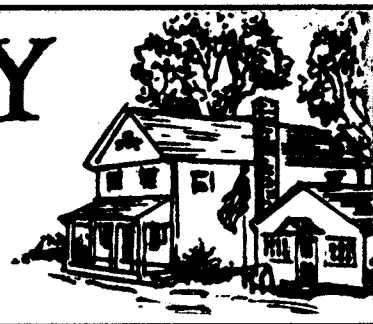


MONTEREY NEWS

February 2020
Est. 1970 Vol. L · Number 2



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



Stephen Moore

Our new library, with its new children's area, is alive with children, along with parents and grandparents, for the Friday morning playgroups organized by the South Berkshire Kids. Not all the children are from Monterey either! See page 3.

A law of physics: a body (Art and the sled) in motion will stay in motion until acted upon by an equally opposing force (the snow pile).

The Sled Run page 11

Peter and Mike will be performing classic 1950s blues.

Monterey Coffeehouse page 8

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.

Become a Candidate page 2



Nambiti Plains page 12

Presidential primary, and town elections, are coming up.

Upcoming Elections page 2

Camille Roos offers an overview on the modern death movement which facilitates one's ability to be integrally involved in one's own or a loved one's dying process. Community Potluck Dinner page 13

Harold and Maude, a 1971 coming-of-age black comedy, incorporating elements of dark humor and existential drama, with music by Cat Stevens.

Movie Night page 5

The birds flew, giving way like the soft earth moved by a plow. The Titmouse turned and dove into the long grass.

Tufted Titmouse page 16

Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"
Sunday, March 8, at 2 a.m.

The Town of Monterey bylaws are the "operating instructions" that guide all of us on how to handle the affairs of our town. Town Bylaws Review page 3

It is becoming more and more difficult to navigate through life without connecting using technology.

Library Connectivity page 10

Census and tax records from 1802 show the population to be 1,712, residing in 155 houses.

Looking Back Twenty Years pages 24-28

They hired me because they were desperate. Don't worry. I'm not taking that personally.

From the Meetinghouse(s) page 4

Careful consideration of one's choice of words, and the biases they hold, is not just a matter of political correctness. It is inherently political.

The Words We Use page 6

Kudos to all of you for the vibrant community you have created. No better role model for towns do I think could be found. Letters page 10



Learn to Knit page 8

Upcoming elections

Presidential Primary

Massachusetts is joining with thirteen other states in the so-called "Super Tuesday" presidential primaries around the country. This year, for the first time ever, the state is permitting early primary voting. If you are a registered voter for either the Democratic or Republican parties, you have three opportunities to vote.

Early voting: Tuesday, February 25, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and on Wednesday, February 26, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Primary day voting: Tuesday, March 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at town hall.

Town Offices Elections

Below is the list of offices and their terms that will be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 5.

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

Some positions are remainders of full terms. Some positions have incumbents who may be candidates for reelection.

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 voter's signatures on a nomination paper filed

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

with the town clerk. A candidate does not need to be registered to a party to seek nomination from either or both parties. For more information about seeking party nominations, see "Town Party Meetings" at right.

Schedule

Nominations: The last day to submit nomination papers to the registrars of voters is Tuesday, March 17. The last day for town party caucuses to make nominations is on March 28, and the certification of caucus nominations will be done by March 31. The last time to object or withdraw a nomination is Thursday, April 2, at 5 p.m.

Voter registration: The last day to register to vote is Saturday, April 11, from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 8 p.m., at town hall.

Annual Town Meeting: 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 25.

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2.

Town Party Meetings

To be a candidate for a town office one needs to be nominated to be placed on the ballot. Any registered voter can seek a nomination from either or both parties at the caucuses. A candidate can also take out papers independently and seek a nomination by getting signatures from twenty-five registered Monterey voters.

Democratic Town Committee

The Democratic Town Committee will meet on Saturday, February 22, at 11 a.m., in the church basement, to reorganize the committee in preparation for caucusing and town elections. The caucus will be held Saturday, March 14, at 11 a.m., in the church basement. Committee members and any other registered Democrats interested in joining the Democratic Town Committee are encouraged to attend.

—Jon Sylbert

Republican Town Committee

The Republican party meeting will be held Saturday, March 14, in the church basement. There will be an organizational meeting at 1 p.m., followed at 1:30 with the caucus. Contact Mark at 413-528-1382, or email him at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com.

—Mark Makuc



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Candidate Statements

Town elections are upon us once again. Elections for town offices are on Tuesday, May 5, following town meeting the prior Saturday. 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 either the April or May issue.

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


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

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



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Town Bylaws Review

Simply put, the Town of Monterey bylaws are the "operating instructions" that guide all of us on how to handle the affairs of our town. Many are based on Massachusetts General Law, others on common practices of other towns and municipalities. Town bylaws are meant to spell out what types of positions, committees, and boards we should have, how they are to be empaneled, and what their jobs are. They also give instructions on the day-to-day obligations of our town officials, residents, and visitors.

Why review them?

Town bylaws are meant to be "living documents" that adapt with the times.

Recently, the select board and the finance committee discovered that many of the town bylaws (often written in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s) are outdated, and often do not reflect how our town, or other Massachusetts towns, operate.

The select board feels that 2020 is the perfect time to take a look at our bylaws and present updated versions for those in need of revision. It is important to note that the select board cannot change any town bylaws. All updates or revisions must be approved by the voters at an annual town meeting.

Bylaw Review Committee

We need your input. I am pleased to chair the new Monterey Bylaw Review Committee. We are looking for town residents who wish to help review the town bylaws and make suggestions on how to update them (or leave them alone). We are specifically looking for full-time residents who have some understanding of how Monterey's town government works. The committee will meet once a month. We anticipate a small group of about five people.

If you are interested or have questions, please email me at steve@montereyma.gov. You will be emailed the time and date for an informational meeting.

This is a great way to help serve Monterey now, and in the future. I hope you will consider being a part of it.

—Steven Weisz
Monterey Select Board



Stephen Moore

Friday Morning Playgroups

Come to the Monterey Library to play! South Berkshire Kids hosts a weekly playgroup program for children, ages birth to five. Their caregivers, parents, and grandparents are welcome.

During the month of February, every Friday morning (except for February 21—school vacation week), from 10 to 11, the library will open for this program. This playgroup will include free play, songs, crafts, and stories. This is a great program for children to learn social skills and for the adults to connect between themselves. This program is free and open to the community. You don't need to be a resident of Monterey to come and play.

South Berkshire Kids is fully funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant provided by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

—Jess Mahoney
South Berkshire Kids Program
Coordinator



From the Meetinghouse(s)

I'm the pastor of two churches now. Some of you might know this already: I'm serving in Lenox at Church on the Hill while continuing here in Monterey. I started in Lenox in the end of September. They called me after a quick pastoral search, an almost urgent one. Their previous pastor had had to leave after only two and a half years of service due to a change in his own circumstances. This left the church exhausted and dispirited. They hired me because they were desperate.

Don't worry. I'm not taking that personally. It takes tremendous energy for a congregational church to search and call a new pastor. That's the way of our polity, our governance. Congregational churches have absolute autonomy; there is no superstructure powering such things as a search for new leadership. It comes to each congregation to make its own decisions, large and small, which is the greatest blessing of our denomination, but also the greatest burden.

For this, the prospect of Church on the Hill launching another full-scale search after having just spent over a year searching just two and a half years earlier was more than this already small church could do. (Incidentally, Monterey was in much the same situation when they called me eighteen years ago. It seems I'm a desperate hire all around.) They had lost many among their members to death, and now they would lose as many to exhaustion, a death of the spirit.

Watching it all from so nearby (I live not four miles from the church) was painful. I called our area minister who advises churches in transition (though she has no actual power in that process). I said to her, "Tell them to call me. I'm right here. I always have a sermon at the ready. I can start on Sunday and I have no plans to go anywhere anytime soon, maybe ever."

It took a little longer than that for them to call me, and a bit longer still for them to invite me—a few weeks. They had their own processes to honor. But going Sunday-to-Sunday for any church isn't easily sustained, and it's no way to actually do the work of ministry out there in the world. You need a solid foundation before you're of much use to anyone else.

As for being of any use, I do think the world benefits from the presence of the church in its midst. I say this knowing that some of history's greatest crimes have been committed in the name of Christ, or at least by people who count themselves as Christian. I say this also, though, believing that any organization regularly gathering in order to speak aloud words like "love" and "hope," "truth" and "mercy" and "justice" can be an antidote to the barbed speech and thuggish way we otherwise seem to revert to, or to have reverted to. I've been thinking lately about how there once was a time in Western cultures that everyone basically "went to church." In my lifetime, it's become the case that as many people don't "go to church." I wonder what it would be like, or what it will be like, when there isn't any church not to go to.

I remember in seminary hearing a sermon by a preacher who'd just lost to death someone he'd always found himself "against" in life. They'd just never gotten along. He was surprised by the grief he felt at this loss. Turns out, his "against" friend had provided a surprising framework for his own living. A thing to be against: it's a funny way of being also dependent on that thing, but there it is.

"Imagine no religion," John Lennon famously encouraged. He further noticed, "It isn't hard to do." And though he (I think) meant to suggest it'd be a happier, more peaceful world without religion, I wonder if he ever had a moment's thought for what might be lost.

I certainly have; I've had more than a moment's thought. Twenty years into the ministry, I've had twenty years of such thoughts. The Monterey Church lives with a death sentence, though one that keeps being put off. When this congregation first called me, it was clear, there were about ten years of life left in us—in our financial resources and perhaps in our membership. Turns out, eighteen years later, we still have about ten years.

I hope the same is true in Lenox, and I aim to work as if it were true. The fact is we all live with a death sentence, the denial of which is one of modernity's more bizarre deceptions. That we ever thought in terms of a "settled" "state" of things, over the much truer notion of a herky-jerky dynamism of things:



that's one weird goal, if you ask me. The imposition of a state over the wild ride of a dynamic: I choose the latter (though maybe with a little of the settled in the mix, let's be honest; we all need to rest assured from time to time).

On another note, it might be unsettling to think of the pastor serving two congregations. I know it unleashed a ripple of anxiety among members here in Monterey. Would this be my first step out the door? Would this be my slowly ghosting Monterey in favor of Lenox? What if I came to love Lenox more than Monterey? There's a bit of anxiety in Lenox, too, from what I've gathered. Am I hedging my bets by keeping Monterey while also taking on Lenox? Because if Lenox dies then at least I still have Monterey, right?

Here are my answers to those questions. No. No. Love doesn't work like that: love is love. No, if Lenox dies in my arms, I will be deeply sad, so I'm going to do everything in my power as pastor to have that not happen.

What I think it means is that I get to do full-time ministry, which is work that I love, without having to leave Monterey. This will always be a small church amidst a small "parish," for thus it has always been. The fact, then, that another small church is looking for

a part-time pastor anchors me here for anchoring me also there. It actually feels like God's grace.

It also means Monterey and Lenox might each understand themselves anew as not working in isolation, but in partnership with a body which furthers their hopefully gracious reach.

