the annual meeting of the Monterey Church on January 24, the members voted to transfer custody of the records to the Monterey Historical Society.

We are deeply grateful that the historical society has agreed to become the custodian of the records of the Monterey Church. We now have a way to properly honor the past of both the church and the town while also looking ahead to the future, to ensure that these records will be archived and available to anyone interested in the history of this place and those who have lived and worshiped here.

—Hannah Fries,
for the Monterey Church



The Monterey Historical Society is honored to become the custodian of these important historic church records. The records tell the stories of the people who made our town; they are far more than just "vital records" of births, marriages, and deaths. From the minutes of the congregation's meetings, Ladies Aid Society, and other records, we get insights about who these people were and what was important to them. An example is an anonymous poem entitled "The Ladies Aid." (See page 15.)

The volume of records pictured above has minutes of the South Tyringham [Monterey] Congregational Society's Minutes dating from 1809 through 1951!

The historical society plans to arrange to have the original church records digitized and made publicly available online, most likely through Digital Commonwealth*. The books and other records will be stored

in the climate-controlled historical room in the basement of the Monterey Library. Researchers and other interested parties will be able to make appointments with the historical society to look through and study the original records in a safe manner. We also plan to have a number of exhibits and talks that use these records to illustrate the history of Monterey.

We thank the Monterey Congregational Church for entrusting us with these documents.

—Rob Hoogs,
Monterey Historical Society

**Digital Commonwealth is a non-profit collaborative that supports the creation, management, and dissemination of cultural heritage materials throughout Massachusetts. The site is managed by the Boston Public Library. For more information, go to digitalcommonwealth.org.*



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A Piece of History

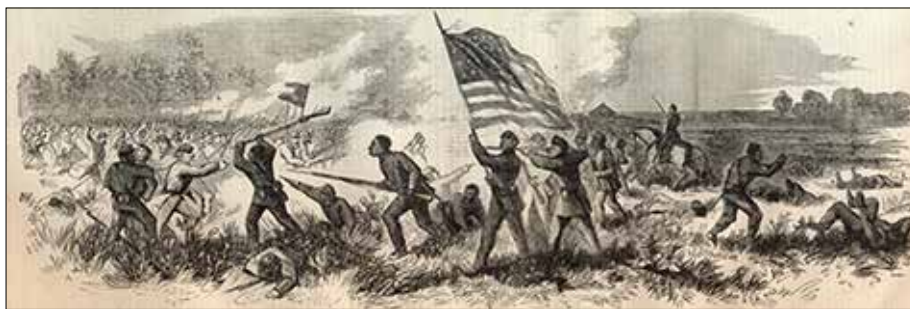
While many of the church records might appear mundane, occasionally one stumbles across a hidden treasure. The following is an anonymous poem about the Ladies Aid Societies—and the never-ending work of women that has often been taken for granted. This poem appeared in newspapers nationwide about 1905; we found a handwritten copy tucked inside a Monterey Ladies Aid secretary's notebook. We hope you enjoy it!

The Ladies Aid

We've put a new addition
On the good old church at home,
It's just the latest kilter,
With a gallery and dome.
It seats a thousand people,
finest church in all the town,
and when 'twas dedicated,
We planked ten thousand down.
That is—we paid five thousand.
Every deacon did his best,
and the Ladies Aid Society,
It promised all the rest.

We've got an organ in the church,
The finest in the land,
It's got a thousand pipes or more,
Its melodies are grand.
It cost a cool three thousand,
And it stood the hardest test.
We paid one thousand down on it,
The Ladies Aid—the rest.

They'll give a hundred sociables,
Cantatas too and teas,
They'll bake a hundred angel cakes,
And tons of cream they'll freeze.
They'll beg and scrape and toil and sweat
For seven years or more,
And then they'll start all o'er again
For a carpet on the floor.



Historical Society News

The Monterey Historical Society had a busy month. On January 26, we presented a talk highlighting many new acquisitions given to the society over the past year. We also announced the gift from the Monterey Congregational Church of their collection of historic church books and records. (See separate article.) On January 30, the society held its annual meeting which was well attended by the public. Nine trustees were elected including four new trustees: Lauren Behrman, Mort Salomon, Wendy Germain, and Laura Litwin; five incumbents were elected for another term: Paula Moats McNay, Barbara Swann, Robert Rausch, Robert Hoogs, and Cynthia Hoogs. We expressed our thanks to Christine Goldfinger who stepped down from the board after many years of stewarding the society.

The following officers were elected: Rob Hoogs, president; Barbara Swann, vice president; and Cindy Hoogs, secretary and treasurer.

On February 16, Rob Hoogs presented an illustrated talk entitled "Ye Olde Roads, Cellar Holes, and Stone Walls," with over 40 attendees. Our next third Thursday history talk will be on March 16 at 7 p.m., at the library. Barbara Swann will talk about Monterey people who fought in the Civil War. Don't miss it. (The illustration is "Battle of Milliken's Bend," by Theodore Russell Davis, published in *Harper's Weekly*. Several Monterey people fought in this battle.)

We have received many new and renewed memberships; if you haven't already joined, we hope you will. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An individual membership is only \$15, family membership is \$25.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support.

—Rob Hoogs, on behalf of the
Board of Trustees

It isn't just like digging out
The money from your vest,
When the Ladies Aid gets busy
And says, "We'll do the rest."
Of course we love our church
From the pulpit to the spire,
It is the darling of our hearts,
The crown of our desire.

But when I see the women work
To raise the cash that backs,
It seems to me the church is built
On tired women's backs.
And sometimes I can't help thinking
When we reach the regions blest,
The men will get the toil and sweat,
And the Ladies Aid—the rest.

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Young Creators

Images

Writing

School News



Maeve H., age 8, Corashire Road; "cute kitty"



Macaroni plate by Gwendolyn E., age 4, made at Winterfest.



Calia H., age 5, Corashire Road; "magical unicorn."



Ronan M.-D., age 3, Gould Road, NMC pre-k: "monster & rainbow."

This is a space for young creators of images, poems, stories, or school news.

Elizabeth Evans will collect scans or well-lit photos of kids work.

Contact Elizabeth via email at evans.elizabethv@gmail.com.

