

MONTEREY NEWS

January 2025 Est. 1970
Vol. LV · Number 1



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



SNOWBIRDS

When the heavy snow is falling
and there is silence all around,
And you are there, in the snow storm
your only vision is the ground.

You are lost in the swirling whiteness
and you feel so all alone,
Not a thing there to guide you
no fence post, tree, or stone.

Then, out of the ghostly heavens,
you hear a peeping sound
Then you see the darker snow flakes,
the little snowbirds all around.

How does all this affect the town of Monterey? We need to rewrite and approve our zoning bylaws to bring them into compliance with the new state legislation. The legislation requires each town/municipality to have this done by February 2, 2025. The CPA and ADUs.....p.2

Peace through Prose and Poetry will focus on the words of some of my favorite poets and writers, shared with a self-selected community anchored in Monterey. Here's a Thought.....p.5

This isn't a do or die rule, we all need exceptions here and there, and our best is the best we can do—so let's do our best and share with the rest with our De Novo dinner on Monday, January 13, at 6 p.m. Supper Club.....p.16

Top left: Holiday lunch COA; top right: Trees, New Marlborough Central School art; bottom left: Barred owl, Julie Kern photo; bottom right: Snowbirds (1979), poem by Sheldon Finn, founding owner of Woodburn Farm in Monterey.



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Contributing Writers & Artists

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- Maureen Banner
- Chris Carnese
- Sheldon Finn
- Rob Hoogs
- Hanna Jensen
- Janet Jensen
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Julie Kern
- Nancy Kleban
- Mara Koven-Gelman
- Heather Kowalski
- Mark Makuc
- Ilene Marcus
- Bonner McAllester
- Natalie Manzino
- Steve Moore
- Kit Patten
- Kathryn Roberts
- Lin Saberski
- Mort Salomon
- Laurie Shaw
- MaryPaul Yates

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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, contact the editor at the email above.

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For Your Consideration The CPA and ADUs

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was created by the Commonwealth in 2000 to encourage municipalities and towns to set aside funding to preserve open spaces and historic sites, develop outdoor recreation, and create affordable housing. CPA funding secondarily supports local economies by expanding construction projects and promoting tourism. Williamstown was the first Berkshire community to become a CPA participant in 2002. Across the state there are now 200 cities and towns (71%) participating in the CPA program. It is estimated that, since its inception, the CPA has funded over 30,000 affordable housing units, preserved 38,000 acres of open space and 7,600 historical sites, and created 4,000 recreational projects.

In a town survey sent out by our planning board in preparation for its 2023 master plan, 75% of Monterey respondents said that they supported the adaptation of the CPA for our town. There will soon be an opportunity to vote on this –perhaps as soon as May 2025. Final adaptation

will require a ballot referendum during a November election.

How does the CPA work? Taxes raised by local governments are usually calculated to cover day-to-day operations and necessary capital projects. The CPA program is meant to provide steady extra funding for a town’s future to improve quality of life. Most of the funds for the CPA are raised locally by a surcharge of no more than 3% levied against individual real property taxes. For example, for the homeowner currently paying \$4000 in real estate tax annually, 3% would be \$120, while 1% (also an option) would be only \$40 per year. And the town has the option to grant exceptions to low-income residents or seniors, etc., if needed. The state applies a complex formula to provide some additional funding for each town’s CPA programs. But the monies for these grants come from any surplus in the state’s annual budget, which clearly varies from year to year. And with the number of participating towns growing each year, the % match is drifting down. In 2023, the average match was only 21%.

Clearly, the small surcharge and the state contributions do not produce a windfall. In order to impact housing, recreation and historical preservation projects, the funds raised must be set aside and allowed to accumulate. To accomplish this the town creates a CPA Committee which eventually recommends how to spend the accumulated money. Any town member can serve, but representatives of finance, planning, conservation, and parks are typical committee members. The CPA regulations require that no less than 10% of the funds be spent over time on each of the three areas being promoted.

For more information: www.community-preservation.org



Housing Public Forum

Monterey Library

452 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245

Saturday, February 8th at 9 AM

Scan the QR Code to take the Monterey Housing Survey in preparation for our public forum.



Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

In August of this year Governor Healy signed into law the Affordable Homes Act budgeting \$5.16 billion over five years to promote housing initiatives in Massachusetts. Two of the sections of this legislation address Accessory Dwelling Units. (The zoning bylaws in Monterey call these Secondary Dwelling Units.) According to the new legislation, ADUs are defined as self-contained residential units with, at minimum, sleeping, cooking, and sanitation facilities. ADUs do not have to be detached structures but must have separate entrances and at least one parking space per unit. And they should not exceed 900 square feet in size. ADUs are created by private residential property owners and therefore place no financial burden on the town. The state's executive office of housing has made two details about ADUs clear: they cannot be used for short-term rentals; and a town's zoning bylaws should not create "unreasonable" obstacles to the development of these units.

How does all this affect the town of Monterey? We need to rewrite and approve our zoning bylaws to bring them into compliance with the new state legislation. The legislation requires each town/municipality to have this done by February 2, 2025. Meeting this requirement is impossible for small towns like Monterey who only have one or two town meetings per year. The State recognizes this dilemma and is the process of issuing draft regulations and a model bylaw. Once these are published the PB will rewrite our existing bylaw.

Timeline for both ADUs and the CPA:

Housing survey in early January
link here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5F6RK3

Public Meetings – there will be several – the first on February 8.

ADU updated bylaw to be voted on at May Town Meeting
CPA first step to be voted on at May Town Meeting

—Mort Salomon, Margy Abbott
Planning Board members

New MCC Director Sought

The Monterey Community Center Committee regretfully accepted the resignation of RJ Supa as the MCC Director. RJ did a fantastic job for the past thirteen months and his energy and creativity will be missed. So now the search is on for his replacement. The position will be posted by Town Administrator, Roger McDonald, probably by the time you are reading this. We are looking for someone who would like a part-time job, twelve hours a week, and who can develop programming, manage the finances and work well with people. If that describes you, send your resume over to town hall.

In the meantime, the MCC programs will continue as usual, and a few new ones will be added. The schedule includes all types of activities, every day

of the week, so if you aren't familiar with what is going on at the MCC, check out the calendar and you will most likely find something you want to do.

—Laurie Shaw

MCC Committee Chair



Snow with berries, Natalie Manzano.

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Monterey Council on Aging

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Barbara Armstrong Gauthier

1940—2024



The light dimmed on September 26, 2024, when Barbara Armstrong Gauthier, 84, passed away after a short illness. Barbara was grateful to be at Tidewatch, the family home she so loved, at Plaice Cove in Hampton, New Hampshire, and to be in the presence of loving family. She was a former longtime resident of Monterey, Massachusetts.

Barbara was born on March 31, 1940, in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She attended Greenfield High School where she met the love of her life, Robert Gauthier. He was her prom date, and the rest is history. Bob and Barbara married and shared fifty years together before Bob passed away in 2010.