And then there's this: it might save Monterey some money in the long run, as much of my time spent in pastoral work is now shared among two congregations—planning worship, writing sermons. For this shared time, Monterey might be able to pay me half. That's my hope, anyway.

As it happens, this is an old-timey way of congregational life. It's only been in recent times that congregations have assumed the responsibility of being "full service," whole little economies unto themselves, fully staffed, fully programmed. Prior to that, churches and synagogues were often as outposts, stopovers of transcendence amidst vast landscapes of the earth-bound. Their pastors and rabbis would ride a circuit, here in the morning, there in the afternoon, somewhere else maybe in the evening.

If that's where we're headed again, I'm good with that. If I'm here at ten o'clock on Sundays, and there at four o'clock on Sundays, and throughout the week wherever I'm needed, I'm good with that. Easter morning is another matter, as is Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. But, having cleared one of those hurtles, this past Christmas Eve, I'm hopeful we can make the others work as well. We have a vested interest in the health of the whole—we church-goers, we citizens, we humans. In this small county this is even more immediately the case, that we're each only as healthy as we all are healthy.

When it comes to the body of faith, the death of one of our congregations is a blow to the whole. And I know there are some who'd say, "Good. The sooner they're all gone, the better." But if I am understood as betting on anything here, may it be that my bet is on as many hoping for that death sentence to be postponed yet again.

As for me, I'll say such words to an empty room before I stop saying them: "Love, hope, love, truth, love, justice, love, mercy, love..."

—Pastor Liz Goodman



Council on Aging

The Council on Aging sponsored a lovely get-together at the Roadside on January 22, a day without snow or ice, for a great lunch and lots of talk about old times and new.

After much searching, we have gotten a partner, Tolland, in our quest to get a grant from the state to hire an outreach worker. We needed to have at least two towns to apply for the grant.

The Council on Aging board has two meetings in February, February 10 and February 24, at 10 a.m., at the town hall. Everyone is welcome.

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Tuesday, February 11, 7 p.m., is movie night at the town hall. This month we're screening *Harold and Maude*, a 1971 coming-of-age black comedy, incorporating elements of dark humor and existential drama, with music by Cat Stevens.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse will hold a Wellness Clinic on February 13, at town hall, from 2-3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

The Boston Flower and Garden Show: We have two choices—Thursday, March 12, or Saturday, March 14. The Sheffield Senior Center and CoA are sponsoring a bus trip on Thursday, March 12, leaving from the Sheffield Senior Center at 7:30 a.m., and returning there approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$86 per person. To reserve spots on this trip, call the Sheffield Senior Center at 413-229-7037. Make checks payable to First Choice Tours—payment due by February 17. First Choice Tours is also offering a trip starting from Lee, a little closer to us, same price, \$86, on Saturday, March 14. Call 413-665-9090 for reservations and payment information. Both trips provide transportation and admission to the Flower Show.

Spring is coming!

—Kyle Pierce
Council on Aging, Chair

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The Words We Use

The words we use to name things has a profound effect on the way we perceive the world, as anthropologists and linguists have long understood. It's a subject that James Merrell, a history professor at Vassar College, discussed in detail at his talk for the Bidwell House, "Coming to Terms with Colonial History," which was replayed at the Monterey Community Center on January 12.

Hinterland vs. Indian Country

Merrell's particular academic focus is on giving native cultures—and the vital part they played in the way this country evolved—their due. Until about fifty years ago, he said, native people, "whose diversity was as striking as their ubiquity [in Colonial America]" were largely ignored by historians. Or treated as a sidebar to the main narrative. And to this day, many commonly used words and expressions—settlers, backcountry, discovery—have a way of diminishing perceptions about the extent to which the country was already settled, managed, and known.

In the last half century, Merrell said, an "explosion" of scholarship has reversed this, in many respects. Indeed, books by Yale social historian and Tyringham neighbor John Demos, who introduced Merrell at the original talk, are fleshing out the story and bringing the lives of native peoples into fuller relief.

Several recent talks at the Bidwell House have also brought attention to those who lived here before us and their contributions. The museum features a new interpretive trail showcasing the Native Americans' use and management of the woodlands, including displays of a hunting village, medicinal herbs, the efficient planting of the "three sisters" (corn, beans and squash), and early maple sugaring.

This shift is seeping into wider consciousness. In 2019, there was no Columbus Day in our nation's capital—it was replaced with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Several other states have also made the switch to honor the presence, humanity, and resilience of the people whom the explorer encountered.



This seal of the Massachusetts Bay Company from 1629, was used as a frontispiece in the John Demos social history, The Unredeemed Captive. It captures the attitude of the colonists toward the "heathens" they find there, who are pictured crying out for help.

Settlers vs. Invaders

Words that were frequently used by the colonists to describe the people who actually controlled the continent—savages, heathens, barbarians—served to stereotype these diverse peoples and diminish their humanity. And they fail to credit the complexity and intelligence of those who lacked a written culture: "I know that there is [sic] a great many lies written in your books respecting us," the Seneca leader known as Cornplanter shrewdly observed in 1794.

Writing a year later, George Washington also acknowledged the public relations

disadvantage that faced the Native Americans: "They [the Indians], poor wretches, have no press through which their grievances are related; and it is well known, that when one side only of a story is heard, and often repeated, the human mind becomes impressed with it, insensibly."

The subconscious bias in much of the speech and writing on the subject, even by fairly enlightened historians, can cloud perceptions, Merrell emphasized. Certainly the "New World" was not new to those who had inhabited it for millennia, as he pointed out. He mentioned many commonly words and idioms—virgin land, unoccupied territory—that reinforce the impressions of the newcomers over the reality of those who had already established settlements, transportation routes, borders, and found ways to sustainably use the rich continent.

Development vs. Desecration

The colonists wrote about, and no doubt experienced, a vast and teeming wilderness waiting for them to transform into a likeness of England, with fenced fields and neat rows of crops. As Merrell suggested, this oversimplified a complex reality, and says more about the colonists' own possible bewilderment than about the woodlands spreading out before them. Writing in 1983, natural historian William Cronon corrected this impression, asserting that the Native Americans efficiently managed their lands, generating high yields, using much different methods, more like what we might describe as permaculture, than the Europeans. Whereas Europeans "owned" land, Indians



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lived lightly on it, moving around to take advantage of available resources. The Northeast, Cronon wrote in *Changes in the Land*, was not a dense tangle of trees, but a more parklike environment, as the Native Americans had skillfully used controlled burns to clear fields and underbrush.

Savages vs. Survivors

In the 2006 book *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, Charles C. Mann writes about how many Europeans and colonists “implicitly depicted Indians as people who never changed their environment from its original wild state.” Such depictions, he argues, dehumanize and simplify complex and sophisticated cultures.

However, the word “savages,” which was often used by the colonists, may have had a literal germ of truth. The native peoples had been ravaged. A smallpox epidemic in the early 1600s wiped out as much as 90% of the native population, according to some estimates. By the time the Mahicans settled in Stockbridge in 1734, according to the Lenox history website, the native population in Massachusetts, once numbering a million or so, was all but gone. Languages, social structures, whole towns had collapsed before some of the colonists encountered the survivors, who must have been reeling in despair.

The Poor vs. People Living in Poverty

For the last couple of decades, while working as a writer and editor for several United Nations agencies, I have often chafed at the restrictions on language they required, which could make it difficult to come up with graceful syntax. We had to write about people living with HIV, rather than AIDS patients: persons with disabilities, rather than the disabled. But over time I came to appreciate the subtle way in which terms used to denote a single phenomena can connote very different realities: Labelling a person by a diagnosis or limitation can marginalize or flatten the individual, diminish the richness of a life, reduce the fullness of its possibilities.

Listening to the political discourse of today underscores the validity of Merrell’s argument. Different words and phrasings

can essentially weaponize language. Careful consideration of one’s choice of words, and the biases they hold, is not just a matter of political correctness, Merrell said. It is inherently political. Consider, for example:

Illegal aliens versus *undocumented immigrants*.

Pro-life versus *anti-choice*.

—Janet Jensen

Note: On Sunday, February 9, at 1 p.m., the History Talk Replay at the community center will feature former Director of the Storrtown Village Museum, Dennis Picard, speaking about “A Little Rebellion Now and Then: A History of Shays’ Rebellion.”

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“Monterey Night,” by Aicha Woods, exhibited in the Knox Gallery show, Connections.

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What's Happening in February

New Activities

Knitting Help: Have you always wanted to learn to knit? Do you have a yarn project you need help getting started with? Or maybe one you'd like to finish? Well, the Monterey Community Center is happy to offer the knitting expertise of Molly Goodchild (right) to help you. You may recognize Molly from the circulation desk at the Monterey Library. She will be sharing her knitting skills at the MCC on February 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., to help you learn how to make something special. There is a \$10.00 fee per session. Call the MCC if you have any questions at 413-528-3600.

History Lovers: Up for a little rebellion? On Sunday, February 9, at 1 p.m., the MCC is pleased to be hosting the second in a series of history talk replays. Come and find out what *really* happened during Shay's Rebellion, according to Professor Dennis Picard. The video replays of American history will continue on second Sundays through March. Light refreshments will be available. Pre-registration is requested and can be completed at the Bidwell House Museum website, bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Navicare: Alison Rice, who represents Fallon Health's new Navicare program, is coming to the MCC on the third Friday of every month at 9:30 a.m. This month, she will be there on February 21. Navicare is a managed-care health insurance program for seniors who are eligible for both Medicare and Standard Mass Health. If you want to find out more about how it can help you save money and get rides to doctor appointments, pharmacy visits, and even the grocery store, come down and see Alison or call her at 413-652-2257. If you are not eligible for Mass Health but have a Frail Elder waiver you may also qualify for this new program.

Coffeehouse: On Friday, February 28, the MCC will host Peter Poirier for a coffeehouse evening. (At right.)

Sledding: One of the best ways to beat the winter blues is to go out and do



Molly's selfie

something fun in the snow. You may not be aware, but the Monterey Community Center has an excellent sledding hill right on the property. It was the scene of the pumpkin roll in the days when Oktoberfest took place, and has a great but not too steep slope for sledding. Keep it in mind when you need to get the kids or grandkids out of the house this winter, especially during the February school vacation, and make sure the kids give you a turn on their sleds, too.

Monterey Coffeehouse Peter Poirier

The Monterey Community Center committee is hosting the first of a series of coffeehouses on Friday, February 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. Our first musician will be Monterey's very own Peter Poirier along with bass player Mike Law from Plainville, CT. Peter and Mike will be performing classic 1950s blues.

Come on out and enjoy a delightful evening of music and song in our lovely community center. Coffee and goodies will be available. This event is co-sponsored by the community center and the Monterey Cultural Council. The coffeehouse is free but donations are welcome.

—Wendy Jensen

Ongoing Activities

Al-Anon: Sundays at 9 a.m.

Mahjong: Mondays at 7 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Yoga: Now on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Cards and Bridge: Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.

Community Chorus: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Darn Yarners: The first and third Thursday of the month (February 6 and 20), at 1 p.m.