"Young Creators," Emmett J., age 6; "Images Writing School News," Nara J., age 8.

Disappointment: A New Year's Quartet

1.

Your thin flute of disappointment ushers me from last year
into this one, finding
all the crevices.

Its notes mere background now, like traffic, like
the absence
of birds
these winter mornings.

Enough, I say. *Be quiet. It's a New Year.*

We've finally gotten what we wanted—

Cold winds draw tears. Nights are warm if I want them to be.

We can keep out of love for two weeks, tops.

We can pretend we have everything we need.

2.

This morning I read, *Ice fishing derby cancelled due to insufficient ice.*

Later, down the road, some fishermen have set up on the river's
frozen outskirts—a lawn chair, the folding kind with cup holders for beer.
Circles etched onto ice, little orange flags atop the holes they have made.
The river a skin marked out for surgery.

All you have to do is
not want me, tell me I can't.

3.

From the bridge, the river's steady load: ice floes, PCBs, a lone merganser I spook into flight.
Just out of sight, the hill where last March, a 26-year-old went out one night to check his
maple taps and never came back. His mother found him in the morning. They imagined
disorientation, hypothermia. A friend wonders about the PCBs; he ate so many ducks. He was
clinging to a tree, had stripped off clothes, like those explorers whose Arctic adventures ended
badly. He was trying to live off the land.

4.

South of here, the snow hits hard.
I am disappointed, agree with a friend who says
cold without snow feels unfair. I should be
more grateful for the storms that just miss us.
For the bowl that almost breaks, but doesn't.

I should at least bring the lawn chairs in.

In the near dark, someone's wind chimes are going crazy,
an off-key riff flung at the edge of a storm.

At a Distance

I turn
at a distance
and the thought
of never coming back
to Carmel and its bay—
wake to the open arms of my family
in the Mediterranean's magnitude of
sunlight,
hear the calling sea's deepening blue
depths of being
lapping on the shores of happiness—
as I now am
in the clarity of this moment
not yet gone
but this unmoored heart
already lonely,
hurts like the widening sea of years
that silently sail by,
the love for departed mountains
I may never climb again,
this moment of pure vision
telling me
that I will never be the same.

—Amos Neufeld

—Kateri Kosek

Who's Who

Allan Dean

On a chilly, rainy January morning, driving to Allan Dean and Julie Shapiro's home on Hupi Road, I wasn't sure I'd found the right turn-off to their house. When I saw the high fencing to what must be a tennis court, one I played on years ago, I knew I was in the right place. There's Allan, sitting in their new glass-enclosed sunroom. With fond memories of strumming with the Konkapot Kerplunkers, and Allan's beautiful trumpet playing, I joined him in the sunroom.

A professor emeritus at the Yale Graduate School of Music, Allan retired in 2019 after thirty years on the faculty. (To appreciate fully the scope of his long, varied musical career, do a Google search and enjoy the bonus of links to some of his performances.) Touring state-wide and internationally, Allan's work was focused on brass chamber music, playing with three different brass quintets from 1964 to 2019. Early music is an important part of the brass quintet repertoire. It led Allan to performing on the cornetto, a renaissance wooden instrument with finger holes, but a trumpet-like mouthpiece. He was a founder of The New York Cornet and Sacbut* Ensemble, and with New Marlborough residents Lucy Bardo and Ben Harms, he formed Calliope: A Renaissance Band, in the 70s. They still perform on occasion.



BobCuttick

Allan grew up on a farm in Mason City, Iowa, where he attended a one-room school house. Mason City is the setting of Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man*. The town had a great musical tradition. Allan said, "Influenced by my very musical family, I chose a career in music. Both my parents and two older brothers were fine musicians. My dad played violin and had a wonderful tenor voice, and my mother was a fine pianist." Both brothers played woodwind instruments, but Allan was the only one in the family "who actually went into music, as everyone else had the common sense to keep it an avocation." In 1958, as Allan boarded an Ozark Airlines flight to study music in New York City, his father said: "Good luck in the music business, son, but I like to eat, myself."

Studying trumpet first at the University of Iowa for two years, Allan moved to New York City and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music at the Manhattan School of Music.

The arc of a professional musician's career often involves lots of traveling and cobbling together a variety of musical genres, gigs, and venues. So it was with Allan's. "My first real professional job," Allan recalls, was in 1960-61, touring with Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians. Fred was the inventor not only of the Waring Blender but also had the patent on the steam iron. Waring's touring bus sported a choir of singers and a sixteen-piece orchestra. From September to May, the two-hour programs in concert halls all over the US were very popular.

Allan got his draft induction notice from the Mason City draft board during his stint with Waring. Berlin Wall tensions were building, and the situation in Viet Nam was on a low boil. Returning that summer to Mason City, he worked on the family farm, awaiting his orders to report to duty. It came in August. His orders sent him to Europe to join the famous Seventh Army Symphony, a unit that had been in continuous service since 1945. Unfortunately, it had just been disbanded for lack of string players.

The Army being what it is, Private Dean, an accomplished trumpeter, was deployed to Hawaii as a clerk-typist. If you can handle three trumpet valves, I guess you must know how to type. Allan could. However, someone noticed that he played trumpet, so off he was sent to join the battalion band, a rag-tag group of



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ten former infantry men. His first day in the band they were out on the drill field in formation when “a full-bird” colonel approached and asked, “Are you the new trumpeter?” Allan, who’d never had to confront any officer higher than a sergeant, was understandably nervous.” Yes sir,” Allan replied. “Can you play ‘Trumpeter’s Lullaby’?” the colonel asked. Again Allan managed a hesitant “Yes sir.” Somewhat to his surprise, trusting his music muscle memory, Allan nailed it. With a big smile, the colonel said, “I’ll be damned, that’s my favorite piece of music. You’re going to like it here.” And like it he did, especially since he completed his tour of duty shortly before his division, the 25th Infantry, deployed to Viet Nam, the first major unit to do so.

Back in the States, it was 1963, and once again Allan had no trouble finding work playing Broadway shows (*Stop The World, I Want To Get Off* and *The Roar Of The Greasepaint, The Smell Of The Crowd*) along with assorted gigs. He joined the American Brass Quintet, which he later left to join the New York Brass Quintet. During those years, Allan started teaching one day a week at various music conservatories including the Eastman School of Music, The North Carolina School for the Arts, and the Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Lots of traveling, and changing of musical hats, but no problem finding something to eat.