In the mid 1960s, Bob and Barbara moved to Monterey, where they raised their four children, Pam, Jim, David, and Jeff. There were summer days at Lake Garfield and summer evenings punctuated by the sounds of the neighborhood children playing kick the can in their yard. During the winters, Bob and Barbara loved watching the kids sledding or building forts from their kitchen window while they enjoyed some holiday baking together. It was a true collaboration as Bob made the crust and Barbara made the filling. The Gauthiers simply embraced their life in Monterey. When Stefan and Stephanie Grotz moved in next door to them, a fast friendship formed between the families, with the kids flowing freely through a hole in the fence that linked their backyards. Barbara and Stephanie enjoyed daily coffee chats

as the kids grew up and supported one another through many ups and downs for over fifty years. Their kids still reminisce with laughter about those chats and about their “field trips” together to stock up on day-old bread at the Hostess store. Many of these trips also included a stop at T. J. Maxx to dig through the bins for bargain underwear. The kids were surprised to later learn that “irregular” was not a brand.

Summers also included an annual trip to the ocean for the Gauthier family. They would pile into a tiny cottage in York, Maine, delighting in their days at the beach. Barbara’s love of Maine lobster was well known, and Bob would hustle the kids out for ice cream at the end of this special meal so Barbara could be left alone to savor every last bite. The love of the ocean never faded for Barbara, and a favorite pastime was searching the beach for sea glass. At her request, her seventieth birthday was a family beach combing trip.

When Pam’s sons, Henri and Jack, were born, Barbara excitedly became “Nana.” She celebrated their first steps, their sporting events, and each and every one of their milestones. She celebrated everything about them. “Would you like an ice cream cone?” she would ask. “Oh wait, how about one for each hand?” she would add with a laugh. It was mutual adoration. Henri and Jack began referring to her as “The Defender” as she reminded Pam that mischief-making was also a learning opportunity, many times softening the disciplinary outcome. She was thrilled to celebrate Henri’s latest milestone, his engagement to longtime girlfriend, Ri-ana, now a loved member of the family.

Monterey is a place that Barbara always and forever held close to her heart. She worked at the Monterey General Store during its heyday. She served as Monterey’s town treasurer and later as the town accountant. She was a true presence in Monterey life and loved the community. It’s where she spread roots, where she tended to her beloved perennial gardens, where she loved celebrating holidays with family and friends and, most importantly, where she nurtured lifetime friendships and raised her four children with her life partner, Bob.

It is no surprise that Barbara quickly became part of the community fabric at

Plaice Cove where she lived for the past several years. She greeted countless neighbors from her beloved screened-in porch, delighted in visits with family and friends, and treasured weekly lunches with neighbors. Her bright and resonant laugh was distinct and brought a smile to all. Barbara had a common-sense brilliance, delivering rational advice to those who asked. More than just a friend to her children’s friends, they saw her as a second mother. She was embracing, tolerant, and accepting. Jim’s friends would intone, “Sorry, Barbara” if there was lewd or explicit talk in her presence, and she would roll her eyes, chuckle, and note, “They’re not sorry.”

Thank you, Barbara, for your warmth, your kindness, and your humor; as your friends often said, you were a national treasure.

In her memory, please be kind.

Countless friends and family will miss Barbara tremendously. She is survived by her four children and grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bob and Barbara Gauthier Memorial Scholarship. Checks should be made out to “The Bob and Barbara Gauthier Memorial Scholarship” and mailed to Aurigan Scholarship Fund, Dawn Estes-Daub, Mount Everett Regional School, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA, 01257.



Next to the fireplace,
A quiet conversation,
We hum with pleasure.
—Laura S. Denman

Library Friends Group Recieves Grant

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area has announced a grant of \$2,500 to The Friends of Monterey Library to host professional storyteller and teaching artist Mary Jo Maichack (below) of Lenox. She will facilitate a four-part workshop, *Presenting the Past: Berkshire Memoirs of Work* at the library on Thursdays, January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, from 10:30 - noon. Participation is free and open to adults. Registration is not required, but participants are asked to arrive early for the 10:30 a.m. start.



Participants may attend one or more of the workshops, which will culminate in a month-long exhibition of the writing they produce from the events, both on site and as wished on their own time. They will write memoirs on the theme of work, the year's focus supported by Housatonic Heritage. The Friends of the Library will make in-kind contributions matching the grant amount.

"Mary Jo led a memoir writing workshop this fall that was well-attended and well-loved. Now we can expand on that experience and sponsor the creation of documents of personal experience of varied working lives by Berkshire residents," said library director Mark Makuc. "The writing was outstanding, the collaboration and support among participants remarkably affirming and productive."

Maichack will research literature bearing on varied subjects for her adult

writers. In this case, she will read widely from Dickens to Zola to Studs Terkel, culling selections to read aloud, followed by the writers intensely writing nonstop for short stints, then reading their work if they wish, followed by supportive comments by other participants.

"I believe in building on the positive, that editing is for later," Maichack said. "I've been astonished by the power of the writing shared. Writers of any level who wish to write about aspects of their working lives past or present are welcome. I am grateful to Housatonic Heritage and to the library for their generous support."

Mary Jo Maichack has spent 35 years and some 5,000 programs as a professional storyteller and singer here in New England, and from San Francisco to Vienna, Austria. She has served as Northeast Regional Director of the National Storytelling Network. Her first love was writing. She holds a B.A. cum laude from Middlebury College.

Here's a Thought...

As each day becomes a tiny bit longer, let's gather around a bit of prose, poetry, community light and warmth. We'll enjoy the winter and ease it slowly on its way.



Peace through Prose and Poetry

The people who came to my reading of *The Bridge Called Grief* last month created a warm gathering that nurtured all

of us. Almost as soon as I got home, I began to wonder about prose, poetry and community-building in this new year. Why not "Peace through Prose and Poetry?" After all, peace is an inside job.

Peace through Prose and Poetry will focus on the words of some of my favorite poets and writers, shared with a self-selected community anchored in Monterey.

The wordsmiths whose work we'll enjoy hail from varying backgrounds and cultures. English-speakers' words will share space with work in English translation. Some of the prose and poems we'll enjoy will be traditional, others new. And, truth tell, some of the words I'll read will be mine. Words of one kind or another have been a joy and a catalyst for me all my life.

Maybe you're a lover of poems and stories, too. Or maybe you'd just like to nestle into an opportunity for cultivating inner peace, and community. Either way, here's your invitation:

Join me on Thursday, January 16, at 11 a.m. in the Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library. We'll unite for an hour of *Peace through Prose and Poetry*. Then each of us will take our expanded selves back into the world we share.

After January 16, *Peace through Prose and Poetry* will rise again on February 20, and March 20 (both Thursdays). Each of the three is a free drop-in event.

See you then? Check your calendar. Make it a date.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Rivers, by New Marlborough Central School students.

The Cleanest Place in Monterey

The Monterey transfer station is a great equalizer and an example of a caring community where we all meet up to three times a week to share greetings, check in, and get rid of our trash.

I get so excited every Saturday, Sunday, or Wednesday morning. We are bringing our garbage, cardboard, compost, and stuff for the swap shop at the transfer station. After “editing” plants and home décor in our newly purchased fully-furnished house, I bring a trunk full of (someone else’s) treasures to the Swap Shop. (A place you can leave and take items.)

With my new blue Monterey sticker, I swing my car in front of the small trailer/cabin. Several pieces of furniture sit on the raw gravel. Volunteers have neatly arranged books, plastic hangers and pottery vases. Leaning against the wall of the swap shop are a series of walkers, crutches, snowboards, and skis. I wonder if those items had a “before” and “after” use of the same owner.