Canasta: (for experienced players) Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Cookbook Club: second Friday of the month (February 14). See page 13.

Ping Pong: Saturdays at 2 p.m.

We are always looking for new ideas for presentations, classes, and groups. If you have any suggestions, please contact the MCC Coordinator, Mary Makuc, at 528-3600, or email her at calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Laurie Shaw

Monterey Community Center chair





Dennis Lynch

Ping Pong at the MCC

Many people would recognize Steve Graves as the pitcher on the mound throwing a softball to batters in games behind town hall on summer Sunday mornings. But some people may not know that Steve is also an accomplished ping pong player who has been seen from time to time on Saturday afternoons throughout the year at the Monterey Community Center. In fact, Steve is the current Berkshire County Ping Pong Champion.

When asked to demonstrate some of his skills at the community center on Saturday, January 18, Steve said without hesitation, "Yes, I would very much like to give back to Monterey for the town's help in hosting softball for many years." Steve even donated a regulation size net, and brought his own mechanical ping pong machine that shoots out the little white balls at players who are either practicing or are new to the game. Those present for the fun, including yours truly, were at first intimidated by the machine's antics, but were able to return a few shots by the end of the one-hour session. Although challenging, it was great to have Steve's pointers given in a very clear and helpful way.

Ping pong is a fun way to spend a portion of a Saturday afternoon, and those wishing to play should stop by between 2 and 4 p.m. to hone their skills in a very friendly, non-competitive, and pleasant atmosphere, especially on a cold winter's day.

Come by on a Saturday afternoon for the fun of playing ping pong at the Monterey Community Center.

—Dennis Lynch



Mary Makuc

Yoga instructor Connie Wilson (left), demonstrating some chair yoga postures with two of her students. Chair yoga is being held at a new time on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., at the community center. Connie's classes are sponsored by the Monterey Parks Commission.



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Library Connectivity for Monterey

Connection to the internet has been an issue for Monterey for many years. Whether it is wireless by a cell tower or wired by fiber optic cable or DSL, there are parts of Monterey that do not have connectivity. There are those who for various reasons do not have the ability to connect even if the signal or wires are available. This will be an issue for the census. Much of the world now expects everyone has the ability to connect and do whatever is needed over the web. Many things are now in the "cloud." It is becoming more and more difficult to navigate through life without connecting using technology.

Libraries have done what they can to provide people access over the years. The library first connected to the internet through a state grant in 1995. It's hard to believe it was twenty-five years ago that we had our first computer that patrons used to connect to the web. It was a dial-up connection, but it worked. Over the years we have done what we can to provide services to the town. At one point we hooked up to the general store's satellite internet service wirelessly, and then onto Verizon DSL, and finally using fiber optic cable through the state's Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

Thanks to Adam Chait and Fiber Connect, we are still here providing this service. We have three desktops, two iPads, and W-Fi available 24/7, including out in the parking lot and the benches outside the building. The wifi is under the network name MontereyLibrary and there is no password. Downloading new programs

and updates has always been an issue with low broadband speeds. Bring your laptop down here now and hook up to the wired connection and do that download in a fraction of the time. We even have USB adapters for the laptops. We have two small study rooms where you can connect to the internet and work, or simply Skype or Facetime someone. We have a printer and can print out things such as tickets and boarding passes. Libraries have become part of the answer to connectivity. If you are in need for whatever reason, please come down and make use of our services.

Our library collection grew when we joined CWMARS (Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing), which, combined with the delivery service by the state, increased what was available to our patrons from around ten thousand items to closer to ten million items. Those are physical items. Downloadable items are also available through different platforms. CWMARS, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners state collection, and the Boston Public Library all have electronic items the patrons of the Monterey Library can borrow by downloading. You will need apps and some instruction, but first you do need a library card. We haven't really figured out a streamlined way to give you a library card online yet, but all you have to do is come in to get your library card and you have access to all those e-items. You do not need a card to connect to the internet, but you will to borrow items. Come in and get a CWMARS card and the items will be available to you!

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Letters Monterey's a Role Model

Dear Editor,

As an occasional visitor to Monterey, I always look forward to reading the *News*.

The many articles from town government, social, and church activities, to wildlife drawings, sightings, and in-depth explanations of the local wildlife, are fascinating.

Bracken Brae farm stand is my "go to" during the summer. This past fall saw the addition of Lyman Thomson's stories. I find myself chuckling and hoping for more.

Kudos to all of you for the vibrant community you have created. No better role model for towns do I think could be found.

—Lee Myers, Chester, MA

Editor's Note: There are so many reasons to be appreciative, and to let others know, that it is surprising there are not letters like this more often.

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The Sled Run

The winter season has arrived and with it comes its own variety of sports to be enjoyed by young and old. Sports like skiing and iceskating, building snow forts and snowball fights, and, of course, sledding. In the past couple of months I have written about Art Hastedt, a longtime resident of Monterey. I don't mean to burden the readers of the paper with another story about Art, but when the editor invited me to write about some of the old-time residents of Monterey, and any amusing stories that I might know, I didn't realize how many of them involved Art until I started writing. I don't think I know anyone who had more comic mishaps and misadventures than he did. Perhaps this was due to Art's willingness to share these stories with others, stories that most of us would have preferred to remain unknown.

Art and I were both working for the Monterey Highway Department when he built his new house on a beautiful piece of property on Gould Road. In front of the house was a hill just made for sledding. Art had grandchildren who lived in the area, and whom he loved dearly. One winter weekend he invited them to come and try out the hill. They had runner sleds which didn't go well in the deep fluffy snow on the hill. (Runner sleds go best on packed snow.) The grandkids were disappointed.

This was a problem Art figured he could fix. (This is what we guys do, we fix things. Do not come to us with a problem that you do not want a solution for. If you just want sympathy, that's what girlfriends are for!) Using the back of a shovel, he began packing the snow and making a sled run. He even made an upturned lip along the sides of the run so the sleds would stay on track and make it all the way to the bottom of the hill.

During the day he would think of ways to improve the run and in the evenings after work he would implement them. He made a couple of banked turns to make the run more interesting. He piled snow at the end to stop the sleds at the bottom. This went on for a week or more. Daily at work we would get updates on the progress of the sled run. The icing on the cake, literally,

came when Art hauled out the water hose and misted the sled run on a couple of nights. Things were ready, and on a Friday, Art announced that the grandkids would be coming that weekend.

The weekend passed and on Monday morning Art showed up at work moving slowly and wearing a neck brace! We couldn't wait to get the story. Yes, the grandkids came that weekend. They were about to make the inaugural run, lying prone on their runner sleds, when Art objected. "That's not how you do it," he said, "When we were kids we used to sit on the sled and steer with our feet." To which the grandkids responded, "Show us how it's done Grandpa!"

So Art sat on the sled, lifted his feet into position, and launched down the hill. A fifty-pound child on a sled is one thing. A two-hundred-plus pound man on a sled is another. Thinking back to high school physics class, I seem to recall that scientists state that an object falling from the sky in Earth's gravitational pull will accelerate at a rate of thirty-two feet per second per second. Now I'm not saying that Art on the sled achieved that kind of acceleration, but what he did achieve was eye-opening.

There is a winter Olympic event that involves a contestant riding a small sled down an icy track with twists and turns, attaining incredible speeds. This is probably similar to what Art achieved

going down the sled run. Art himself later acknowledged, "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that the sled would go that fast."

The testimony to Art's engineering skills is in the fact that the sled stayed on the track, and Art stayed on top of the sled, even through the banked turns.

Then came the snow pile at the end of the run.

Again, thinking back to high school, I remember that a law of physics states something to the effect of: a body (Art and the sled) in motion will stay in motion until acted upon by an equally opposing force (the snow pile).

The sled stopped.

The body in motion, Art, didn't! Art flew through the air like he was shot from a catapult. He struck the ground (yet another equally opposing force) with his head and neck.

Thankfully nothing was broken, only sprains and bruises. Thereafter Art decided to leave the sledding to the grandkids. The grandkids decided to go in the house, get some hot chocolate from Grandma, and play twister the rest of the afternoon.

—Lyman Thomson



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Knox Gallery News

This is Not a Zoo

Our current exhibition featuring photographic work by Susan Terni Taff is currently on view at Knox Gallery until February 22. Who wouldn't love these beautiful photographs of the Big Five, and envy Susan her up-close-and-personal views of these exceptional animals? Come and see the exhibition—it's easy to imagine you are there with her!

The wildlife of the Nambiti Game Reserve near Ladysmith, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa is the subject of the striking photographs that compose *This is Not a Zoo*. Over 26,000 acres of grasslands, savanna, and bush comprise Nambiti, which is home to the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and Cape buffalo), and to forty other species and a host of birds.

Susan is a photographer and mixed media artist who lives and works in Glastonbury, CT, and is the sister of Monterey resident and Monterey Library professional, Esther Heffernan.

The artist admires the work of Joel Sartore, known for his National Geographic photographs, in particular his "Photo Ark" project—photographing every species of animal on earth. Surely Taff's work, like Sartore's, reminds all viewers of the preciousness of our environment.



Nature's Beauty and Fragility

Our next exhibition, *Nature's Beauty and Fragility*, by PL Meriam, is a perfect segue on this theme. Meriam's mission is "to help people notice the beauty and details of the natural environment so that they will be motivated to preserve it." Meriam lives in Vermont but has a local connection—long-time Monterey resident and library trustee John Higgins is her cousin.

Please join us for an artist's talk from 6 to 6:30 p.m., on Saturday, February 29, with a reception immediately following, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. *Nature's Beauty and Fragility* will run through April 11, and Meriam's work will be highlighted in the Knox Gallery *Monterey News* article next month.



"Acadia Park Woods," by PL Meriam.
Photo by Zach Zorn.

All Knox Gallery events and openings are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; [Facebook.com/KnoxGallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery).

—MaryPaul Yates



South Berkshire Kids Playgroup Monterey Library

Fridays in January 10 to 11 a.m.
(January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

We are taking our playgroup fun to the newly renovated Monterey Library! Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.



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Community Potluck Dinner Wednesday, February 19

The January potluck, with Deb Koffman speaking about mindfulness, was a well-presented and well-received program. She had a plethora of materials, and most attendees seemed to be familiar with Deb and her work and her gallery. Thanks, Deb, for a thought-provoking presentation.

For February, we have "The Modern Minimalist Death Movement." In this presentation, Camille Roos offers an overview on the modern death movement which facilitates one's ability to be integrally involved in one's own or a loved one's dying process. This presentation explains the cultural implications of death-phobia, medical and legal obligations towards the dying, the benefits of hospice care, the role of a death doula, and the global movement towards creative and compassionate choices in dying.

Camille Roos is a death doula, energy worker, and artist who is compelled to simplify the way we die, grieve, and live. She hosts monthly Death Cafes at the Mason Library in Great Barrington, curates a yearly art installation in honor of the dead, and is actively working to bring green burial to Berkshire County cemeteries and funeral homes.

Our next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome—please join us.