In the mid-70s, Allan began looking for a getaway place out of NYC. One of his students at the Hartt School was Jeff Sevens. Jeff is well known in our area as the recently retired head of music at Monument Mountain high school and still very active as a wonderful trumpeter in the Berkshires. Allan was looking along the Taconic Parkway as many musicians had places there, but Jeff said, “No, no, you want to live in Massachusetts. It’s much hipper.” Following his advice Allan found a cabin on a lovely site in Monterey on Hupi Road abutting the Mt. Hunger state forest.

In 1982, still holding his place in the quintet but tiring of the NYC freelance scene, Allan accepted a professorship at Indiana University. He moved to Bloomington and taught there for seven years, earning tenure. The New York Quintet retired and Allan joined the Saint Louis

Brass. He continued with the St. Louis Brass until both the quintet and Allan retired in 2019. During the summers, Allan continued to build a larger house on Hupi Road.

How he came to choose the trumpet is a story in itself. His brothers, eight and ten years older, were already skilled woodwind players, and wanting a brass player in the family, Allan’s fate was sealed. “I wanted to play trombone originally, but every time I tried I would play it left-handed. Everyone said that was impossible. So for my twelfth birthday I was given a cornet which I picked up and immediately pushed the valves down with my right hand for some unknown reason. To this day, as a left-handed fellow, playing the trumpet and cornet is the only thing I do with my right hand. I loved the cornet and practiced hard, and though I still played piano, the cornet and later the trumpet became my true love.”

But not his only one. Allan and Julie had met through mutual friends long before their marriage in 1990. In the 1988–89 academic year, Allan accepted a position at the Yale School of Music. He now would be teaching six or eight graduate students, not the twenty he was required to teach at Indiana. Allan honored his commitment to IU by staying for another year, commuting between Bloomington and New Haven; and between Yale and Monterey every other weekend. Julie, an artist and tenured professor in the fine arts department at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, was on sabbatical that fall semester and converted her parents’ Monterey home into an art studio. This allowed them to get together on the weekends that Allan was in Monterey. At the end of that academic year they both gave up their tenured professorships. They moved full time to Monterey, built a studio for Julie, and Allan commuted to New Haven two or three days a week. Such is the life of artists.

Their daughter, Essy, is a writer currently working in several genres and volunteering part-time at Shakespeare & Company and at the Monterey Community Center.

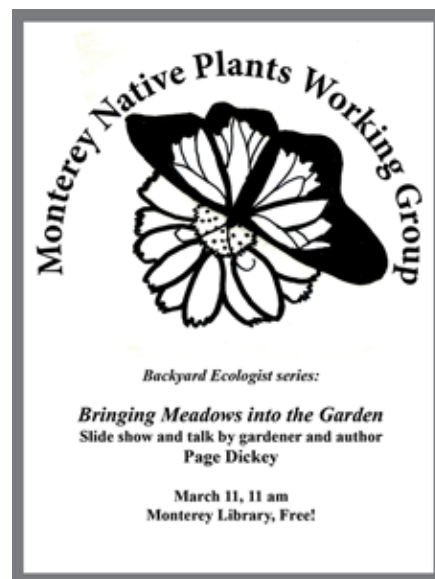
I asked Allan if there were any funny stories he’d experienced over his seven-decade-long career. There were many, he said with a chuckle, “but the best ones

were at someone else’s expense.” He left it at that, reflective of his character. His lively, spirited voice and easy smile are reflective of his disposition. The smile—maybe seven decades of maintaining *embouchure* (the way he shaped his mouth to the mouthpiece of his instrument)—too.

“It’s been a dream life, living in the Berkshires with my family and playing the music and instrument I love.”

*For those of you who didn’t Google it, the “sacbut” is an earlier version of the trombone. The word, a portmanteau of the French: *saqueboute*, meaning “pull-push.” Somehow, “Seventy-six sacbuts led the big parade” doesn’t make for a show-stopper.

—Bob Cutick



Monterey Softball Open Call

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Mt. Everett News

Greetings, I wanted to update our community on events that have been happening within our school district, at Mt. Everett Middle School and High School. Our school is always bustling with activity, between sports, clubs, and the drama department.

At the end of January, Mt. Everett Middle School's music department produced the musical *Moana Jr.* Ashlynnne Jeffries was cast as Moana, and Matthew Thompson as Maui. This lighthearted musical entertained the packed house. Our younger community members were so enthralled by the show and its two lead characters, they requested a meet-and-greet with Maui and Moana.

On February 14, Mt. Everett paid tribute to its academic side. A ceremony was held to acknowledge the fifty-five students enrolled in our early college program which is run in conjunction with Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington. This is a newer program for the district and it is expected that the participation numbers will rise as we see the interest growing daily. For the students who choose to utilize this program, they can graduate with potentially up to thirty college credits, transferrable to the college of the student's choice.

Also on February 14 our own Monterey resident, Ben Vella, won Mt. Everett "student of the month" award. Ben is a high honors student, member of both the cross country and robotics teams, and student council treasurer for the freshmen class.



Freshman Ben Vella from Monterey.



The acknowledgment ceremony to recognize the fifty-five students who are enrolled in the early college program through Simon's Rock College.



Some of the cast of the production of Moana Jr.

At left above: Tanya Maynard (Hei Hei the chicken), Joey Graham (Sina), and Matteo Cicerchia (the Chief); at right above: Alexis Jeffries is with glasses (grandma Tala), Ashlynnne Jeffries (Moana), J.Hunter Jeffries (Pua Pig). —Photos by Kim Alcantara

I am excited to see what March has in store for the students of Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the community and people surrounding it.

— Kim Alcantara
Monterey School Representative



The Musical Northern Mockingbird

The musical mockingbird is well known as a backyard bird with a vast vocabulary of songs and a variety of up to two hundred other sounds to select from. Each sound may be frequently repeated during the day and even more during the nights of mating season. According to allaboutbirds.org (Cornell Ornithology), "If you've been hearing an endless string of ten or fifteen different birds singing outside your house, you might have a northern mockingbird in your yard." Bird watching experts believe that as the male expands the number of possibilities to choose from he becomes a more attractive suitor to females looking for a mate.