“I have a healthy plant in a beautiful green/blue ceramic pot, do you think someone would like it to be the new owner?” I asked the volunteer swap shop Manager. “Sure, I have a spot right here on this bookcase,” she points. Turning to a very tall man, she asks... “Would you like this for the fire hall?” I add that I’m editing my house of too many plants.

“Oh no, thank you – I’m trying to edit the fire hall, that’s how I got in trouble in the first place,” he answers with a chuckle.

Realizing he works with the Monterey Fire Department, I thank him and his team for all their courageous public service, especially with the Butternut Fire. “Oh – I’m number three,” he deflects – “the department chief, the deputy chief, and then me.”

While leaving, I spot a white Honda CRV pull up to the Christmas plant I just donated. A focused lady steps out and says, “this is lovely” and puts it in her trunk. BAM! – within minutes an anonymous swap has taken place.

This is one of the kindest places in Monterey - the transfer station. It is here I met attendants Gary and Bill, who politely gave us a tour of the well-organized



refuse locations of garbage, recycling, compost, egg cartons, plastics, and larger pay-per-drop items. Gary and Bill are full of useful information: what items to drop off at swap shop, where to put compost and leaves, or how to get another Monterey transfer station sticker for my car. Of course, there are other conversations—the Butternut Fire (thankfully extinguished by Dec 24, 2024, as reported by Great Barrington Fire Chief), remember to pick up the Monterey News, and asking about the health of a wife or husband.

Monterey - nestled in this special part of the Berkshires – where generations of families live, newcomers are welcome, and we care for this earth, mountains, lakes, and trails, and each other. I know we will like it here.

—Mara Koven-Gelman, new town resident, and transfer station fan
m.kovengelman@gmail.com



Order Chestnut Seeds

FREE for 2025 Spring sowing

See page 7 for details

Pollinators01245@gmail.com

Holiday Fair and Auction

The auction raised an incredible \$12,495, which was generously matched by a donor—bringing the total to nearly \$25,000 from the auction and \$27,000 overall! These funds will allow us to partner with MAPS again next fall and support a variety of initiatives, including field trips, teacher and staff appreciation gifts, books and supplies, family events, and more throughout the school year. This was our most successful year yet, and we are deeply grateful to the generous donors who contributed items to the auction, as well as everyone who bid on them and attended the New Marlborough Central Holiday Fair. The NMM-PTA extends heartfelt thanks to everyone for making this year truly extraordinary!

—Kevin Fish

Moose. Art from New Marlborough Central School students from MAPS partnership in 2024.



Grow More Chestnut Trees; Order Seeds Now

Dozens of American chestnut seedlings with some degree of blight resistance have taken root in Monterey since last spring, thanks to the efforts of 24 “Chestnut Champions,”



Gould Farm’s installation of a small seedling orchard, and our research partners in Granville.

Janet Jensen

More germinated seeds will be available for planting next spring in three varieties: wild American chestnuts, Chinese chestnuts (the type often found in stores) and fourth-generation backcross hybrids that combine the iconic traits of the former with the blight resistance of its Asian relative.

If you are interested in helping to restore chestnuts to this area, you can order seeds now, through our partners at the Granville research orchard, sponsored by the American Chestnut Foundation through the Massachusetts/Rhode Island chapter. Volunteer orchard manager John Meiklejohn will overwinter them carefully, so that when spring arrives you will receive packets containing the ground-ready sprouted seeds in an appropriate soil mix. Tree tubes and planting guidelines will also be provided free of charge.

There was a good harvest in 2024, so a significant number of seeds can be given away. But please order only as many as you can confidently plant and care for. And place your order as soon as possible.

The requirements for planting include a sunny, well-drained area at least 15-20 feet from the nearest tree. The young plants need to be protected from browsing in their first few years, typically with a 6-inch tree tube initially and then with a higher cage or fence of some kind. The setup is on display on the slope to the southeast of Monterey Community Center, where a demo planting of three seeds took place last spring.

More details can be found on the website of The American Chestnut Foundation <https://tacf.org/growing-chestnuts/>. If you have not already received a chestnut

seed order form by email, kindly contact Pollinators01245@gmail.com and ask to be included.

We are also encouraging people to sign up to volunteer at the new chestnut orchard at Gould Farm. There will be “work party” opportunities to lend a hand in re-planting and general orchard maintenance; plus, it’s a fun opportunity to learn more about restoring the American chestnut to our Eastern forests. As is the case with the MA/RI Chapter’s other orchards, having the support of a local crew of volunteers will be essential for the orchard at Gould Farm to thrive.



Bradley Tryon puts the finishing touches on the new community center kiosk and interpretive signage. This new build represents a partnership of the Native Plants Working Group, the community center, the American Chestnut Foundation, and our local cultural council. In addition to the information it provides about our role in the ongoing restoration of chestnut trees, it will serve as a community bulletin board.

For those who did not attend November’s viewing of Clear Day Thunder, the film is available through TACF.org. The film is a rich introduction as to why the American chestnut is so beloved and the subject of so many restoration efforts. You can also check out the informative new signage at the Community Center, a gift to our town from the TACF.

We look forward to the day when chestnuts of several varieties begin to mature and add abundance and biodiversity to our forests. We’ve made a good start!

—Janet Jensen, for the Monterey Native Plants Working Group



Owl eyes, woodburning, by Chris Carnese.



Snow branches, by Natalie Manzano.

Annual Community Show

December 13 - January 25

Jaye Alison

Abstract Memories

January 31 - March 8

Opening Reception:
Friday, January 31, 5:30 - 7pm

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Barberry, for Jams, Drinks, and Dyes

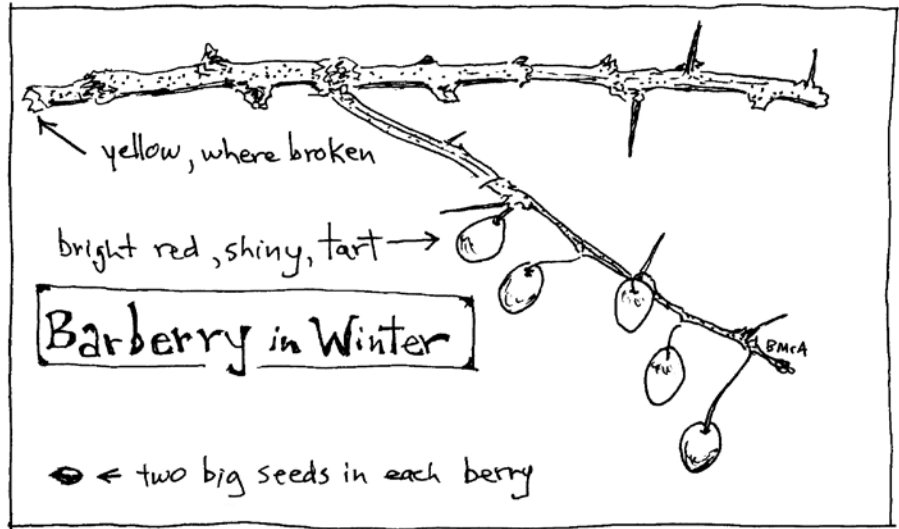


Bonner McAllester

Some folks go looking for red berries in December, and we have plenty of them in these parts. One which some call winter-berry was always known to us kids as “black alder,” easy to find down in the swamps. By its Latin name we learn it is one

of the hollies, *Ilex verticillata*. Nowadays we can buy it by the bunch at local nurseries and no doubt get a whole shrub to plant at home. Those bright red berries look great against some greenery.