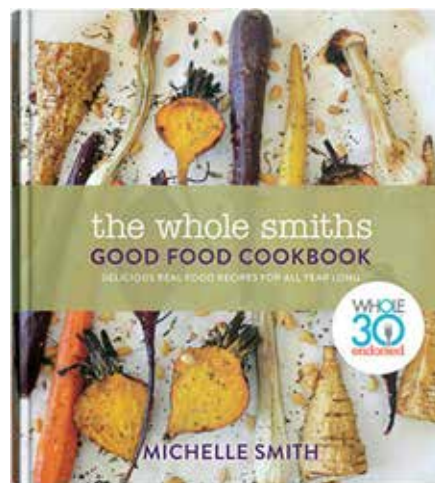
—Kyle Pierce



Wendy Jensen

Monterey Cookbook Club

The Monterey Cookbook Club had its second scrumptious meeting on January 10. We had ten cooks with assorted new dishes to taste and discuss from this month's cookbook choice, *Simply Scratch: 120 Wholesome Homemade Recipes Made Easy*, by Laurie McNamara. Some of the dishes made were Tomato Tart, Glazed Carrots, Turkey Meatloaf, Twice Baked Sweet Potatoes, Baked French Toast, Cornbread, Baked Beans w/homemade ketchup, Italian Sausage Pasta e Fagioli, Dijon Roasted Brussel Sprouts, and Salted Pistachio Chocolate Chunk Cookies, to name a few. The Monterey Community Center was once again a perfect dining room to gather for this event.



The next meeting will be Friday, February 14 (happy Valentines Day!) at 11:30 a.m. The February cookbook is: *The Whole Smiths Good Food Cookbook*, by Michelle Smith. If you are interested in joining us in February, stop in the Monterey library and ask for the Cookbook Club book from behind the desk and sit to peruse the recipes. Choose a recipe that tingles your taste buds, ask the librarian to photocopy it, and mark it in the book with a post-it note. Please try to follow the recipe as is printed so we can critique it! If you have any questions, please email Wendy Jensen at wendygj@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

—Wendy Jensen and Susan Johnson



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Eagle and Janet's Funds March 1 Deadline

The Eagle Fund and Janet's Fund will once again be awarding grants to enrich the experiences of students in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Students, community members, teachers, and staff are all welcome to apply for an Eagle Fund grant, and students are welcome to apply for a Janet's Fund grant. Both grants provide funding for educational enrichment opportunities not otherwise provided by the district's funding.

The 2019 projects funded both new and ongoing projects, and were awarded for thirty applicants' projects, nine of which were written by and for students. These activities included projects on climate change, weather, fine arts, film, robotics, multiculturalism, field trips, culinary design, and farming.

The Eagle/Janet's Fund will also be overseeing the awarding of the newly created Clayton Chrisman Memorial Fund Award, which will be granted annually for a total of \$2,000 to one or more Mount Everett students in eleventh and twelfth grades, for costs of projects related to environmental studies, including such areas as sustainable care of land, growing healthy food, protection of wildlife, human animal husbandry, and related topics.

For more information, and to apply for an Eagle Fund grant, please visit sbrsd.org and click on "Eagle Fund," which is located on the left side under "quick links." For students wishing to apply for a Janet's Fund grant or the Clayton Chrisman Memorial Fund Award, visit Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation at berkshiretaconic.org.

— Melissa Zdziarski



Jane Burke and her afterschool pottery class, supported by the Eagle Fund.

Talkin' (about) Trash

Dear Trash Talker,

Last month you tried to educate me about wrapping paper, but I had that topic "wrapped" years ago. If it feels like plastic, crinkles like plastic, shines like plastic, it probably is plastic. Not so tough—into the trash.

But what about "paper" orange juice containers, or milk containers, and so on? Sure it's paper, but it's waxed, and then they put in those plastic pour spouts with the caps on them. And there's the round pint-sized ice cream containers for the good stuff like Ben & Jerry's, or the more oval half-gallon containers—they're all waxed up, and they need some place to go. But where?

— Juiced with Recycling

Dear Juiced,

Yup, they're all waxed up and wanting to go someplace, you're right about that. But not in the paper bin. The plastic and the wax would mess with the paper, and if the sorting center notices, they might penalize the value of the load.

But—you can put them in the containers bin. I guess somehow they're able to deal with the non-paper elements in the containers. And thanks for singling out the pint and half-gallon containers of ice cream as possibly recyclable—they are. The block half-gallons, wrapped in plastic, can be put in the paper bin if the plastic wrapping has been removed.

However, if you have any containers that are a mix of paper and metal, like those Pringles cans, frozen juice cans, or juice boxes with the foil liners, those have to be trashed. So think about the packaging life-cycle when shopping.

If you have any question standing at your recycling bins, remember the overarching rule, "When in doubt, throw it out (in the household trash)."

— Trash Talker

You got trash questions? We'll get answers. Fire away. The folks at the paper will pass'm along. Write to Trash Talker, c/o MontereyNews9@gmail.com.



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Monterey Dancers Triumph!

Moving Arts Exchange (MAX) presented their final show—an adaptation of the children's book, *Frog Belly Rat Bone*, to standing room only audiences on January 18 and 19. There was a strong Monterey presence in the performance. Cora Baker danced in the role of the fruit fly, Madeline Rundle and Catherine Makuc were two of the magic dancers that helped bring the flowers into bloom. Maggie Barkin worked on the production, in particular coaching a terrific performance from the eight-year-old narrator. Pam Johnson created the magic dancer costumes, fruit fly wings, and many of the flowers.

Author/illustrator Timothy Basil Ering brought his family from Cape Cod and declared himself beyond thrilled with the adaptation. He stayed for an hour after the show enthusiastically signing books with special messages and talking with Andrea Blacklow, director and choreographer, and Ellen Gorman, projection and filming. The professional video of the final show will be sent to all the families and the book publisher. Maybe the adaptation will go on to bring the story of cooperation, friendship, creativity, and patience to many children.

Sadly, MAX will have to close its doors at the end of January, but Andrea Blacklow will be taking her Body & Soul classes to Lifeworks, Mimi Rosenblatt will offer Cardio Groove at Berkshire Pulse, Sarah Daunt (who taught all the children's and youth classes, including teaching Madeline and Catherine to develop their own choreography) will be caring for children at Hevreh's new day-care center, and Ellen Blacklow will be dancing in Los Angeles. Catwalk—the resale store that

Above: The Finale. Front row adult dancers— the three thieves, rabbit, fruit fly (Cora Baker) and rat, magic dancers including Catherine Makuc, left, and Maddie Rundle.

supports Berkshire Humane Society—will move next door, into the former MAX space.

—Pam Johnson

Above: The three Monterey dancers, l. to r.: Cora Baker, Madeline Rundle, and Catherine Makuc.

—Photos by Pam Johnson

A Pleasant Surprise

- A nice heavy snowfall fell the night before your cousins and their kids arrived for the weekend..

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Tufted Titmouse: A Winter Evening

An old Oak stood, its branches reaching out, protecting its children. The tree was bare, its brown leaves turning slowly into humus on the ground. The Earthworms had already laid their eggs cocooned and protected beneath the soil surface, their young waiting to open and emerge. The Sun had begun its path down through the sky, over the Oak, over the old cart path, and over the fields. Canada Geese soared high.

The grass sighed and whispered a haunting melody, joined by the wind whistling through the rock wall by the path. A small stream wound its way through the woods laughing as it jumped over the rocks.

The Tufted Titmouse flitted onto a Cherry tree and pushed a little seed into a crevice in the bark.

He quickly hopped away, the wind ruffling his grey and white feathers, exposing the orange hue under his wing. He flew to where he had been feeding before, finding the Junco from the Blackberry bush pecking at the dirt, softly calling to his partner. The Tufted Titmouse searched the ground, poking at leaves with his small, black beak. He found a seed and picked it up.

Lifting off the ground, he began gliding low over the field, avoiding grasses, plants, and trees. An alarm shattered the forest. A Hawk was soaring above. The birds flew, giving way like the soft earth



A Tufted Titmouse, pencil and water color, by Maddox Tucker.

moved by a plow. The Titmouse turned and dove into the long grass. The Hawk pulled its legs forward, stretching out like gnarled hands, reaching for the Titmouse, and nearly grabbing him. The Titmouse, shocked, lay there, fear coursing through his energized body.

The Titmouse stood and looked up. The Hawk was turning, coming around again. The Titmouse darted to better cover and waited for the danger to pass.

The Hawk glided over, and lifted into the open sky.

The Titmouse stood there, waiting. When he was sure the danger had passed, he poked his head out of the shrubs. He flew back to the same tree, and pushed the seed beside the other. As the sun drifted to sleep, the snow began to fall. Stillness covered the landscape, like the trees' silence.

The Titmouse found his roost and fell asleep, warm and content. Winter had come.

—Tiegen Stucker

Food Drive Gratitude

Thank you to everyone for being so supportive of the food drive last November. In total, Monterey donated about 125 pounds! The donations got there before the holidays, so a lot of it helped to brighten people's special days. I appreciate all the support, and I know the Sheffield Food Assistance Program certainly did as well.

It's amazing to see the strength of the community in Monterey, and I am grateful for the frequent reminders of how special it is here. Be on the lookout for the Cradles to Crayons clothing drive this spring.

—Nadia Makuc

Contributions- January 2020

We're turning the corner, cash-wise, and heading for home now.


"Home" is the annual fund appeal that will be sent out in March. This appeal raises well over half of the funds the paper needs for another year of being produced, mailed to anyone who asks, made available for picking up in places all over town, emailed to nearly two hundred and fifty addresses, all without a stipulated subscription, as has been the case for fifty years now.

Not to be overlooked in this endeavor, on page 27 you can find a list of advertisers who have been constant with the *Monterey News* for at least twenty years. Without a doubt many of those advertisers continue as a way to help support Monterey.

We thank our contributors and all our advertisers. Please help us continue.

We received contributions from these folks in January:


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Haiku

A weed-filled garden
on a deserted estate
wild flowers gathered.

*

Among old gravestones
we meditate together;
the squirrels, birds, and I

*

Alone in the pool
on a moonlight night, a star
rippled next to me.

*

Vortex in a brook
separate in appearance
ending reforming.

—Ann M. LeVallee
August, 2000

Pussy Willow

Little pussy willow,
Through the winter's cold you slept.
When you felt the warm spring sunshine
From your shell you crept.
You laughed as the brook leaped with joy
When the ice began to break;
Then a Red-wing called to welcome spring
And you were wide awake.

—Eleanor Kimberly
May, 2000

Violet

When Violet left
she took with her
the broken color
between day and night,
the bruise
flowering
on the flesh
of heaven.

—Peter Shepley
September, 2000

The Blind Girl

Speak to me of shadows
that I may learn of light
and sing to me of sadness
that I may know delight

Tell me of the willows
that bend beside the stream
whisper of the reedy shore that
I may lie and dream.

Show me what I do not know
and kiss my opening eyes
I lie beside the water
and love never dies

Lead me by the river
down beside the sea
speak to me of lovers but
never you and me.