The mockingbird's imitations also include a large number of human made sounds, such as loud human laughter, the ringing of a doorbell, or the sound of an alarm clock. Other mechanical sounds include a train whistle or the siren from a fire house. In my illustration, it can often be the sound of a church tower with a catchy religious hymn such as "The Bells of St. Mary's."

How can the mockingbird possibly imitate every one of these different sounds that come through so realistically? Most animals vocalize from low down in their throats, using the muscles of their larynx, to produce a thick throaty sound. Birds produce their sounds through their syrinx, an organ that only birds have, near their lungs, with another organ near their mouths for changing the sounds.

A hundred years ago people were allowed to trap and cage mockingbirds to



show off their entertaining vocal performances. They were taken out of nests at a young age and sold into influential homes in Philadelphia, St. Louis, and New York. In 1928 they would fetch as much as \$50 dollars. They're not too interested in bird feeders, however you can attract them to perform in your backyards by keeping the lawns open and edges planted with fruit trees, mulberry, and blackberries.

Given global warming and climate change, the mockingbird's range has expanded into more northern states, thus increasing your chances to enjoy their sounds, which are sometimes sung along with their neighbors, the northern cardinals.

—George B. Emmons

Daytime Book Group

Beginning Wednesday, March 29, a daytime book group is starting up at 1:30 p.m. in the Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library. First book to read is *News of the World*, by Paulette Giles.

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Here's a Thought... Look for the Helpers

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake that devastated Turkey and Syria on February 6, and continued with hundreds of after-quakes through the month, will probably still be in the news as you read this. Or, at least it should be. If not, let's shake ourselves out of complacency. I'm willing to guess that no more than one or two of us in Monterey have actually been in a quake of that size, but I'm also equally willing to put down money on the idea that some of us have family, friends, and/or colleagues directly touched by these quakes.

So let's take the risk to awaken more deeply to others' pain, to our shared humanity. And let's stay self-compassionate enough to respond to that pain without dropping into it. Without identifying with it. Let's just do our best to be one of the people Mister Rogers' mother told him to watch for when he was a little boy.

"Look for the helpers," she said.

I know, I know. We helped after the quake. We helped. We gave. Giving money is helping, no two ways about it. But the need is bigger than money can cover, and the need for help is universal. So now let's help again. Let's do it locally, too.

Helping comes in so many forms. We the people of this generous community can make each other's lives easier in so many ways. Lots of them cost presence rather than cash. You're already doing a lot of them, but here are a few examples of what I mean.



Here's a helpful reminder that although local planting season's not quite around the corner, this month we move into calendar "Spring."

Smile at the people strolling across the crosswalk on Main Street in Great Barrington, even though you had to stop to let them go where they're going. Return that stray shopping cart in the parking lot at Big Y to the place where it will be collected. Pay for the coffee of the person in line behind you at Dunkin'. Go to the art shows at the Monterey Library and elsewhere in the Berkshires. Attend a crafts fair, play, or concert. The artists' work isn't complete until it's also someone else's experience.

Speaking of giving in that way, I'm about to ask you to be one of my helpers. I've just written to editor Steve Moore, to

tell him that a large writing project I've been juggling for years is now, happily, at the top of my priority list. But in order to write for the people who will read the book in process, which may well include you, I'm taking a sabbatical from my role as a columnist for the *Monterey News*. Please help me do this.

How? Know that I will miss writing for you. Celebrate that having you read my words here has helped me risk concentrated, more expansive, work. Look forward to hearing from me when I'm able to focus my words here again. I welcome your good wishes for the book that's underway, and willingness to explore it once it's in print.

And, when your helping and giving has a financial focus, you may already have a favorite organization or online site you trust to funnel your money to where it's needed. If not, I recommend CDP, Center for Disaster Philanthropy, one of the organizations recommended by Forbes.

Online, go to disasterphilanthropy.org.

Or make a donation by mail. Send a check or money order to: Center for Disaster Philanthropy, One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005.

Thank you for reading my columns all these years.

— Mary Kate Jordan

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Letters

Our Older Schools

Looking at the December issue of the *Monterey News* and the article about former Monterey schools made me think back to my days in elementary school in the 1940s. Most of my years were spent at the Corashire School with Mrs. (Bea) Phillips as my teacher. First of all, it is not possible for the picture of that school to have been taken in 1985. Somewhere, I know not where, I have the original. It would have been taken somewhere between 1948 and 1950. In the *News* photo I cannot distinguish individuals, except that the tall girl is Pamela Gilchrist, and she was one grade behind me. I am not in the picture, but I think my sister, Louise, is.

School in that building was a bit different than it would be now. There was no running water—therefore no flush toilets. Water was delivered by the mail truck daily in a twenty-gallon can. Heat was a kerosene stove at the front of the room—great for drying mittens and wet boots. Mrs. Phillips had a tin oven, and if we brought a can of soup or a potato, she would cook them for us. Otherwise lunch came from our lunch box. On warm days we could eat outdoors. There was no other adult there, and no telephone. Often Mrs. Phillips had no car. There were no nearby houses, so in an emergency, she had to walk to Roadside Store for help, leaving the oldest student in charge.

The two schools in town each had four classes yearly but a different mixture of grades. Rarely were there as many as

twenty students in all. Mrs. Phillips taught us many skills through the Six Cubs 4-H Club which she initiated—skills such as woodworking, metalworking, sewing, stenciling, and folk music and dancing. This was in addition to the curriculum for whatever grades she had in that year. Sometimes she would take us on a picnic. We would go over the steep bank at the left of the school and scramble down the incline. Mrs. Phillips would give us a nature lesson along the way. We would eat our lunch on the rocks at the river. I think we went back by way of the road!

We had two fifteen-minute recesses a day, and an hour lunch time. We went outside with no supervision. We organized our own games such as king's land, red rover, dodge ball, soft ball, fox and geese, hide and seek, red light, and many others. Jumping rope was a favorite. When recess was over, Mrs. Phillips came out and called, "Time to come in!"