We have choices in the red berry department, though, including wildrose hips, not quite so scarlet and bright, and then of course the much-maligned barberries. What is our problem with these bushes? We like red around here, and the small barberry leaves turn wonderfully red in the fall. The blossoms are yellow in summer and the wood and inner bark are always a remarkable bright yellow. They can be used to make a handsome dye. Back in our homestead home-school days we carded and spun wool and then dyed it various colors. From barberry we made the yarn a sweet mild yellow, and Joe wove a Navajo-style saddle blanket using some of it. This blanket just surfaced here, full of



memories of the versatile barberry bushes, now growing in ecological succession in our upper pasture. We don't have grazing animals anymore.

Anyone familiar with the prickles on barberry might think them protected from goats and cows. But Henry Thoreau, an avid barberry picker, considered the cows helpful distributors of the seeds. *In his Wild Fruits*, written in the 1850s, he describes a clump of newly sprouted barberry bushes that you might at first assume to be teeny apple trees. “In May you may often mistake dense groves of little barberries just sprung up in the droppings of cows for apple trees — for the cows eat their fruit, sour as it is, and thus help to disseminate it, just as they do the apple.”

People in those days loved to eat barberries. Thoreau writes, “September 1855. I carry my aunts and Sophia a-barberrying to Conantum in my boat — a fine warm

afternoon. We get about three pecks of barberries from four or five bushes. (I have picked three pecks alone in less than three hours.) We get our baskets full of berries but our fingers full of prickles to pay for them. With the hand well defended it would be pleasant picking, they are so handsome and beside are so abundant, and fill up so fast.”

Nowadays I hardly hear a good word spoken for barberries. Our “common barberry” was brought from Northern Europe and is native there and in Central Asia, The Middle East, and North Africa. The name we use must come from the “Berbers” of the Barbary Coast. Some pre-Arab inhabitants there were famous pirates, known in song and story. We have one in our *Fireside Book of Folksongs*, 1947, where the sailors fought the “saucy pirates” with cutlass and gun.

Since those earlier days, this barberry bush has been considered “naturalized” here in New England. The wild bushes are exciting to see at any time of year and back in the day folks nibbled on the leaves and found them tart but tender. The berries were added to all sorts of preserves, both sweet and pickled, to make them more interesting, by which we mean tart.

Thoreau wrote, “How productive a barberry bush. . . When I come to a particularly thick and handsome wreath of fruit, I pluck the thing entire and bend it around the inside of the basket — to show when I get home. Some pickle these sprigs entire.”

As if all these romances and attributes were not enough, the barberry has medici-

ADVANCE YOUR INDEPENDENCE

THE HOME MODIFICATION LOAN PROGRAM

A Massachusetts state-funded loan program that provides 0% interest financing to homeowners for projects that might include:

Ramps and lifts * Bathroom and kitchen adaptations * Sensory integration spaces * Fencing * Creation of Accessory Dwelling units or in-law apartments

<https://berkshireplanning.org/initiatives/cedac-home-modification-loan-program/>



in-home elevator installed by the Program



contact
Brett Roberts
hmlp@berkshireplanning.org
(413) 442-1521 X25

nal properties, of course. A species found in Patagonia provides “calafate,” which is antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and contains something called anthocyanins which are good for matters cardiovascular. You can treat urinary tract infections, skin diseases and digestive trouble with calafate made from the barberry. And if you travel to Patagonia, you can visit the city of Calafate and purchase the jam, the drink, and even a fermented beverage which is a liqueur.

Here at home, head for the growing up pastures, gather the plump red berries, watch for prickles, and think about those pirates “all on the coasts of High Barbary.”

—Bonner McAllester



Thoreau, avid barberry picker.

Prevent Slip and Falls

The Monterey COA introduces a Slip and Fall sand mix in small easy to sprinkle containers to keep in your car and spread in front of you prior to stepping out and as you make your way in slippery conditions. You can pick yours up at town hall or the Library. The COA brainstormed this creation with Monterey Police Chief Brian, who immediately ordered the shakers, filled them and prepared labels. They will fit easily in your cup holders, and are refillable at town hall and the library, but please be sure reuse the containers.

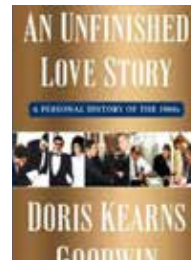


Fell, by Maureen Banner.



Winter, by Natalie Manzino.

Daytime Book Club



This month we will read *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 60's* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Come for discussion and company on Wednesday, January 15, at 1:30 p.m., at the library.

—Beth Hoffman

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Historical Society News

Lead-up to Revolutionary War: 1774 Recap and 1775 Preview



Rob Hoogs

As we leave 2024 and begin 2025, it's time to reflect on the year past, as lived by our forebears.

Let's look back 250 years to 1774. Many of

the founding generation of Township No. 1 (Tyringham/Monterey) had passed on; their children and grandchildren were now in power, and the town was beginning to mature; it was more refined and robust than the primitive civilization their forebears had scraped out of the sparsely settled western frontier.¹

Tyringham was incorporated in 1762. By 1765, the town's population had grown to 51 houses, 55 families, with 325 people.

In 1777-78, Tyringham was entitled to send two state representatives to the General Court, based on having 193 "polls," freeholders with sufficient property to be able to vote; 48 of these were under age 21, 145 were adult males², virtually all of whom would have been farmers. Although this sounds like a small number, the 193 polls of Tyringham were 16% of those in Berkshire County. Western Mass. was sparsely developed and politically conservative, at least until 1774. But the western farmers and artisans were active and influential through the lead-up to the revolution and ultimately up to the adoption of the state constitution.

In 1774, the leaders of Tyringham were anxiously following the news from Boston; they shared in the anger about the outrages the British Parliament continued to impose on Massachusetts. 1774 was year the American Revolution started to become a reality. Some historians say this was the First American Revolution³. (See book by that title by Ray Raphael.)

Some highlights:



W.D. Cooper. *Boston Tea Party*. Public domain.

➤ Dec. 16, 1773: Boston Tea Party: In opposition to the taxes laid on the colonies, Bostonians destroyed 92,000 pounds of East India Company tea.

➤ May 13, 1774: Gen. Gage Arrives: Britain removes Gov. Thomas Hutchinson and install Gen. Thomas Gage as both Governor and Military Commander of all Crown forces in North American.

➤ June 6, 1774: Two "Intolerable Acts" passed by Parliament, (Rafael, pp 49-51): These two acts reported in the Boston Gazette on June 6 were to take effect August 1. These inflamed the populace. Even the conservative Tories had to lay low and backtrack as their previous popular support was replaced by angry farmers and artisans. The first act, called the "Murder Act," provided that no officer of the Crown would have to stand trial for murders committed in the line of duty. The second was even worse; the "Good Government Act" took away the rights of the British Citizens of Massachusetts.

1) The Governor would appoint all judges, sheriffs, and other court officers, without consent of the elected councilmen. 2) The council members, previously elected by the voters of the towns, would now be appointed by the Governor. 3) Each agenda item at every town meeting in Mass. would have to be submitted in writing to the Governor and

be approved by him. Other than a meeting to elect town officers, no other town meeting could be held without the Governor's approval. 4) All jurors for all the courts would be appointed by the (Governor's appointed) Sheriff. Under the previous system, jurors were chosen from a list provided by each town. Rafael says "in the future, ordinary farmers and artisans would have no say at all in selecting the men who could seize their property or send them to jail."