Take away the stone
that lies upon my heart
God knows that in the morning
you and I will part

I do know now of shadows that
led me to delight
love, and must you leave me
who lit my inner light!

—A. O. Howell
September, 2000





Monterey News Fifty Years Celebration

The Monterey News is celebrating fifty years as a monthly town newspaper from its inception on March 24, 1970. For this milestone year, we will publish monthly articles looking back at the stories and highlights covered during the past fifty years. We hope you will enjoy the big stories, the small ones, and the personal vignettes. Each month during 2020 we will print some highlights for a four-to-five-year period.

Monterey News, 1975-1979

Police officer Robert Hardisty pulled Ennis Blount out of the icy waters of the Konkapot River, took her to the general store, wrapped her in a blanket, and dried her clothes. Then he sent her off to the school as she was in the Christmas pageant.

The Brookbend Inn was restored and remodeled into an eight-unit apartment building by owners Robert and Jill Ensign. In 1923 Robert's father, Raymond Ensign, built additions onto the old farmhouse in the village making the building into Brookbend Inn. Raymond sold the inn in the 1940s to Haviland Staples. Raymond Ensign had established in 1915 the Berkshire Summer School of Art on Art School Road, later owned by Meadowlark Camp.

Virgil Stucker came to Gould Farm from Marshfield, WI, to be a work leader.

The town compiled a master plan and a Natural Resources Inventory and Land Use plan to be used by the planning board in implementing and updating zoning bylaws.

The Monterey Historical Society completed the General Knox room adjacent to the library, and it officially opened on September 13, 1975.

Monterey was designated as a bicentennial community by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. On January 11, 1976, a reenactment of Colonel Henry Knox and his troops traveled the Knox Trail (along Route 23) through Monterey. The reenactment consisted of fifty people dressed as cavalry and footmen, three wagons pulled by black Clydesdale horses, and cannon drawn by oxen. On that day, they started at Butternut Basin and stopped for lunch at Avalon School. Sheldon Fenn was the official welcomer for the town. Ray Tryon offered his garage for any repairs needed to the wagons. A special service of thanksgiving and recognition was held at the church at 5 p.m., followed by a community supper. The soldiers stayed in various homes that night and the wagon and animals were in Greene Park. The next morning the party continued east on Route 23 to Otis. Mary and Paul Thorn loaded up their car with coffee and doughnuts and set up a wayside refreshment stand between Monterey and Otis.

Gertrude Gould and Helen Shaw (sisters) spent eleven days stranded on a coral reef off the coast of North Borneo. The ship had run aground and the captain finally decided to fly the passengers home.

The Memorial Day parade was dubbed the "Shortest Parade in Berkshires."

The Monterey Nursing Home (on property now owned by Leigh and Wendy Tryon) was closed for repairs, and all the residents were moved to a new nursing home on Christian Hill Road in Great Barrington in the spring of 1976. Then at 6 a.m. on Sunday morning, July 31, the nursing home burned to the ground. The fire was of suspicious origin.

Discussions and studies had been ongoing for several years concerning the general pollution and control of the weeds on Lake Buel, and what would be the best alternatives to control the weeds. Lake Buel had been looking at various solutions to the weed problem including lowering the water level, rebuilding the dam, and purchasing a weed harvester. It was decided, after a public hearing of

50th Anniversary Reception

On Saturday, March 28, there will be a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first issue of the *Monterey News*. The board of the *Monterey News* invites you to a noon to two p.m. reception at the library.

We hope to have displays of interesting pages over the years, show how to access back issues in the library, and entertain your thoughts about the future of your hometown paper. Look for more details in the March issue.

Refreshments will be served.

both Monterey and New Marlborough officials (as portions of the lake are in each town) and residents, that to lower the lake level was not a viable solution, given the current dam, and the terrain of the stream downhill of the lake. In 1978 Fred Vorck of the Lake Buel Association stated that weed harvesting was being done periodically and that the weeds were worse than ever. In September 1979, after six years of funded studies and frustrated plans for the improvement of Lake Buel, the association applied to



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the EPA for funds for lake management and weed control.

The annual gravity car races, originated by Billy Russell and Peter Murkett, began in September of 1974 on Wallace Hall Road and continued for several years. It was a downhill half-mile race beginning near the intersection of Sandisfield Road and ending just past a sharp curve over a stream near New Marlborough Road. The vehicles had to be hand-made with three or more wheels, no power and no brakes, and have a weight limit of 275 pounds. A row of hay bales lined the course at the sharp curve for the many participants who crashed on that turn.

In the fall of 1978 Bob Rausch came to Gould Farm, and Millie Walsh got a permit to expand her gasoline business to include a health food store.

The Monterey General Store and the Roadside Store went through several owners during these five years. In the spring of 1978 Gould Farm purchased the Roadside Store and opened it for breakfast and lunch with eggs and vegetables for sale.

"I love Monterey Day" was held on August 18, 1979, with a parade, booths, speakers, and performances by Shakespeare & Co., Country and Sacred Harp music by Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, and Indian tales and songs by David McAllester. There was also a community picnic and a contra dance. It rained but everyone had fun.

Stay tuned for next month's article about the Monterey Energy Project, "Monterey Lights the Way," and other events from the early 1980s.

—Cindy Hoogs



Thanks to Maureen Banner for the Monterey News 50 Years medallion design.

Editor's Note: The library has a nearly-full set of back issues available on open shelves. In addition, the library's desktop computers have PDF copies from 2005 to the present available for viewing, downloading, or sending to others.

The Beginning of the Monterey News

Twenty years ago, as part of the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Monterey News, editor Will Marsh asked Virgil Brallier, who was Pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ in 1970, and instrumental in the founding of the News, to reminisce about the early days.

Before the first issue of the *Monterey News* even landed in the post office, there was a series of discussions in the church council about the feasibility of such a publication and how it would be financed. As I remember it now, I think we talked about it for at least three months in a row. The result was that the church agreed to back the publication financially and to stand behind it in every way. I do not know if we even discussed the possibility that it would soon be standing on its own two feet. We were somewhat amazed at the community's wholehearted support of it and at the very short time it was dependent on the church for financial support. It was one of the "fastest growing-up kids I have ever seen."

The earliest format was three legal-sized sheets of paper printed on the mimeograph. This was adapted from the newsletter I began in the North Adams Congregational Church called *The Rose Window*. The great difference in the way the Monterey "kid" grew up is in how soon it was a newsletter serving the whole community.

Marie Siefert volunteered to be the first editor. If my memory is right, she served between one and two years, until her family moved from Monterey. The next editor was Patricia Howard. She had come to Monterey as a guest at Gould Farm. When she left the Farm she moved to the center of Monterey. She continued as editor for quite a number of years. Finally, she moved to Great Barrington and gave up the editorship. Right now my mind is a little fuzzy as to the exact order of the editorships, so I will let that order be established as the story is unfolded by others.

In those early years of the *Monterey News*, I cut the stencils by typing the pages in the form they were to be printed. Then I hand-cranked them through the mimeograph.

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us February 19 to hear:
Camille Roos

Sharing her overview of the
modern death movement.

See the community potluck supper
article on page 13.

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My family did quite a bit of the work on assembling the pages in order, stapling them together, folding them, addressing them, and anything it took to get them to the post office. Volunteers from the community helped on occasion. Some years before we left Monterey, the paper had developed into close to the present format, being professionally printed in magazine style.

Let me close by observing how very much many, many people in the community have contributed to the success of the *Monterey News*. Faith editors, article writers, people reporting on special events, artists—the list goes on—have blessed and illuminated this publication over the past thirty years. It has been a great inspiration to witness the procession of dedicated people who have given freely of their time and talent to keep the *Monterey News* on track as a valuable source of information to Monterey. Who could guess or even imagine at the beginning how many would step forward to freely and generously pour themselves in such an amazing contribution to the whole community? This has been the work of many hands and hearts. I freely confess that a number of my dreams have not come to fulfillment, but the *Monterey News* has come to fulfill me beyond my wildest expectations. To the wonderful and amazing array of people who have given their time, talent, and dedication, let me say, thank you, thank you, thank you!

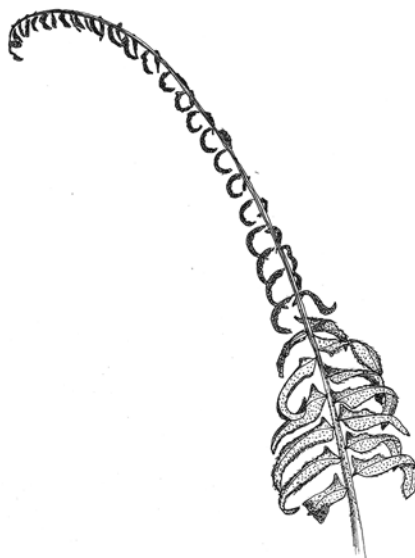
—Virgil Brallier

Field Guides and Ferns

Like many a nature bug of a certain age, I have a collection of field guides. Back in the day these were small books, designed to fit into jacket pockets and not weigh too much. They could add up, though, and often had to be carried in a small daypack, or a large carefully organized and heavy backpack. The challenge: which to take, which to leave home. Headed for Wyoming? Take the field guide for western birds, only. Going out in winter? Leave the insect guides home.

As the Internet satellites proliferate and blanket the globe, zapping all living things with microwave radiation, we may decide to leave the books behind and sally forth with cellphones only. We better take a spare battery, also a first aid kit and extra socks. But those field guides mostly have a retired life now as respected members of the home library. The same is true for maps and trail guides. I think we still need to take a sleeping bag for overnight, but these days the flashlight is built into the so-called phone.

Even when the field guides were in their glory days and went on every hike, I bet they rarely got read. You would spot a track or a wildflower, take a guess at it, flip to the index and then see if you were close. Turn a few pages. We were in a hurry even before satellites and cellphones, wanting to know real quick what was the name of the new creature or plant. Some books even provided a life list at the back so you could check off the names of what you had seen before you died. I worry that for some nature bugs, getting outside with the critters and the book becomes more a



collecting trip than a time to “identify with birds.” I am quoting here the ornithologist and writer Donald Kroodsma who, in one of his guides, says that he hopes his book will enable people not only to identify birds, but also to identify with them.

Once you spot a track or a spider or some bird, you can hold still and pay attention. Stop, slow down, notice a few things before you even flip to the key or the index in your book to learn its name. Nowadays, the temptation is great to pull out the cellphone, take a photo, push a button, and get the ID that way, provided you have a satellite or a tower buzzing your part of the landscape.

There is an account of Henry Thoreau standing all afternoon near the river, watching little ducklings first taking to the water with their mother. The kids who noticed him reported that Mr. Thoreau was

smiling as he stood there, not moving. My hunch is he was identifying with ducklings.

Then there are the plants. Last month I read the *Monterey News*, cover to cover and one of my great rewards was discovering a fine drawing of a fern on the very last page. I know this fern, even without running for the field guide. It is a Christmas fern, and stays green all winter, looking handsome against the snow. I had my first nature-bug job one winter, teaching sixth graders outside in New Hampshire. We teachers had learned to tell the kids that you could know the Christmas fern by the fact that each little leaflet looked like a Christmas stocking, also that the fern stayed green in the winter like a Christmas tree. We then could get to talking about photosynthesis and deciduous or evergreen trees. We could also take a very good look at that fern.