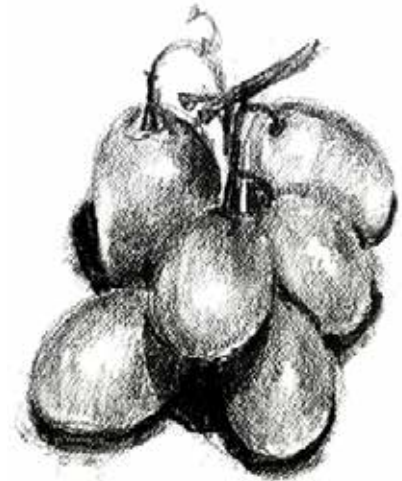
I taught school many years myself, but I recall these years with fondness, and great admiration for Mrs. Phillips. School like this would not be acceptable today. She was an exceptional teacher!!

—Leslie Ward Paine

Letters

The *Monterey News* welcomes letters on a wide range of topics. Commentary on events and town affairs, notes of appreciation, or alerts for upcoming activities that might be of interest to Monterey readers.

Submit your letters to Monterey-News9@gmail.com, or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.



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Knox Gallery in March

Currently on exhibit at the Knox Gallery: James Boneparth's *GOTTA BE KIDDING!!!, An Ode to the Sometimes-Farcical Nature of Modern Art*, which opened in late January. He asserts that art is about breaking rules, and that "this work is not only to enjoy an image, but to free our minds."

Boneparth's paintings are non-representational; he believes that art is of a spiritual nature, and therefore need not represent "what's real." Its point is to make the viewer think differently. The title: *GOTTA BE KIDDING!!!* is meant to alert viewers to the idea art is about seeing the world in unexpected ways.

GOTTA BE KIDDING!!! will be on exhibit through March 11, and we hope you will visit to see the exhibit if you haven't already.

Celeste Watman's *Reuse/Revision* opens on March 17. Watman's medium is collage, which she notes "offers opportuni-



Collage by Celeste Watman

ties to arrange, alter and combine perspectives." She hopes to explore "how we see, what we see" by combining and juxtaposing colors, shapes, textures, and views.

Watman's work has been exhibited in various juried group shows around the local area.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMuseumLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates



Bonsai Cox

Ice rings on Stevens Pond, with a tree right through the bulleyed center.



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Monterey Summer Camps Film Project

I remember the bugle calls in the early morning coming from the camps across the lake. It was a wonderful sound that warned my mother to pack our lunches so we could spend the morning in the sun-splashed water below my uncle's cabin off Eaton Road in Monterey, MA. Except for two photos of my aunt lined up on the dock at Camp Glenmere in the 1930s, I never saw or knew much about the camps.

Hopefully, that will change now that a treasure trove of nineteen 16mm film reels has been given to the Monterey Library. Mark Makuc and Wendy Germain asked for my help in getting the film footage restored. I had one reel digitized to see if it could be done and if the footage was worth capturing. Although the reels are not labeled, they appear to be of Camp Owissa and Camp Monterey on Lake Garfield from the late 1940s to the 1950s. But we will not know for sure until we can view them all.

First, we must raise through GoFundMe the \$7,500 needed to complete the project.

Although the reels are not in great condition, now is the best time to capture the footage before they deteriorate further. Each reel contains four hundred feet. They need to be cleaned of rust dust from the cans, scanned at 4K high dynamic range, and then color corrected.

We need to raise the following:

- \$750 to clean eighteen reels
- \$100 to prep eighteen reels: inspect and repair bad splices
- \$5,879 to scan eighteen reels
- \$1,800 to color-correct the digital files



We have already received a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council of \$1,029.

These films will give people a window into a time in Monterey's history that is largely forgotten. The footage, when ready to view, will become part of the Monterey History Project and stored on the Upper Housatonic Heritage server. They will be available to full- and part-time residents of Monterey and the surrounding Berkshires, as well as those who attended the camps and are living outside this area.

During the summer of 2023, the Monterey Library hopes to host round-table story-telling sessions about the camps.

Please donate now so we can save this treasure trove of Monterey history. Go to GoFundMe.com, and using the search bar, enter "Monterey Camp Historic Film Project." There's a short segment to view from the already restored reel as a sample of what we're trying to save.

—Barbara Emmel Wolinsky



Kit Patten harvested a carrot out of the frozen ground. Generally speaking, one pulls carrots, doesn't excavate them out with a pickaxe.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local
References



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Scale

with

KIT PATTEN

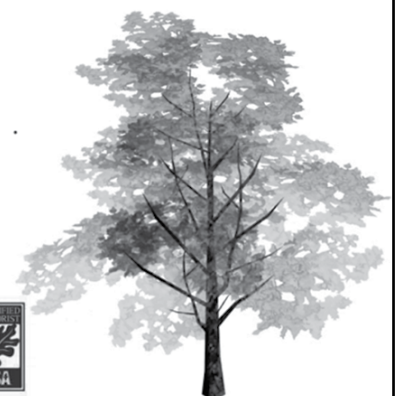
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Spunky Underdog from Holyoke

Many states have state flowers, or birds, but only a few have dinosaurs. We in Massachusetts are so favored and only just lately, since last spring. After a stirring legislative process, a vote, and the governor's signature, we joined hands with *Podokesaurus holyokensis* in a partnership bridging nearly about 180 million years.

Podokesaurus is the genus name for this animal and the first part of that word can be translated to mean "swift-footed." Add "-saur" to this and you have called it a lizard. The species name tells us where it lived: Holyoke. Any English speaker might want to call our dinosaur the "swift-footed lizard from Holyoke," but Governor Charlie Baker, as he signed the bill into law and the critter into state dinosaur-hood, was featured up and down the newspapers that day. He said it was called "Spunky Underdog from Holyoke."

Spunky showed up lately in 1910 not far from Mt. Holyoke College. Mignon Talbot, paleontologist and head of the geology department, was out for a walk with her sister Ellen Talbot, philosophy professor at the same college. They were near a farm which had a gravel pit. Mignon was down below, Ellen up top, when Mignon called out, "Oh, Ellen, come quick, come quick. I've found a real live fossil!" Ellen called down, "Have you lost your mind?"