These two laws were in direct violation of the 1691 Charter granted to the Province of Massachusetts by William and Mary.

➤ June 17, 1774: General Court Dissolved: Gov. Gage, recognized that the present General Court

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consisting of elected representatives would be of no help to him in carrying out the “better regulation” of provincial government. He ordered the General Court dissolved...but they refused his order which they deemed illegal under the charter. They continued to meet.

➤ July 6, 1774: Stockbridge Declaration: 60 delegates from the towns in Berkshire County met in Stockbridge and drafted a resolution in response to Parliament’s “Intolerable Acts.” Among other resolutions, they pledged to not import “manufactures” from Great Britain. Other committees throughout Massachusetts subsequently did the same.

➤ August 16, 1774: Great Barrington Court Closed: A crowd of about one thousand people from Berkshire County and Litchfield County assembled at the Court House in Great Barrington and prevented the Governor’s appointed judges from entering or conducting any business. One of the magistrates was taken into custody by the Litchfield County men and imprisoned. This is considered “the first open resistance to British judicial rule in America,” memorialized with a monument in front of Great Barrington Town Hall (where the courthouse stood).

➤ Sept. 1774: Courts Throughout Mass. Closed: Other courts were closed by similar crowds. Magistrates and council members who had been appointed by Governor were forced by the protests and demonstrations of the people to resign their commissions. Some of these “Tories” fled to the safety of Boston where British troops protected them.

➤ Sept. 1774: Continental Congress: The first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to try to deal with the escalating crisis with Great Britain.

➤ Sept. 1, 1774: Powder Alarm: Gov./Gen. Gage authorizes troops to remove gunpowder from the Powder-House in Charleston, and take it to Castle William in Boston. Within days, thousands of militia respond. Outright warfare was barely avoided as the Gov. ordered his

troops not to march out of Boston to confront them.

➤ Sept. 9, 1774: The Suffolk Resolves: The Mass. Provincial Congress considers the resolves drafted by the various county conventions including Stockbridge. The Suffolk Resolves were approved by the Continental Congress.

➤ Oct. 5, 1774: New General Court: The Mass. Provincial Congress approved a new General Court to regulate affairs after Gov. Gage abolished the previous government. The new structure reinstated the basic system under the 1691 Charter with local elections of representatives, judges, and other officials. Towns were directed to form militias and gather arms and ammunition.

By the end of 1774, the residents of the colonies, Massachusetts, Western Mass., Berkshire County, and Tyringham must have breathed a faint sigh of relief that they were not at war... yet. But the handwriting was on the wall and the clock was ticking.

Lexington and Concord were only four months away.

Join Us

Thank you for your interest in local history.

During 2025 and 2026, there will be many opportunities to learn more about the Revolutionary War period. There will be re-enactments, talks, and programs here in Monterey, and throughout the Berkshires, and Massachusetts. If you’d like to participate, please join the Monterey Historical Society. Annual membership is only \$25 for a household. Membership forms are available at the Monterey library.

—Rob Hoogs

References:

¹ Myers, Eloise, *A Hinterland Settlement, Tyringham, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, ca 1960.*

² Taylor, Robert J., *Western Massachusetts in the Revolution, 1917.* © 1954 Brown University.

³ Ray Rafael, *The First American Revolution, Before Lexington and Concord, 2002.*

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Bidwell House Museum



Heather Kowalski

Each year, I come across more writers who refer to the December-February as “hibernation season” for themselves and their families. In our world of information overload and busyness, there is

something to be said about slowing down in these cold, dark months to enjoy the quiet, take deep breaths and relax with a book.

At the Bidwell House, the uncertainty of the weather necessitates a “hibernation” of the house each winter, which allows us to slow down and thoughtfully plan the upcoming season. There is still work to do, but we already have a tentative schedule for the year and we are getting excited to present the details to you in the coming months. In the meantime, we can share a little sneak peak of what we are planning. As we have done in past years, we are hosting some Zoom lectures in the off season. In March and April you can join Zoom programs about currency in early America and the role of the Congregational Church in the American Revolution. Our opening event will be a presentation by “Martha Washington” on what she had to

do to get ready for the day. We have history talks planned about the architecture of the Bidwell House, the role of taverns in early America, the tools of a mason and the 1745 battle of Louisburg. The 2025 season will culminate in our third weekend long reenactment weekend on October 3-5. Programs will be added to the website in late winter and we will keep you updated about all of our events in the *Monterey News* each month.

For those of you who enjoy the outdoors, we are planning two guided hikes this winter on January 18, and February 23, both at 10 a.m. These walks are free but attendance is limited, so please pre-register on the museum website if you would like to attend. If you like exploring the trails on your own, don’t forget that the grounds at the museum are open year-round. Trail maps can be found on the museum porch and on the trails page of our website and we encourage everyone in Monterey to come by to hike the trails, walk your dog or even snowshoe (if we have any snow!). There is no charge to enjoy the museum grounds so come by any time between dawn and dusk!

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2025 from the Bidwell House Museum!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Coffee Club Invitation



We would be happy to have some new folks come join us for our gatherings. We only have two rules: for the most part, no

politics, and no extended medical discussions! We just enjoy a friendly start to our day. A few brave women come too.

Tuesday and Thursday, church basement. Wednesday, Roadside. Fridays Southfield Store (all at 8:30 a.m.). Saturday, Monterey Community Center at 9 a.m. Hope to see you there!

The Budget Cycle



Ilene Marcus

The budget process is now in full swing. During January, we review each department specifically to see what they have spent in the past, what new expenses

they might have, and what has changed, such as things costing more or less, new mandates or new software and automations, including staff changes to work together to find ways to help them function efficiently. The select board and the town administrator are very involved, and we all review to ensure that proposed expenses make financial sense for our town.

This year we are using a hybrid budgeting system that our town administrator has put in place while we are transitioning to a new budgeting platform (next year) that will help us look across various departments, categorize costs more clearly

and be able to track expenses in real time.

Together with the select board, the finance committee will hold meetings with each department to discuss all these matters. Often, there are followup questions and additional information needed before we can agree on what the best way is to proceed operationally. Once we have that agreement, over the next few months, we figure out how to reflect that in the budget, that will be presented in the warrant at the annual town meeting in May.

We also review projects according to operating or capital expense, something that might be a big expense and could be carried out over the next few years. This gets tricky because per municipal finance rules we budget and spend on an annual term, so we must look at what expenses carry over several years and how much of that we can pay for this year. Last year, the select board and finance committee adopted a capital plan policy and procedures policy to clarify and understand multi-year projects. The finance committee created a worksheet for departments to use when planning projects and our

town administration use this to analyze the likelihood of project success and how each project will benefit the town, as well as to mitigate any unforeseen costs. Our Capital Plan Policy and Procedures is on the town website (www.montereyma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3496/f/pages/capital_planning_policy_8.22_0.pdf)

Come to a finance committee meeting. Please check the town calendar as well as reach out to us with any questions at financecommittee@monterey.gov.

—Ilene Marcus

Finance Committee Chair

Second Winter Fly Tying Class

Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Berkshire National Fish Hatchery.