Last month I got out my *Field Guide to Ferns* by Boughton Cobb. It is a small one that fits in a jacket pocket, and I bought it thirty-eight years ago, though it was written nearly thirty years earlier than that (1956). Sitting indoors, I could stop, slow down, and read from the beginning of the book. Who was Boughton Cobb? What about the graceful detailed drawings by Laura Louise Foster? I read that both of these people lived years ago right south of here in Falls Village, Connecticut. I read Cobb’s dedication: “To EDITH from whom I learned that vision begins in the ecology of the imagination.” I stopped and stood still with that for some time. Any kids watching would have seen I was smiling.

Now I have gone on and read about the Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*. I made a list of some of the specific vocabulary available to me as a person wanting to identify with ferns: lanceolate, pinnate, frond, indusia, sinus, peltate, sorus, crozier, falcate, stipe, fiddlehead, sporangium. Then there is the Latin name: achrostichoid, which means the fern has its sporangia spread densely over the abaxial surface of a lamina.

This is the world of the fern, and Boughton Cobb was fluent in its language. He also kept a fern garden at his home, Cobb-Web, but who knows what remains there. The artist and her husband, a writer, had a big rock garden in the same town, and they lived at Millstream House.

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Bidwell House to Host Second History Talk Replay

The Bidwell House Museum is thrilled to join with the Monterey Community Center again this winter to present the off-season program "History Talk Replay." On Sunday, February 9, at 1 p.m., head to the community center to see Dennis Picard's July 2019 talk, "A Little Rebellion Now and Then: A History of Shays' Rebellion." In the lecture Dennis shared the stories about the rebellion, a few personages of local interest, and the effect on our nation's early history. The video lasts just over an hour. The event is free but pre-registration is appreciated at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

In December the museum's annual appeal mailing went out to all members and donors. If you did not receive a letter but you are interested in making a donation, please call the museum or head to the museum's website (above). Every dollar donated supports the preservation of the historic 1760s homestead, 192-acre grounds, and history education programs. And don't forget the grounds of the Bidwell House Museum are open all year! Hike the trails, take a leisurely walk, or go cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing on a snowy afternoon.

—Heather Kowlaski

After all this ecology of my imagination, traveling back in time and south in place in the company of Mr. Cobb and Ms. Foster, I got up and put on my boots and jacket to get with the fern. This is easy, direct, no vocabulary involved. Walk out under the remarkable winter sky. Step over the new deer tracks and flash a vision of Bucky, as we call him, headed for the garden and the old kale plants there. Identify with Bucky and then go stand by the ferns.

Thank you, Mr. Cobb, for writing that "There is a merging of the aesthetic and the intellectual in this inquiring attitude about nature, I believe—a sense of wonder often colored with religious and philosophical feeling. Our wider concept of time and space and our observation with instruments demand scientific explanations that nevertheless have aesthetic quality." We can identify, and identify with.

—Bonner McAllester



John was highway supervisor when Monterey took delivery of a new Oshkosh truck. John is standing on the truck step. Jed Lipsky, center, and Hans Kessler, right, were select board members at the time.

Remembrance John W. Field, 66

John W. Field, 66, of Monterey, died at home Monday, January 13, after a brief illness. Born on February 20, 1953, in Great Barrington, he was the son of Gerald Osmond Field and Thelma Gail Meyette. He attended Mount Everett High School. John worked as the highway superintendent for the Town of Monterey. He also worked as a mechanic for over thirty years in the New Marlborough and Monterey areas. He enjoyed fishing, car racing, darts, and horseshoes.

John leaves his wife, Pat Field; daughters Terri Field and Sherri Loranger, both of New Hampshire, Jennifer Field, and

John W. Field Jr., both of Sandisfield. He also leaves stepchildren Victoria Kimberley, Laura Hasenjager, and Felix Cincotta, as well as sister Linda Cronk, brother Gerald Field, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and his many kitties. He was predeceased by his parents, and by his brother Wayne Field.

The family held calling hours on Sunday, January 19 at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington. A private burial will follow in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Animal Dreams c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to the family, go to finnertyandstevens.com.



Remembrance

Gail Kotler, 72

Gail Kotler, age 72, died peacefully in her Monterey home on December 9 after five and a half years of living with terminal cancer. Gail was born on May 11, 1947. She was raised in the Bronx and attended Bronx High School of Science, SUNY Buffalo (English), Queens College (MS in Library Science), and Lehman College (MA in English). She was a New York Public Reference Librarian, mainly serving the Bronx branches, for close to thirty years. She also was an adjunct English professor at Lehman College. She is survived by her daughters, Jennifer Kotler Clarke (Paul) and Julie Kotler Snider (Jordan), her grandchildren Emily and Eli Snider, and her sisters Susan Leimsider (Tom) and Paula Hartstein (Jon Levin).

Gail was introduced to the Berkshires as a teenager attending Bronx House sleepaway camp in Copake, NY where she met her husband. Around 1969–1970 they bought a house in Egremont and, in 1978, they bought their Monterey house on 50 Main Road. Originally a summer resident, she moved the family up to Monterey for summers where her two daughters, Jenny and Julie, attended Butternut Day Camp, played tennis at Wyantenuck Country Club, swam in and canoed on Lake Garfield and frolicked in Deerhaven, a self-made wooded path on their property. Tanglewood and The Mount (Shakespearean plays were performed in the evening in the woods) were frequented, in addition to Four Brothers Pizza and Friendly's restaurant for ice cream take-out at the window.

Retiring a year early to help take care of her granddaughter, Gail increased her time in the Berkshires, and after her diagnosis in 2014, she spent more than half the year in “the country” as she and her family called it. The Berkshires was her happy place. She got involved. She volunteered at the Monterey Library. At Shakespeare & Company in Lenox Gail was both a volunteer gardener and worked on the expansive Oral History Archives Project. She even housed an “Artist in Residence” from Shakespeare & Company one summer. She attended Tanglewood rehearsals and concerts,



*Above: Gail with grandchildren, Emily and Eli, playing in the the fall of 2010.
Right: Gail in her garden in July 2019.*

frequented The Mount to hear Wanda Houston sing, saw virtually every play running, and had season tickets to Jacob's Pillow. The running family joke was that her favorite place in Monterey was the town dump—oh how Gail adored the swap shop, finding treasures during every visit. Gail had a green thumb and tended to her glorious garden full of phlox, hasta, zinnias, bee balm, salvia, gooseneck, evening primrose, astilbe, catmint, impatiens, petunias, daylilies, and an array of other perennials and annuals. Her garden was lush and colorful and she would often sit out back on her patio with friends and family taking in the scents and sounds of her garden as the resident hummingbirds paid their visits. You can find Gail's daylilies at The Roadside and at Shakespeare & Company.

Gail taught her daughters and her grandchildren to work hard, to study, to be engaged, and to possess a generosity of spirit. Her most beloved role was that of Grandma to Emily and Eli. And she gave the gift of the Berkshires to them. Their heights are measured on the kitchen door frame. They shared walks on Diane's trail, planted zinnias in her garden, went to Tanglewood and Taft farms, canoed and kayaked on Lake Garfield, threw leaves up in the air in the fall, sang and danced at David Grover concerts on Saturdays in Great Barrington, and, most importantly, played weekend-long Monopoly games in the dining room.

But perhaps her greatest gift to all of us is how she lived her final five and a half years. Gail was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer in May 2014. Instead of withdrawing from the world when she



learned of her terminal diagnosis, she further embraced it, and did so with a profound grace and a commitment to live—to travel, to garden, to volunteer, to immerse herself in music, nature, theater and dance. Her HospiceCare in the Berkshires nurse, Nadine, had difficulty scheduling visits this past summer in Monterey as she was out and about constantly. Nadine would catch her when she was in her garden out back. The hospice aides fought over visiting her as she possessed such joy for life and a deeply generous spirit. Incredibly, she felt she was “one lucky girl,” but to all who knew her, we felt that we were the lucky ones to have known her, to have learned from her, and to have loved and been loved by her.

A poetry enthusiast, Gail often recited the following lines from William Wordsworth's “Ode to Immortality,” which have provided comfort to her friends and family while we grieve our profound loss:

Though the radiance which was once so bright
Be now for ever taken from my sight,
Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind;
In the primal sympathy
Which having been must ever be

—Julie Kotler Snider (daughter)

Leap Year for Snowy Owls

Snowy Owls have not been arriving on the prominent coastal points along Buzzards Bay as they usually do on the wings of winter solstice, crossing over from Cape Cod as annually reported by the Falmouth Christmas bird count. This bird count happens to be the longest running science survey in the world and has reported only several Snowy Owls so far. They have usually appeared by now along the south coast of Buzzards Bay where I have witnessed them, near Pine Island on Angelica Point, at the beach on West Island, and Slocum peninsula in South Dartmouth. Seeing a Snowy Owl is an unforgettable bird watching event, as they are one of the largest owl species, clearly identified as ghostly white. It is a still hunter, playing a waiting game, able to turn its head 270°, and with extraordinary hearing, able to locate any movement of a vole under the snow. And its yellow eyes have the capability of almost extrasensory vision day or night time.

It has been widely believed that southern migration to our tundra-like landscape is directly related to yearly cycles of abundance or shortage of their Arctic staple—lemmings. The last huge incursion during migration was reported in 1993 with two or three times the normal sightings. Another peak year was in 1942 when thousands suddenly appeared migrating south from Canada across the Great Lakes into the northern states of central America. Such a sudden phenomena caught the undivided attention of scientists who labeled it a migration “irruption,” demanding some scientific explanations of its cause. Advanced bird banding and high-tech GPS micro-transmitters for location tracking was begun, and was appropriately called Operation Snowstorm.

Results of this research soon revealed that Snowy Owls frequently relocated to surprising latitudes from year to year, some as far south as Florida, while broadening their distribution along the way. Some were sitting dangerously on fences near a runway at a Washington, DC airport, on city houses, cars, park benches, and even on ledges of skyscrapers. However, so



far this year, findings report exactly the opposite, a downturn of the cycle. There are only a few on Plum Island north of Boston, usually a stopping point of multiple owls during migration, only one on Martha's Vineyard, as well as one on Nantucket, one at Duxbury Beach, one in Provincetown, one at Monomoy, but none at all in Bristol County.

Snowy Owls have been on Earth for fifty million years, and mating pairs can successfully raise three or more chicks annually, as illustrated. Under favorable conditions they may live for twenty years. Their place in the changing arctic ecosystems is a sensitive concern among students of their environment. Their symbolism has evolved down through the ages and ancient cultures. The Tlingit

tribe carved Snowy Owls in their totem figures as they believed the owls would help the dead travel to the other side. Some thought of them as night time Eagles with connections to phases of the moon. Because they were seen in daytime, some native cultures connected them to the sun. In modern literature, when J.K. Rowling was asked why she included them in her Harry Potter books, she replied that they were mysterious symbols of supernatural narrative, and she liked them.