I knew I would not see Spunky over there. For one thing she had surfaced farther north, in Holyoke, and for another, she had passed back into extinction, in a way. Along with many important specimens at Mt. Holyoke, she was studied, measured, had papers published about her incredible appearance, and then stored in the old science building on campus, Williston Hall. In 1917, during Christmas break, that building burned to the ground destroying everything inside.

When we got to Rocky Hill I was talking to an official at the front desk about my recent interest. She perked up, full of information, knew all about Mignon Talbot, and the next thing I knew she had ducked into a storage area and come back to show us a big flat box. Carefully she raised the cover and there was our Spunky! Yes, the woman said, the original was destroyed by fire, but before this, it had gone down to Yale for more studies and two "casts" were made, one is still down at the Peabody Museum of Natural History and the other was right in front of us. Last week we saw Spunky, looking just like a "real live fossil."

What luck.

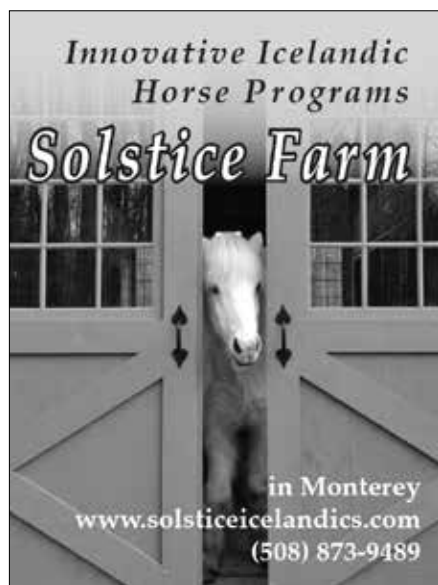
The descriptions I'd read, written by some modern experts and some from a century ago, were in excited disagreement as to just what she looked like, how she lived. They all put together whatever they knew about the rock formation, close relatives to this species, current versions of lizards and other reptiles. She is a small critter, the woman at Rocky Hill said, "about the size of a chicken." I kept quiet, but we never had a chicken with a tail two and a half feet long. Our hens did not weigh twenty-two to eighty-eight pounds, nor run nine to twelve miles per hour.

Richard Swann Lull at Yale made a skeletal reconstruction of Spunky, also a model which Dr. Mignon Talbot said had "a sardonic smile." With some elements missing from the fossil skeleton, and so from its cast, we are free to make of it what we can, including the smile. That gravel pit with its sandstone boulders where the Talbot sisters met Spunky in 1910, must >



Mignon Talbot

So far, this fossilized skeleton of a real live dinosaur is one of only two from our state. The vote last year was between these two candidates, and Spunky won hands down. The Connecticut Valley is famous for its hundreds of dinosaur tracks, and a short drive from here over to Rocky Hill, Connecticut, takes you to Dinosaur State Park where many of these tracks have been discovered and protected right where the creatures walked. This is an easy trip, going back all those millions of years. I hadn't been there in quite some time myself, but I'd just learned about Spunky and my dinosaur interests were piqued. Also, Cora, who went with me, did some research and found out about a South Indian restaurant where we could get lunch very near the state park.



Remembrance Kathryn Karson

Kathryn C. Karson, a forty-five-year resident of Monterey, MA, passed away at her Naples, FL, home surrounded by family on October 30, 2022, after an extraordinary thirteen-year battle with scleroderma.

To the end, Kathy did things her way, with boundless love for her family, extraordinary generosity, and a sharp wit that made being around her always fun. A person of small stature, Kathy had a gigantic impact on so many. She was everyone's favorite sounding board and life coach, always willing to dispense her frank, hard-earned wisdom (at times unsolicited), and she could dish with the best of them, especially if cocktails were involved. Kathy radiated charisma, but taught her greatest life lessons quietly, facing more than anyone's fair share of adversity with relentless strength, moral character, and positivity. She never allowed anyone to feel sorry for her. She remained this way even as she knew she was saying her final goodbyes, which, of course, were on her terms too.

still have the head, somewhere, and her smile. The man who made the model and the reconstructed skeleton had to fill in with what he knew from other dinosaurs he had encountered.

I agree with Charlie Baker, who may not be a paleontologist but has been around long enough to know you have to show some pizzazz to make a living in a world where you eat meat and so do a lot of other critters, most of whom are much bigger than you are. Our dinosaur had long strong hind legs, a good tail for balance, and forelegs with claws for grabbing a bite on the fly.

Massachusetts state representative Jack Lewis introduced the dinosaur bill. He had young folks in mind, saying dinosaurs can be a "gateway to science for many kids." Some of us kids just didn't easily go back that many millions of years. We were more into the living world around us, under the microscope, through binoculars, and right out the door. After all these years, it has taken Jack Lewis, Spunky, and Mignon Talbot to open that gateway for me.

—Bonner McAllester



Kathy was raised in South Orange, New Jersey, the third of four children to Irene and Jerome Cossman. As a child, she loved taking care of her dogs, her pony, and her little brother. As an adult, Kathy was equally content amidst the hustle and bustle of New York City as at her home in the Berkshires. She loved knitting, gardening, swimming, and running until

she couldn't do those things anymore, and then walking until she couldn't do that.

She worked in several human resource positions where she met her first husband, the late Stewart Hegleman. As a savvy investor with a knack for finance, she went back to school to study financial planning in her forties.

Most of all, Kathy was devoted to her family and friends, especially her children. She is survived by her husband Barry, her children Joe Hegleman (Lindsay) and Jane Hegleman Freeman (Heath), her step-sons David and Steven (Kelly), and ten grandchildren. Kathy was a loving and caring wife, mother, and grandmother, and was defined by her spirit, spunk, strength, and class. Funeral services were held at Temple Sharey-Tefilo-Israel in South Orange, New Jersey at the synagogue in which she was the first female confirmed, six decades ago. If so inclined, the family would appreciate donations to the Scleroderma Research Foundation, 220 Montgomery Street, Suite 484, San Francisco, CA, 94104.



Thanks to fast working, ice making volunteers, plus two days of frigid temperatures, the Monterey ice rink opened the first weekend of February. Within days, the ice had melted due to above average temperatures, making for a very abbreviated skating season.