Whether you're a beginner or have some fly-tying experience, this class is perfect for all ages and skill levels.

Equipment provided. Come spend a beautiful morning at the Hatchery learning a fun new skill and connecting with fellow fishing enthusiasts. RSVP to reserve your spot: info@hatcheryfriends.org

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Library Notes



Mark Makuc

The Monterey Library is continuing to expand its offerings beyond the physical items in the building. Earlier this year, the library, through the Digital Commonwealth program and the Internet Archive, digitized the *Monterey News* from 1970-2005. The library also began to build its own YouTube channel with short videos of the construction project, the recently restored Lake Garfield summer camp films (thanks to the Friends of the Library for assisting with the financial arrangements to make that possible), and also oral history videos of people, places, and events in Monterey (thanks to Wendy Germain and the Housatonic Heritage Foundation for the countless hours of work devoted to that project).

Both of these sites are works in progress. We just reached another goal with the Internet Archive site. This month we added to the collection digitized copies of the Annual Town Reports, some memoirs of town residents, and some of the histories that have been printed over the years. We are still planning on adding more to this collection, including some contributions from the Monterey Historical Society of primary source documents.

One fun activity you can do with all this is look back at the celebration of Monterey's 100th birthday. Copy the

following link, https://archive.org/details/100thanniversary00unse_3/mode/2up, and you will see the booklet published to commemorate this event. Copy the next link, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=418zoT_A7-A, and you'll see two and a half minutes of video of the 100th anniversary parade that was held in 1947. That footage was a bonus that we happened to discover in the camp films. If you are reading the print copy of the *News*, the easiest way to get to these places is by going to the montereymasslibrary.org website, and on the homepage clicking on the link for the *Monterey News* digital copies, which will bring you to the Internet Archive. The YouTube channel is hard to find without a link. On the library website, go to the hamburger menu on the upper right of the home page, click on that and then select the page titled Catalogs and Databases. You'll find the link to the Monterey Library YouTube Channel on that page.

We hope you enjoy looking through some of Monterey's history. There's a history of the Monterey Congregational Church from 1750-1900, the original Monterey Free Library Catalogue from 1899, and a compilation of the inscriptions in Monterey's cemeteries, as well as assorted other digitized works.

Digital Navigator update:

The AARP grant was over on 12/31/2024, so the funding for the position is all spent. The Digital Equity grant that we have worked on during 2024 will be picking up the cost of this position in 2025, but probably not for another couple of months. In the meantime, we are working



Cole Rosseter

on bridge funding that will keep Cole available. Email Cole at digitalnavigator@monterey@gmail.com. We will find the money to continue this service until the second grant kicks in.

—Mark Makuc
Director



Hurry Up, by Maureen Banner.

January Contributions

Ann and John Higgins
Daniel Zweig
Dennis and Elaine Lynch
Hillel and Janet Maximon
Gerry and Hank Alpert
Jane and Tolbert McAfee
Cos and Margery Spagnoletti
Frank and Julie Kern
Jeff Zimmerman and
Lauren Behrman
Gregory and Christine Fahlund

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Knox Gallery News



MaryPaul Yates

Our traditional winter Monterey community group shows are always popular, and the 2024 edition seems to be especially so. The opening

reception on December 13 was well attended and everyone enjoyed the evening. We hope you will see the show which will be on view through January 25, 2025. This year instead of a show title we offered a prompt -- from Dr. Seuss: "You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's no limit to what you can do." Some people liked this topic so much they asked us to do it again next year! People interpreted the prompt in a variety of ways, including trying things with new materials, new subject, new place. Come and see the "something new" from our very creative community.

We were gratified to find so many of the artists who contributed work to this

exhibit have been or are scheduled to be featured in solo exhibitions or small group shows at the Knox Gallery. Thanks to all participating artists and volunteers!

cifically her exposure to and observations of fear, hurt, injustice, and pain.



All Knox Gallery events 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/Knox

—MaryPaul Yates

We don't have capacity to store your art, so your work must be retrieved on Saturday, January 25, between noon-1 p.m. or 7-9 p.m., or Monday the 27 between 7-9 p.m.

Abstract Memories: Envisioning Emotional Connections Between Objects, Time, Memory and Experience, our next exhibit, opens on January 31, and features the work of Jaye Alison Moscariello. Ms. Moscariello's work is inspired by her bi-coastal exposure to recent currents, spe-



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Supper Club

The big irony in my life is quite comical. Alanis Morrissette's "Ironic" muddled the definition for most of my life, but when I developed a death grip on my understanding of irony in my early 30s I realized that my life is so often an onslaught of ironic circumstances and situations that I began saying "irony rules my life" so many times that I even designed a t-shirt.

Last month I jokingly wrote that the great part about the "Soup Not Soup: Save the Broth" theme meant all the supper clubbers would have broth at home—a must-have for quick nourishment during sniffle-season. With irony by my side, I started feeling pretty crummy in the hours leading up to our dinner that night...all I could do was roll my eyes and think "oh, irony."



Delicious.

I still went to supper though, I had already made creamy chicken and vegetable not-soup and it was only my stomach that felt a little queasy. I didn't partake in the making of a plate though—I packed up not-soups to-go from the broad assortment of dishes on our buffet, socialized for a bit,



Disappearing entree last month. and went home—where the broth was! Once I felt a bit better (I'm pretty sure my stomach was just battling too much coffee), I ecstatically used that broth with my supper club takeout and made our feast into different soups, not worried about the stacks of bowls I'd have to wash.

I had so many things to choose from: roasted butternut squash with apples, spiced black beans, miso leeks with white beans and potatoes, Moroccan chicken, mystery ramen, spaghetti chicken, and if I ate bread and butter, I would've even had that to accompany my bowlfuls of glory. What I didn't include in my concoctions was (in my opinion) the most clever and fun dish on our buffet: deconstructed French onion soup. In the hours leading up to supper club, Beth Hoffman was caramelizing onions, sauteing mushrooms, slicing bread and grating cheese—and then carrying two dishes of beautiful French onion cheese toasts/melts/bruschetta into the church basement. When I saw these on our buffet tables my jaw dropped, my soul smiled, and my heart did cartwheels. Thank you Beth, you made my night.

Speaking of nights, they are getting


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shorter now that the solstice has passed, and the number on our calendars goes up by one: 2025. For many, this is the marker of a fresh start, a blank slate. We have the opportunity to attack old goals afresh, shedding any cluttering, clinging defeats from last year and leaving them in the past. There's a sense of liberation, a psychological cleanse, if you will. This month for Supper Club, let's start fresh, start clean. In Latin, De Novo means afresh, anew, a start from the beginning, so we're going to get back to basics with our ingredients this month: let's make all our dishes from foods without sub-ingredients (those additional ingredients on food labels that are always in parentheses). This isn't a do or die rule, we all need exceptions here and there, and our best is the best we can do—so let's do our best and share with the rest with our De Novo dinner on Monday, January 13, at 6 p.m. (eat at 6:15 p.m.) in the church basement. Please send your (required) RSVP to supperclubmonterey@gmail.com by the end of Sunday, January 12.

—Hanna Jensen



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Wildlife Report

Late in November, Marcy Pontell saw a bobcat and sent in a video of the cat walking along a wooden deck by the house (below), and then up a set of steps, quite at home.