The year 2020 is the Chinese year of the rat, and it seems it might also be an off year for the Snowy Owl. However, true to their unpredictable behavior, a Snowy Owl may one day suddenly pop up to pleasantly surprise the *Monterey News* readers.

—George B. Emmons

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Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—“Monterey News” from 2000

Town News

Town Survey

A major task was begun in May 1998 to conduct a survey of the townspeople to get feedback on a wide range of concerns. The survey was sent out to all the seasonal and full time residents of Monterey in September of 1999. The July 2000 issue (pages 1 and 2) reported on the results, based on the response from 268 households, which was roughly 30%.

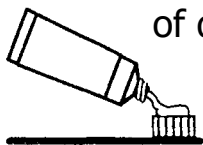
There were questions on satisfaction with town services, on knowledge of town bylaws and zoning, what types of additional services might be valuable for the town, and general level of appreciation for living in Monterey and the area.

Below are results of questions regarding what might strengthen Monterey in the future.

“The survey was a useful tool for assessing what the citizens of Monterey feel could be improved in our town. 40% of the respondents felt that a community center with programs for special interests and hobbies, as well as for youth and the elderly, would be a good addition to Monterey. 73% encouraged CPR and First Aid classes, and 83% feel the need for swimming lessons for children. 63% would like to see additional transportation services for the elderly and handicapped. Other needs highlighted by the survey include improvements in day-care and after-school care, homework help and after-school activities for youth, and improvements in the secure preservation of town records.”

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Town Hall Renovations

The town awarded a contract for accessibility improvements to the town hall. Changes included installing an elevator between the basement and main floor, lowering the third level of the building to the main floor, and adding a ramp outside the building. The contract was awarded to Allegrone Construction of Pittsfield, for \$367,747. The town paid \$37,126, with the balance being funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

Monterey Roads

Gould Road bridge was selected by the federal government for replacement with a new, experimental design. The bridge is to include a road deck of solid, laminated red maple timbers. There was no mention as to when the construction was slated to start.

Budget

In 1999 the town budget was approved at \$1,708,795. In 2000 the budget grew to \$2,019,600, an increase of 18%.

Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals

Peter Murkett wrote a long essay on the respective roles of the planning board and the zoning board of appeals (from September, pages 4 and 5):

“Town planning takes place over time. When the local bylaw was first approved, many houses were already located within the property line setback established under the bylaw, or were built on smaller lots than the bylaw allowed. The continued lawful existence of these properties was guaranteed, but such nonconforming structures, uses, and lots were given special significance under zoning, and their extension, alteration, or reconstruction.”

“The appeals board applies the zoning bylaw to specific cases as applications for special permits or variances, and the appeals of parties aggrieved by some decision of a town board or official in a land use matter. They are hometown judges whose decisions are circumscribed by caselaw, the written decisions of Massachusetts land courts and superior courts, where appeals of local rulings are



Dean Amidon sinks the first basket on the new hoops.
—Fran Amidon

adjudicated. Compared with planning, the appeals board job has a narrow focus. Rulings must uphold the bylaw, with reference to specific language and a particular situation. Decisions turn on definitions, words, and phrases, and their interpretation in relation to the house, lot, or use under consideration.”

Other News Around Town

Monterey United Church of Christ

In the spring of 2000, Pastor Keith Snow decided to leave the Monterey church. He published a personal essay on what led him to decide to leave the comfort of his five years at the Monterey church and strike out for a new and uncertain future in the April issue (page 15).

Heidi Haverkamp from Gould Farm was hired as the new lay pastor late in 2000. Heidi had been working at Gould Farm for two years, and was pursuing a career in ministry. Heidi signed her essays, “From the Meetinghouse,” as “Student Pastor.”

Gould Farm-The Harvest Barn

This major project for Gould Farm was the result of the combined efforts of two volunteer organizations: The Timber Framers Guild, with 1,400 world-wide members, and the Massachusetts Portable Saw Mill Owners Association, which was a newly formed organization. A campus of sawmills was set up at the farm and more than forty thousand board feet of hemlock timbers and board stock was sawn out for the barn. In addition to these two

Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—“Monterey News” from 2000

organizations, Tryon Construction donated the excavation service, and two logging companies provided the trees to be sawn out.

Joel McCarty, attempting to explain why the Timber Framers Guild was interested in supporting Gould Farm with this project, was reported having commented, “Because we like you guys.” He elaborated by noting, “Our groups sort of inadvertently resonate. We don’t have any hidden agendas. We’re not out to make money. We rarely wear black.” The Harvest Barn was one of a dozen community service projects the Timber Framers Guild will have completed around the world as of 2000.

Jim Clark, of Ashfield, MA, signed up the sawmill group on the spot during a workshop held at Gould Farm earlier in the year. He said he hoped to promote the good work of portable sawmill owners throughout the state by way of community service projects.

Both groups were committed to public education through hands-on experience and plain ol’ fun. —Kim Hines

The Harvest Barn raising was scheduled for July 29, to coincide with the annual book fair, and the steak roast, with a celebratory contra dance in the evening. See page 28 for the 2000 schedule of activities for “I Love Monterey Day.”

The Berkshire Fish Hatchery

Harvest Barn Bakery at Gould Farm



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Demolition of additions to Edith Wilson house, August 28.

—George Emmons

The hatchery, which had been closed since 1994 due to budget cuts, was reopened with a ceremony in mid-October of 1999. A collaboration agreement between US Fish and Wildlife and the Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture paved the way for the reopening. In April (pages 20–21), George Emmons wrote at length about what led to the reopening, and the individuals that provided the leadership to make this happen.

M. Hamilton wrote about the current state of the hatchery in October, including an eloquent statement of the value of the hatchery to all of us (from October, page 7):

“The interconnections and support continue to flourish as the Hatchery evolves and its presence again becomes part of the community. The fish grow to bring life back to rivers, the Hatchery grows to bring wisdom about our natural world, and the community grows to link us back to one another. May this second

September spark new visions and ventures ... in cadence with the shift of seasons and the belief in the unseen buds of spring.”

Monterey History

Michele Miller published a two-part essay in the November and December issues, “Monterey: A Place in Time,” which was written from a perspective of cultural geography. Included in her essay was census information from 1765 and 1802 (from December, pages 15 and 16):

“According to a church census of 1765, when the church had 50 members, Township #1 had 51 houses, 55 families, and 336 inhabitants. Only a few at that time had traded their lots on the top of the hill from 45-acre plots bordering Hop Brook to the north.”

“Census and tax records from 1802, show the population to be 1,712, residing in 155 houses and having 164 barns. Two stores sold supplies. There were four slaughterhouses, two tanneries,

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Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—“Monterey News” from 2000

and thirteen mills, though this number represents a decrease in grist mills over previous years. Wealth was still described in agricultural terms—acreage and livestock, although it was also clear that the shift was to a market economy. In North Tyringham, the Shakers numbered 53.”

Remember Y2K?

This turned out to be “no news,” and so was not reported. The transition to 2000 proved to be a non-event almost everywhere, and there was no reporting of problems in Monterey either.

At the Monterey News

In recognition of the thirtieth anniversary for the beginning of the *Monterey News*, Virgil Brallier wrote a history of the early days (from April, page 14). See page 19.

It was reported in the June issue that over three hundred folks had responded to the *Monterey News* annual fund appeal with contributions to keep the paper going.

A nice feature in the year 2000 issues was a series of short “Book Reviews by a Young Reader,” written by Dinah Mielke.

Editor’s Note: Book reviews from motivated readers of any age would be a great addition to the Monterey News.

People Serving the Town

- Select board—Peter Brown
- Select board—Fred Chapman
- Select board—Muriel Lazzarini

- Town Clerk—Barbara Swann
- Town Moderator—Mark Makuc
- Fire Chief—Ray Tryon
- Highway Foreman—Don Amstead
- Police Chief—Gareth Backhaus
- Monterey Church Pastor—Keith Snow followed by Heidi Haverkamp
- State Representative—Christopher Hodgkins
- State Senator—Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.

Monterey News Staff

- Will Marsh—editor
- Glynis Oliver—assistant editor
- Mari Enoch—treasurer
- Barbara Tryon—business manager
- Joe Baker—mailing labels
- Pat Amstead—typist
- Ian Jenkins & Pat Amstead—production
- Amy Goldfarb—reporter
- Suzanne Hoppenstedt—reporter
- Melissa Hockstetler—reporter
- Ann Higgins—reporter
- Deborah Mielke—personal notes

Regular Essayists

- Will Marsh—various topics and essays
- Michele Miller—“Monterey: A Place in Time”
- Joyce Sheffey—Monterey Land Trust
- Anita Carroll-Weldon & Lisa Simpson—Bidwell House
- George Emmons—nature reflections
- Rep. Christopher Hodgkins—“Rep Rap”
- Bonner McAllester—natural history and wildlife report

- David McAllester—wildlife report
- Mary Kate Jordan—Monterey Piece-makers, astrology, essays
- Heidi Haverkamp—Gould Farm
- Peter Murkett—essays
- Senator Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.—“Senator Says”
- Judy Bach, Pat Edelstein—Lake Garfield Association
- Pastor Keith Snow—Monterey United Church of Christ news
- Many other folks in town contributed as occasional reporters, essayists, and letter writers.

Poets

- Ann M. LaVallee
- Nick Hardcastle
- A. O. Howell
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Eleanor Kimberly
- Peter Shepley
- Richard Zubrowski
- Edwin Schur
- M. Hamilton
- Nancy Adams
- Nick Hardcastle
- Oren Rosenthal
- Jim Michelman

Artists



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- Glynis Oliver
- Joe Baker
- Peter Murkett
- Mary McClelland
- George Emmons
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Bonner McAllester
- Katie Olds
- Sudi Baker

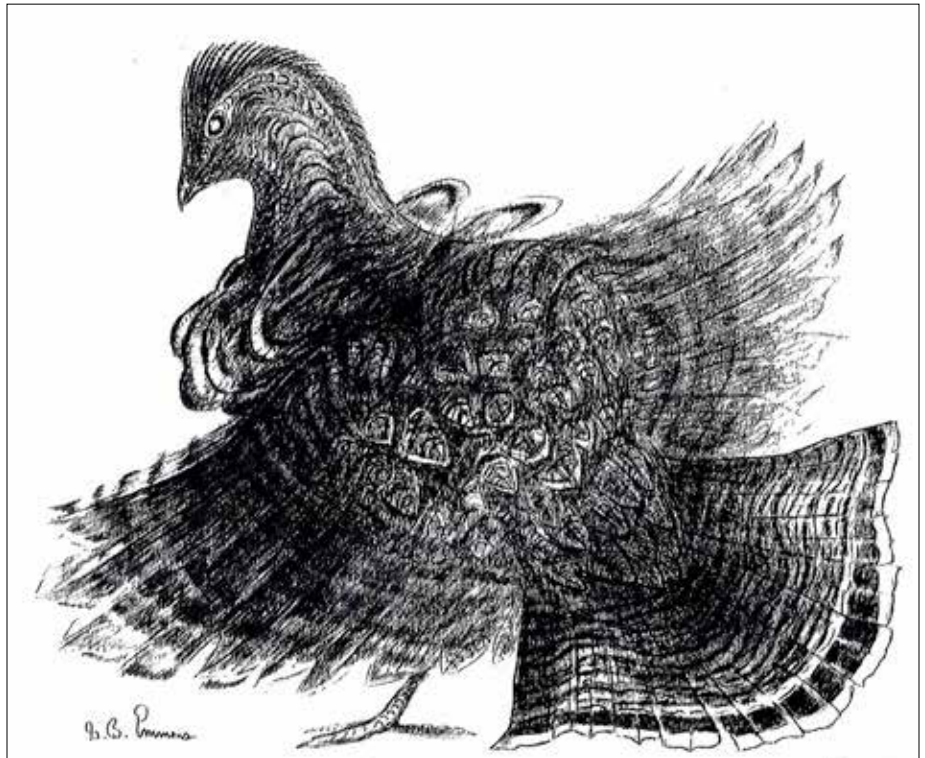
Legacy Advertisers

(Regular or occasional advertisers from the year 2000 who are still advertising in 2019-2020. In many instances their ads still look the same, or nearly so.)