—Photo by Steve Graves

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February Wildlife Report

February is the first month of spring, according to Thoreau in his *Journal*. He only gives winter one month, January, considers December to be “fall, with snow” and February to be “spring with snow.” Certainly, we had the mammals stirring in February, the birds returning and changing their songs and behavior to those of courtship and warmer days.

The white-tailed deer have been visiting Bonsai Cox, who enjoys providing birdseed for them to snack on, near the house. Raccoons have come there, too, three at once, looking young and portly. Bonsai reports these three are chummy with each other, nuzzling.

Late in January, Carol Edelman wrote saying a possum had been coming by, right up onto the deck. This one came back several times and the Edelmans named it Pogo. Carol also reports a handsome red fox, “a regular” at their place and sent in a good photograph (below). She says this fox appreciates the paths shoveled around the yard.



That Jefferson’s Salamander, seen by Leslie Roth late in December, was up and about again a month later. She also reports a porcupine at her place and sent a charming photograph (right above) of the youngster eating some greenery.

We have a bear report this month from Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road. All the birdfeeders were taken down at his place, the poles bent, the suet holders completely missing. And Susan Popper and Rocky Greenberg had a breakfast-time visitor at the end of the month. They sent



a happy photograph: a seated bear with birdfeeder in hand (below).



And just over the line in Otis, I watched three otters up on the ice by a melted hole, or one they were keeping open. One after another they would dive back down and then come up with something good to eat. Sometimes they would sort of tread water and chomp away on their small fish or maybe crayfish, and sometimes they would come all the way up onto the ice to sit or to lie down and keep on chomping.

Speaking of ice, there have been some marvelous patterns in the lakes and ponds of Monterey. One unusual set of curving lines turned up near the boat ramp by the Town Beach, and Steve Snyder took a photograph (at right). I went down for a look and was amazed by all the curving complications in that area, curves that were built upon each other, so to speak, fanning outwards.

Steve also alerted me to the arrival of the snow buntings down by the Gould Farm gravel pit. He first saw them along Curtis Road, then back in a field



near the gravel pit. I jumped in the car and went over there and was very lucky to see the flock of about thirty or so, wheeling and flitting in a group not far above the ground. They lit now and then to forage, and then all were up again, moving across the field, always active whether on the ground or in the air. They have so much white on them that they look like a flurry of snow.



Lyman Thomson has been seeing bald eagles overhead by his farm on Brett Road and got a photograph (above) of one on February 1, pretty high up. He also reports six or eight bluebirds near the brook, and later the same day, robins. Lyman wrote that there had been red-winged blackbirds over by Sue Thomson’s place on Sandisfield Road since sometime back in January.

Roberta Weiss was visited by a barred owl at her place on Beartown Mountain Road, and when I went back to that pond in Otis looking for the otters recently, I saw four Canada geese, >



Remembrance Shelton Stafford

It is with great sadness to report the death of Shelton Stafford. Shelton passed on the evening of January 19, 2023. Shelton was born on May 27, 1927, and spent his childhood in Swann Forest, a former dairy farm and sheep ranch that was donated to the State of Massachusetts by the owner, Mrs. Arthur Swann, in 1921.

Shelton's father became head forester on the donated property. Shelton attended Corashire school under Bea Phillips. His mother passed on in 1939 from a surgical infection.

During the 1940s Shelton worked for George Brett, a close neighbor, on his dairy farm while attending Searles High School. Almost immediately after graduating, he was drafted into the US Army. WWII was winding down and by the time Shelton went through basic training and was shipped to Germany, the Germans were close to surrender and the Japanese surrendered about five months later in 1945.

sticking close together in the water, and one male hooded merganser. Back in the middle of February, I was up by the top of our garden watching the sun come up and was happy to see a brown creeper working over the rough bark on one of our apple trees there, probably finding little insect eggs for breakfast.

Thank you, everyone, for your accounts and photographs, and for your enthusiasm for the wildlife of Monterey.

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



The graduates, Shelton, Bill, and Gordon.

Shelton returned to the US in 1947, was discharged, and returned to the Brett farm to find his next older brother, Gordon, and sister, Evalyn waiting. Evalyn had just finished her book of life on Swann Forest, a copy of which may still be ensconced in the Monterey library. The name of her unpublished manuscript is, "Heaven Lie-s About Us." The three Staffords traveled across the country to Santa Barbara, California where Earle Stafford had retired and lived in a small house close to the University of California, Santa Barbara college campus.

Shelton and his two older brothers attended the university while their sister was employed by the English department. The brothers all graduated together four years later. Shelton revealed to friends there was a lot of public ballyhoo about three brothers all graduating together. Shelton went further with his education by attending the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, New Mexico.

Shelton married Jillene Raisler of Neenah, Wisconsin in late 1954 and was employed by Anaconda Mining Co., and later by Zuma Mining Co. of Los Angeles, in the Mojave Desert near Death Valley. In 1956, Shelton's wife's father, Harlow Raisler, purchased a motel in Phoenix, Arizona. He asked Shelton and Jill to join him in the motel operation. After a couple of years, Harlow tired of the motel business

and sold the motel. Shelton and Jill moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where Shelton eventually set up his own business, Stafford Construction, which included his four sons.

Shelton lost Jill in 1994 to cancer. Eight years later he remarried a gal who was a member of his Searles High School graduating class of 1945. Shelton and his new wife, Pat, subsequently lived a retired life in Serra Vista, Arizona. Pat died from cancer in 2006 at age eighty-one.

Shelton finally moved to a suburb of Phoenix where his oldest son Mark joined him. They have lived together in a home situated in Sun City, Arizona, which is a restricted residential area for retired persons over fifty-five. Shelton passed here at the age of ninety-five. All members of his original family are now deceased. Shelton leaves at least eight grand- and great-grandchildren plus his own four sons Mark, Dean, Lee, and Neil of Arizona.

Small Artwork

A special thanks to Maureen Banner who over many years has sent much of the small art that has appeared in the *News*. This month she's been very generous.

Surely there are others in town who like to make small drawings that would be lovely to have in the *News*. See page 31 (top right) for how to submit them!



Select Board Corner

MontereyMA.gov

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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Scott Jenssen
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(scott@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us."