Michael and Maureen Banner discovered a paper wasp nest high up on an outdoor light fixture (left), about 30 feet. And Steve Moore had a heightened listening experience while out on a walk. An amplified experience. He came to a large ash tree which was “resounding



with a woodpecker searching.” For some reason, Steve thought to put his ear up against the tree and found it was as if the woodpecker were “drilling in my skull!” Steve also came upon a small cherry tree with six hairy woodpeckers all working it over at the same time.

In mid-November, Roberta Weiss was driving home one night and saw a young silver fox at the corner of Hupi Road and Tyringham Road. Then, as she turned onto Hupi to go on home to Beartown Mountain Road, she saw a second silver fox. She reports these foxes to have been “small but independent!”

Annabel Edelman has seen a black fox (below) at her house on Hupi Road. She took a photo from an upstairs window, also a good video of this visitor. I understand these silver and black foxes to be color variations of the familiar red fox. These



are “melanistic” forms. In fact, “red” foxes are never simply red. They are wonderful mixtures involving yellow, black, and various paler tawny colors. They always have very full tails, especially in winter, which protect their faces at night when they curl up to sleep in the cold.

The Edelmans also have been enjoy-

ing black squirrels at their house. There is one they feel has visited for several years, and they have named this one Ebony.



Lin Saberski reports that a neighbor across the lake has seen a deer, attacked by a coyote. The deer made it to the lake and swam, “we hope to safety.” Not so lucky for the hungry coyote, though.

Thank you, everyone, for your interest in the wild neighbors, and for sending me your accounts and photographs.

—Bonner McAllester
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Historical January Best-seller

Numerous events ranging from the frivolous to the earth-shattering occurred during the month of January; but for American adults alive during the 1770s, few events other than the battles of the War of Independence themselves and the consequent Declaration of Independence on July 2, 1776 had the emotional impact of the publication on January 10, 1776 of Thomas Paine's 50-page pamphlet titled *Common Sense*. It sold 100,000 copies by the end of March; historians estimate it sold over 500,000 copies in America and Europe by year's end. Given the 1776 estimated population of the 13 American colonies at about 2,000,000+/-, equivalent sales today (proportionally) would be about 15,000,000 -- making *Common Sense* arguably this country's biggest best-seller by far.

Essentially, everyone read it, or had it read to them, or had it summarized for them.

Common Sense argued that immediate independence for the 13 colonies was the only sensible course; and Paine's language was so plain and compelling that it influenced, among many others, the authors of our Declaration of Independence who started drafting that document in Philadelphia -- Paine's adopted hometown after he arrived from England in November 1774 -- just six months later. Very recent research is suggestive of the possibility that the Declaration's drafters passed an early draft past Paine himself for his comments -- his initials "T.P." appear on the back of a very early

draft with an ambiguous but highly suggestive notation. What can't be denied -- whether Paine actually had direct input into the Declaration -- is that each of the five committee members that the Continental Congress appointed to draft the Declaration would, in any event, have already read *Common Sense* on their own by the time they got down to work in June 1776.

Keep in mind the timing of the initial publication of *Common Sense*: starting in the summer of 1774, Massachusetts farmers in Great Barrington (then referred to as "Sheffield North") shut down the local courthouse and refused to let the British-appointed judicial officials and sheriff operate. This insurrection spread rapidly eastward across all of Massachusetts, county by county, essentially eliminating British colonial rule by the end of 1774, excepting only in Boston (with a population of perhaps 16,000) which was occupied by British troops. In many county seats, the rebellious farmers acting *en masse* had forced the justices and sheriffs to walk through an assemblage of farmers with their hats off (a symbol of subordination) and to promise never again to act on behalf of the British colonial administration. Many of these officials were American-born but wealthy farmers, accustomed to dominating both local politics and their local county economies.

By any definition, this was a true revolution.

But despite these dramatic events in Massachusetts, many Americans at the start of 1776 were still hopeful of a reconciliation with Britain. Outright

independence still seemed scary or unnecessary. Reading *Common Sense* changed all that.

Blood was first shed at Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts three and a half months later in April 1775 when British troops sent from Boston tried to re-assert British control and were met by American militiamen who had been training for this eventuality since the previous year. During the war that followed, Paine acted as an *aide de camp* to Gen. Nathaniel Greene, Washington's best field commander. In 1781, in recognition of Paine's efforts during the war, New York State gifted a farmstead in New Rochelle to him, a property previously owned by a Loyalist.

In London in the late 1780s, Paine responded to a political tract written by Edmund Burke which harshly criticized the French Revolution and was a bestseller with 30,000 copies in print. But Paine's rebuttal -- *The Rights of Man* -- which once again criticized not only George III but ridiculed the very concept of monarchy -- sold almost a million copies worldwide. The British Government was not amused.

The Rights of Man is arguably foundational to today's progressive politics, not just in the United States but worldwide. Paine advocated for the immediate abolition of slavery and also for a comprehensive program of state support in each country to ensure the welfare of society, including state subsidies for poor people, state-financed universal public education, and state-sponsored pre-natal and post-natal care, including state subsidies to families at



childbirth. Recognizing that a person's "labor ought to be over" before his/her old age, Paine also called for a state pension to all workers starting at age 50, which would double at age 60. Not opposed to ownership of private property or capitalism, Paine simply argued for taxation of private wealth to support his public benefit and anti-poverty programs. Federalists, the reigning party from 1788 onward, North and South, found these ideas loathsome: democracy? No!


Paine then went to France in the early 1790s where he was initially lionized

and elected to a revolutionary legislative assembly in Paris, despite not being able to speak a word of French. He joined a political party known as the *Girondistes* which garnered popular appeal for a while; but when more radical politicians led by lawyer Maximilien Robespierre took charge, Paine was imprisoned with most of the leading *Girondistes* and very narrowly escaped execution, aided in his release from prison by the new United States ambassador to France (and later U.S. President) James Monroe.

Nonetheless, Paine stayed in France until 1802 when, at the invitation of

President Thomas Jefferson, he returned to the United States and lived quietly on his farmstead in New Rochelle. He died in 1809 in Greenwich Village and was initially buried on his farm in New Rochelle, outlived by his many enemies and forgotten by his friends. Curiously, his bones were later moved to England by a British journalist who planned to rebury Paine under a very substantial monument in the town of his birth; but those plans were never carried out; the journalist died; and Paine's bones were lost and, despite efforts by modern-day American historians and journalists, never found.

—Publius



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COA Holiday lunch at Mt. Everett.

CATCHING UP WITH THE COA

Happy New Year to all - welcome to 2025! We are starting off the year with something new: joining the Coffee Club on their Wednesday mornings at the Roadside. The meeting time is 8:30 am. According to the Coffee Club guidelines, “for the most part, no politics, and no extended medical discussions!” Sounds good to me! The COA hopes you will join in, starting January 8.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have concerns about the well-being of a senior neighbor or family member, I encourage you to call the COA (my number is immediately below). I will discuss the situation with you and then reach out to the Monterey

PD and/or appropriate provider agencies as needed. Similarly, any questions you have about your own health and safety, whether security in your home or the need for help with food or meals or home modifications or transportation or health insurance, the COA is the place to start (except, of course, in an emergency, when 911 is the call to make). While the COA does a lot to bring Monterey residents together for meals, movies, and interesting talks, of equal importance to our core mission is to support your health and safety.