- Deborah Mielke—real estate
- Rick Mielke—property caretaking
- Jay Amidon—painting
- Gould Farm—Roadside, and farm food products
- Bizen—restaurant
- Benchmark/Nancy Kalodner—real estate
- Brockman—real estate
- Christopher Blair—design services
- Charles Ferris—attorney
- Precision Autocraft—auto body repair
- Dr. Jerrold Raab—dentistry
- Monterey United Church of Christ
- Peter Vallianos—attorney
- Camp Half Moon—summer camp
- Ellen Grenadier—pottery

Obituaries in 1999

- Raymond Butler, 92, January, p. 18
- Madeline Warner, 57, January, p. 18
- Joan Woodward Reed, (no age listed) May, p. 6
- Gladys Dunlop, 83, May, p. 21
- Caroline Carnese, 72, June, p. 22
- Charlotte Rood, 67, September, p. 22
- William E. Mielke, Sr., 79, September, p. 22
- Marian Thomson, 80, November, p. 22



Partridge, from George Emmon's June 2000 essay.

It's cold outside, let Roadside cook dinner for you!

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Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—“Monterey News” from 2000



Portable sawmill in action at Gould Farm, Memorial Day weekend.
—Glynis Oliver



Barn raising at Gould Farm, July 29.

—Glynis Oliver

I Love Monterey Day

(from July 2000, page 3.)

Gould Farm Barn Raising Saturday, July 29

Gould Farm will be staging a barn raising in conjunction with this year's "I Love Monterey Day" and will be hosting many of the activities during the day.

It will be a big day all over town, with several events scheduled. Here's what you can choose to do:

Schedule of Events

Barn Raising Activities

Gould Farm, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Kid's Fun Run

Center of Town, 9 a.m.

Annual Knox Trail Run

Starting in Center of Town, 9:30 a.m.

Annual Library Book Sale

Library Lawn,
10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Barn Dedication Speeches

Gould Farm Barn Site, 11:30 a.m.

Lunch and Music

Gould Farm

Grilled Lunch Items for Sale, 12–2 p.m.

Music By Mountain Laurel,
12:30–1:30 p.m.

Timber Framing & Sawmill exhibits

Gould Farm, 12 p.m.–2 p.m.

Interesting tools will be on display.

Open House at Berkshire Fish Hatchery

River/Hatchery Road

2–4 p.m.

Come see the new projects being undertaken by Hampshire College in cooperation with Gould Farm

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast

Fire Hall Pavilion

5 p.m.–8 p.m.

Support our Monterey volunteer firemen while enjoying good food and the company of your neighbors. Tickets are available from the firemen.

Contra Dance Gould Farm

9 p.m.

Come dance the night away on the deck of the newly raised barn.



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Wildlife

Bears, yes! Mice, no!

Monterey wildlife observers report the birds are back in the feeders, after a slow start this winter. Folks are seeing the Usual Suspects: chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, goldfinches, downy woodpeckers and a few red bellies, also pileateds off in the woods. Julie Shapiro saw a barred owl up along Hupi Rd. in a big sugar maple along our (Bonner and Joe's) upper pasture, and we should be hearing them any time now giving their marvelous mating songs.

The deer are about, visiting our garden for the frozen Brussels sprouts and kale plants there, and two people have even seen black bears still up and active, one on Hupi Road and one up on Cronk Road. Carol Edelman got a photo of a healthy big bear at her place on Hupi, right in the yard (below). She says she may take down her bird feeders.



Chris Goldfinger has seen coyote tracks in the snow (at right), and we have one here, leaving big dog-like tracks around the place. I saw her or him cross Hupi Road in late December and this was the first coyote I have ever seen in these thick woods. We always have foxes and see both them and their tracks, but so far this year, no bobcats and no otters.

The fall and winter have been unusual in many households in town this year for a lack of mice. Typically mice start moving indoors and we see them and their calling cards. Our cat has kept after them in years past, but this year he is not finding any and neither are we.

In late December Maureen Banner sent in a photo of some flowering plants gone to seed and still standing in the snowy



woods (above). These are the saprophytic (no green chlorophyll) Indian pipes. We think of them as being white and curved over at the top like pipes stuck in the ground, and they do look like this in the summer. But as the seeds ripen, those pipes straighten and stand up and the white stems get a little darkened and pinkish-tan. Understandably, some people might think Indian pipes are a type of mushroom or fungus, but they are flowers and are in the heath family, like wintergreen, for example. Wintergreen plants do have green leaves, though.

Last month Steve Moore wrote an account of a saw whet owl, and now in early January he has heard it again. He says you can find recordings to confirm that this unusual and un-birdlike sound is really made by a little owl.

In late December, Ellen Coburn sent in a photo of a glittering icy crabapple tree



Ellen Coburn wrote: We had robins on this crabapple on Sunday. Hope they like frozen fruit.

and wrote that it had been full of robins recently. Other folks have seen robins this winter, too.

Late in January, Steve found a dead mole while he was out on a walk. His report is that the mole was plump, so presumably its death was not for lack of food. Moles are insectivores, technically, but they also feast on worms and various grubs in the ground. They do not eat plants, though they do tunnel widely and will gnaw through root systems that are in their way. Some people do not like moles, unfortunately. Our cat kills one now and then, and sometimes a shrew, which is also an insectivore. In both cases the little animals have a strong smell and the cat never wants to eat them. We find dead shrews and moles sometimes and figure our cat has hunted and killed them and then found them unpalatable.

Also late in January, Steve and Wendy went for their morning walk. Steve writes that they "spotted a goodly-sized porcupine on the other side of the fence along New Marlboro Road. Our dog also spotted it. It spotted the dog and showed him his assets, before waddling away and into the end of a culvert."

That's the wild story for the last month, and many thanks to all who are noticing and letting the rest of us know.

—Bonner McAllester

528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com





Select Board Corner

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

MontereyMA.gov

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

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, February 3, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, February 12, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, February 10 and 24, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, February 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Planning Board: Thursdays, February 13 and 27, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesday, February 5, at 5:30 p.m., and February 19, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

All meetings will be held in the town hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Hall Closings

All town offices will be closed on February 17 for Presidents' Day. Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.



— Kenn Basler, Chair
Don Coburn and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)

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

Town Clerk News

Federal Census

The ten-year federal census is being conducted this year. The census forms will be mailed to every household in the nation starting in mid-March. The survey asks you to provide information that is accurate for your household or where you reside most of the year, as of April 1, 2020.

The 2020 Federal Census count will be used to ensure that Monterey and Massachusetts receive their share of federal funds and political representation for the next ten years. Representation in the United States Congress and the Electoral College is based on Federal Census responses.

If you would like to work as a census taker, the U.S. Census Bureau announced it will increase the hourly rate for census workers to \$22 per hour (up from \$19 per hour) for areas located in western MA, including cities and towns in Berkshire county. The pay increase was effective beginning Monday, January 6, 2020. Apply online today at 2020census.gov/jobs.

Monterey Annual Census

The 2020 federal census is separate from the annual Monterey street census which has been mailed to every household in Monterey. The annual street census is used to confirm your residency and keep your voter registration status up to date. Failure to return annual census will place your name on the inactive voter list. On election day you will need to sign an "Affirmation of Current and Continuous Residence" form in order to vote. Once the form is signed by an inactive voter, the election warden must validate and request identification from inactive voters. Please mail back your annual Monterey census to keep your voter status active and avoid delays on election day.

— Terry Walker
Monterey Town Clerk

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Calendar

Regular Events

Sundays: Al-Anon, 9 a.m., community center.

Mondays: Mahjong, 7 p.m., community center.

Tuesdays:

Chair Yoga, with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

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

Community chorus, 7 to 8:15 p.m., community center.

Wednesdays:

Balance review classes, 10:30 a.m., community center.

Mahjong, 3:30 p.m., community center.

Thursdays:

Canasta lessons, 7 to 9 p.m., community center.

Darn Yarners, February 6 and 20, 1 p.m., community center. Molly Goodchild's knitting help, 1:30 to 3:30. See page 8.

Fridays:

South Berkshire Playgroup, 10 to 11 a.m., Monterey Library. See page 7.

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

Saturdays: Ping pong, 2 p.m., community center.

February Events

Sunday, February 9: History Talk Replay, 1 p.m., community center. Dennis Picard, "A Little Rebellion Now and Then." See page 21.

Tuesday, February 11: Movie night at town hall, 7 p.m. Showing *Harold and Maude*. See page 5.

Friday, February 14: Cookbook club, 11:30 a.m., community center. See page 13.

Wednesday, February 19: Community potluck supper, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 13.

Friday, February 21: Fallon Health's Navicare program, 9:30 a.m., community center. See page 8.

Saturday, February 22:

Democratic Town Committee, 11 a.m., church basement. See page 2.

Lenox Contra Dance: 8 to 11 p.m. Live traditional New England dance music with Coincidance, featuring Eric Martin, with calling by Peter Stix. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Friday, February 28: Community Center Coffeehouse, 7 to 9 p.m., with Peter Poirier. See page 8.

Saturday, February 29: Knox Gallery artist talk, 6 to 6:30, PL Meriam's "Nature's Beauty and Fragility." Opening to follow, 6:30 to 8. See page 12.

Sunday, March 1: Deadline for applications for Eagle and Janet's Fund. See page 14.

Presidential Primary

Early voting:

Tuesday, February 25: from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26: from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Primary day voting:

Tuesday, March 3: from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at town hall.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

Police Emergency Contacts

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

528-3211.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136

chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Wildlife Editor.....Bonner McAllester
Copy Editor.....Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels.....Joe Baker
Treasurer.....Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:

From 2000: George Emmons, p.27; Glynis Oliver, pgs. 17, 27, 28

Current: Maureen Banner, pgs. 11, 12, 16;

George Emmons, p. 23; Chris Goldfinger, p. 14;

Stephen Moore, p. 20; Maddox Tucker, p. 16.

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