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

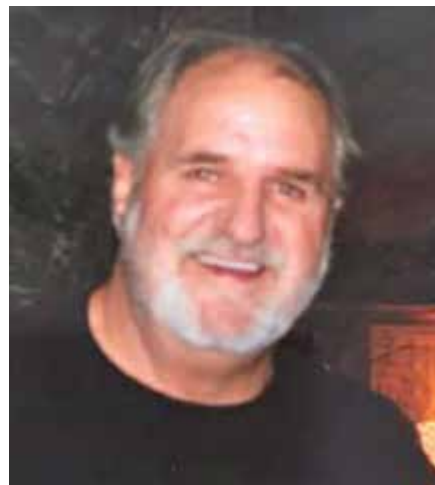
Remembrance William W. Gilchrist

William W. Gilchrist IV, known to all as Bill, died on Sunday, October 23, 2022. Bill's loving family was at his side throughout his illness and when he died. Bill was born in Monterey, MA, on January 29, 1941. He was predeceased by his parents, William Gilchrist III and his mother Eleanor Gilchrist. He was also predeceased by his brother David Gilchrist, and his wife of thirty-one years Kay Gilchrist.

Bill is survived by many loving relatives including his sister Pam Gilchrist of Santa Fe, NM, his sister Leigh Kelly of Harpswell, ME, and his brother Scott Gilchrist of Montreal, Canada. Bill is survived by his two daughters Gayle Bennett and her husband Eddy of Bainbridge, NY; and his daughter Tabitha (Tami) Lewis and her husband Duane of Forest, VA. His daughters were the focus of his life and brought him much joy. He adored his five grandchildren, Seth, Thomas, and Abigayle Bennett, and Sarah and Logan Bibeau. He was also blessed with five great-grandchildren. Bill also had an exceptional relationship with his former wife JoAnn Scott. They worked as a team to raise their two daughters and they always loved and respected each other.

Bill is survived by his loving partner Kate Fisher, who stood by his side and cared for him during his illness, and gave him happiness and peace in his final years.

Bill was always drawn to the service of others and he was always the happiest when he could reach out and help another. He served in the US Army from 1959 to



1962. He attended Moody Theological Institute in Chicago for two years, with the hope of serving in the ministry. He worked with troubled children and teenagers in residential treatment centers in New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, and also ran and owned Roadside Store in Monterey, MA in the 70s.

Life had other plans for Bill though, and he slipped into the call of alcohol for several years after that. He became sober in 1982 with the help of AA and its fellowship, and spent the next forty years helping others with addiction. Bill rebuilt his life with the goal to give away to others what had been given to him. He cherished his sobriety and was able to receive his forty-year medallion this August. Bill was a cornerstone at AA meetings and will be deeply missed by all. He calculated he had probably sponsored three-to-four hundred people over the years.

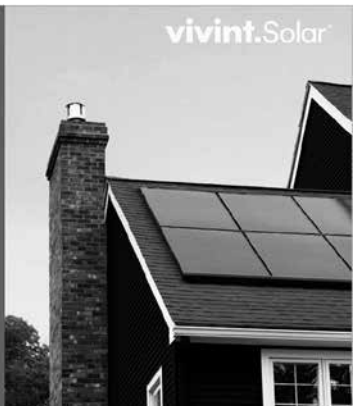
When Bill wasn't starting new meetings or sponsoring someone, he had created and run several successful businesses. He owned Gilchrist Antiques, a fine furniture refinishing shop in Loveland, CO. He was an inventor and had developed several patents. He was an antique collector and appraiser and spent many years collecting archaic Jade and reselling it. When at the age of fifty he discovered he had a talent for painting, he opened and ran a gallery in Harpswell, ME, for several years and was quite successful.

Bill was a wonderful father, husband, partner, and friend. He was an inspiration to all who met him and he changed so many people's lives for the better. A celebration of Bill's life was held at the Brunswick Adventist Church, 333 Maine Street, Brunswick, Maine.

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Calendar

MCC Events listed on page 8.

Wednesday, March 8: Movie night in the Monterey Library at 7 p.m., showing *Cinema Paradiso*. See page 5.

Saturday, March 11: “Bringing the Meadow into the Garden,” with Page Dickey, at 11 p.m., Monterey Library. See page 9.

Wednesday, March 15: Bidwell House talk with Russ Cohen, “Springtime Wild Edibles in the Southern Berkshires,” 7 p.m. See page 13.

Thursday, March 16: Wellness check at the community center, from 2 to 3 p.m. See page 5.

Tuesday, March 21: Council on Aging Clark Museum trip. See page 5.

Wednesday, March 22: Documentary film at 2 p.m., in the community center, showing *The Eagle Huntress*. See page 5.

Saturday, March 25: Bidwell House demonstration—learn how to make maple syrup using techniques perfected by the Native peoples of the Berkshires. 10 a.m. See page 13.

Wednesday, March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Please fly your flags.

Monday, April 3: Climate Forum, 5:30 p.m., Pittsfield. See page 4.

Get a Booster Shot Get a Gift Card

Residents five years old or older can receive a \$75 gift card to Stop and Shop, Cumberland Farms, Target, or Walmart until March 31 for getting a Covid booster shot at the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative’s ongoing clinics, while supplies last.

Appointments on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on some Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon, at 45 Railroad Street, in Lee.

Vaccines are no cost, although it is asked that participants bring their insurance card and Covid card, if applicable.

Go to home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown to register.

These \$75 gift cards are being provided by the MA GetBoosted program (mass.

Monterey News

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

gov, search “Get Boosted”) in accordance with the MA Vaccine Equity Initiative, which works with rural communities to increase vaccine acceptance and access.

For assistance or questions contact Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209. More information at sb-phc.org.

—Jim Wilusz

Director, TriTown Public Health



A group of “Montereyans” met for a reunion lunch in Boca Raton, FL on Sunday, January 29. Standing (l. to r.): Judith Greenwald, Deb Slater, Robin Fried; Seated (l. to r.): Dorene Beller, Barbara Barak, Stephanie Sloane, Dianne Zager.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Town Administrator:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118

buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136, chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

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

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

Police Emergency Contacts

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

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us

- Police dispatch service number:

(413) 236-0925.

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

528-3211

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Contributions from local artists this month:

Maureen Banner, pgs. 6, 9, 23, 25;

George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, pgs. 1, 26.

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