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

—Kathryn Roberts
COA Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Coming Events

Monday January 6: COA Board Meeting at Town Hall 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The agenda is posted on the Town Hall website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, January 8: Coffee Club Breakfast at the Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 8: Movie Night at the Monterey Library 7 pm *Roman Holiday* is our movie this month. This romantic classic starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn won her an Acad-

emy Award for best actress in 1954. Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

Wednesday, January 15: Coffee Club Breakfast at the Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 15: Afternoon at the Movies will screen Elvis at the Monterey Library at 2 p.m., in honor of his birthday this month. Rotten Tomatoes says: The standard rock biopic formula gets all shook up in Elvis, with Bad Luhmann’s dazzling energy and style perfectly complimented by Austin Butler’s outstanding lead performance.” Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

Thursday, January 16: Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman. 10 a.m. to Noon at the Monterey Community Center. A still life will provide inspiration or draw from your own imagination. Anything goes! Bring your own supplies. Coffee and a snack will be provided. Call Beth with any questions: (201) 463-9543

Tuesday, January 21: Wellness Check, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Monterey Library. Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (formerly Tritown Health) will be there to check blood pressure, vital signs and to arrange for vaccines they do not offer. For Covid and flu vaccines, call ahead to arrange with Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209.

Wednesday, January 22: Coffee Club Breakfast at the Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 22: Monthly Lunch at Pleasant and Main, noon, 1063 Main Street, in Housatonic. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.

Thursday, January 23: Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman. 10 a.m. to noon at the Monterey Community Center. See January 16 above for details. Bring your own supplies. Coffee and a snack will be provided. Call Beth with any questions: (201) 463-9543

Wednesday, January 29: Coffee Club Breakfast at the Roadside, 8:30 a.m.

Monday February 3: COA Board Meeting at Town Hall 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The agenda is posted on the Town Hall website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, February 5 : Monthly lunch at Roses at noon. 160 Housatonic Street, Lee. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.



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Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, January 9, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Monterey Library. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call Kathryn at the number above if you'd like more information.

Transportation: Transportation is available to all Monterey residents for trips to Great Barrington, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Egremont, and Sheffield. Call (413) 591-3826. Hours are Monday - Thursday, 6:30 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday 6:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Rides to New Marlborough are available Monday - Friday only, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. only, and limited to seniors and people with disabilities. Pittsfield is limited to Monday and Wednesday only, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., for medical visits only.

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

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running or biking are available in town hall.



COA group at the holiday lunch at Mt. Everett.



COA holiday lunch at Mt. Everett.

Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative

The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative is pleased to be returning to the Monterey library for the monthly wellness sessions on the third Tuesday of the month. We will be at the Monterey library on Tuesday, January 21, from 10-11 a.m. We will be offering blood pressure screenings, vital signs, monthly education topic, help with making appointments at local pharmacies for your vaccine needs not offered through the collaborative. January's education topic will be thyroid disease. Starting in February we will also be offering medication reconciliation. We ask that you bring a list of your medications along with the dosage of each along with any supplements that you take. We will check for any drug interactions. If you are still in need of a flu or covid vaccine, please contact Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209 in advance.



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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Frank Abbott
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(frank@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us."

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

Community Center Calendar

Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly activities:

Mondays:

Hablemos! 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first three Mondays of the month; 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Monday. Intermedio y superior to practice Spanish and meet new friends
Simple meditation, all are welcome, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.
Cookbook club, January 27, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com. January 27: Book club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Born A Crime by Trevor Noah

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.
Vikki True, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Bridge and pitch, 1 to 4 p.m.
Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Tai chi with David Crowe, at 10 a.m. \$8 per class, or \$30 for the month.
Ping-pong, 2:30 to 4 p.m. for advanced players, 4 to 6 p.m. for beginners. Third Wednesday of the month, only 4 to 6 p.m., all play.
January 15: Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Third Wednesday of the month. Please send an email if you are interested

to Lindaneilson@gmail.com

Thursdays:

Mahjong, 2 to 4 p.m., does not meet first Thursday.
January 2: Darn Yarners, 1:00 p.m., first Thursday of the month. January 2, 16 and 30: Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Open Studio with Beth Hoffman, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. January 2, 16, and 30, 6:30 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments, and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

Fridays:

Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. Please register by emailing jamesboneparth76@gmail.com. Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays:

Coffee club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Ping-pong, 1 to 2:30 p.m. for advanced players, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for beginners.

Sundays:

Al Anon family group meeting, 9 a.m.
Monterey Marijuana Anonymous, 7 to 8 p.m.



Winterfest, 2024.

Special Events

January 11 Pottery with Jane Burke at her studio from 1 to 3:30. More info will be posted soon. Limited to 10 people. Register at montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com.

January 23 Yantra Yoga with Ben Corbett from 12:30 to 1:30. Explore simple movements coordinated with the breath

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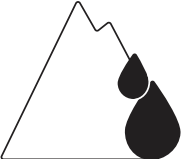
Winterfest, February 16, 1 to 3 p.m. Join us for music, food, and fun activities.

This listing is based on information we had as of December 20. You can find updated information on events on our website, ccmonterey.org, or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing monterey-communitycenter@gmail.com.

—Laurie Shaw and Nancy Kleban.



Masks and art, by New Marlborough Central School students.



Blood Donor Center & Bloodmobile

Visit the Bloodmobile at these locations in January.

1/2 Stockbridge Fire, East St, Stockbridge, 9am-2:30pm

1/6 Berkshire Medical Center, Parked near Endoscopy entrance, Wahconah St, Pittsfield, 8:30am-3pm

1/7 Molari, East St, Pittsfield, 8:30am-3pm

1/8 Mass DOT, Main St, Lenox, 8:30am-2:30pm

1/9 Milne Public Library, Main St, Williamstown, 9am-2:30pm

1/12 Miraval, Lee Rd, Lenox, 8:30am-3pm

1/14 Williamstown First Congregational Church, Main Street, Williamstown, 9am-2:30pm

1/15 Williamstown First Congregational Church, Main Street, Williamstown, 9am-2:30pm

1/16 Berkshire County House of Corrections, Cheshire Rd, Pittsfield, 8:30am-3pm

1/20 Adams Community Bank, Park St, Adams, 9am-2:30pm

1/21 Berkshire Medical Center, Parked near Endoscopy entrance, Wahconah St, Pittsfield, 8:30am-3pm

1/22 Hillcrest, Tor Ct, Pittsfield, 8:30am-3pm


1/23 Fairview, Lewis Ave, Great Barrington, 9am-2:30pm

1/27 Greylock Federal Credit Union, West St, Pittsfield, 8:30am-3pm

1/28 Richmond Town Hall, State Rd, Richmond, 9am-2:30pm

1/29 BFAIR, Church St, North Adams, 9am-2:30pm


1/30 Excelsior, Pleasant St, Lee, 9am-2:30pm



Dates and times are subject to change.
Call (413) 447-2597 to confirm.

Appointments suggested. If you want to schedule a donation at any of these locations or want the BHS Bloodmobile to visit your business, call (413) 447-2597. Your donation of blood replenishes the local supply and serves your community directly.

You can also donate blood at: BMC Blood Donor Center, ground floor, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.


Berkshire Health Systems

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Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Town Administrator:
 528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
 (for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency):
 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org
Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
Library: 528-3795 montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency):
 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117 montereytax@yahoo.com
 (for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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