



MONTEREY NEWS

October 2024 Est. 1970
Vol. LIII · Number 10



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



We're also like the busy squirrels in fall, checking on our stockpile—reviewing spending reports and keeping an eye on department budgets.

What Does the Finance Committee Do... p. 3

And for anyone who likes the idea of making friends while cruising around the county, volunteer driving is now an option.

Getting around South County... p. 3

Parliament's increasingly severe acts taking away the colonists' property and rights as British Citizens inflamed the populace.

On the Road to Revolution p. 12

*After September,
The tree leaves match the pumpkins
Sold in the market.*

Fall Haiku p. 14

The colors are vibrant and ever changing, each trip passing a single tree results in a different picture. I feel privileged to witness this, NATURE IS SO COOL.

Supper Club p. 20



**Standard Time
"Falls Behind"
Sunday, November 3, at 2 a.m.**



MONTEREY NEWS

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Editor Shannon Amidon Castille
Copy Editor.....Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels.....Cindy Hoogs

Contributing Writers

- Chris Andrews
- Cece Birch
- Rob Hoogs
- Hanna Jensen
- Janet Jensen
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Heather Kowalski
- Mark Makuc
- Ilene Marcus
- Bonner McAllester
- Roger McDonald
- Steve Moore
- Kit Patten
- Kathryn Roberts
- Lin Saberski
- RJ Supa
- MaryPaul Yates

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Getting around South County without a Car

A quiet transformation of Monterey transportation options has taken place in the last year and a half.

Now, residents of seven South County towns, from Sheffield to West Stockbridge, have safe, convenient, curb-to-curb transport for everything from an evening at the Mahaiwe to a ride to work. Over the summer the Tri-Town Connector Service operated from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., seven days a week. Weekday evening hours currently end at 9 p.m. due to funding constraints, but rides are still available on Fridays and Saturdays until 11 p.m.

The new “micro transit” service fills a gap in the quality of life for many rural residents, including for Monterey folks, who book around 100 rides per month. The price tag? Most rides range from two to four dollars, although a discount pass offers ten in-town rides for \$15, or ten multi-town rides for \$25. The cost goes up to \$20 for a round-trip ride to Pittsfield – a destination, along with Lee and Lenox, that is only available on Mondays and Wednesdays. These longer trips are reserved for seniors and people with disabilities needing to get to doctor’s appointments.

This service fulfills the vision of Tate Coleman, a self-described transit activist, who designed and helped launch the program pilot when he was 18, as his senior



project at Simon’s Rock.

Tate was seemingly born with a passion for improving lives through better transit. As a youngster in New York City, he was fascinated with subway maps. “As a toddler, my idea of fun was dragging my parents around on subway rides to Coney Island, and all over the city.”

When his family moved to Great Barrington the summer before fourth grade, he immediately began investigating the local bus system, taking rides and chatting with bus drivers on his way to the Big Y and other stops. At first he wondered why there wasn’t more ridership. Then he started noticing the bus stops were not

Lake Garfield Kayak Racks

Another season of kayaking and canoeing has passed and it’s time to once again pull those kayaks and canoes off the racks. It’s been a great season for being on Lake Garfield but the official sticker date to remove kayaks and canoes off the racks across from the Lake Garfield beach parking is October 15. Please have your kayaks and/or canoes removed by then. After that date the DPW/highway department will remove any remaining and store them at the DPW/highway garage. Historically any kayaks or canoes that are unclaimed will eventually be auctioned off through the online municipal auction web site Muncibid (www.muncibid.com). I hope you all had some great adventures out on Lake Garfield and keep a look out on the town’s website for next year’s

kayak/canoe rack space lottery. An additional twelve spaces are in the works which will bring the total number of rack spaces to 72.

—Roger McDonald

Jerrold N. Raab, DDS PC

*Dentistry For
The Entire Family*

*New Patients
Welcome*

Emergencies Welcome

549 ROUTE 23
MONTEREY

All Phases of Dentistry

528-6520

marked. So he did what any empowered 14-year-old would do (not!), he wrote to the *Berkshire Eagle*, the town manager and the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority.

"Sounds like a good idea," he was told by the BRTA. Tate soon found himself hard at work. "As a very young individual I worked with an informal group on signage and some other cool transit projects," he said. "That was my first foray into local government. If I hadn't gotten an initial positive response, we probably wouldn't be sitting here today."

Tate took an internship at the BRTA and spent a summer riding the buses, tracking ridership to verify the validity of BRTA's Automated Passenger Counters, and talking to people who use the service. With school clearance, he learned his way around the town bureaucracy by interning for the Town's Planning and Finance departments, serving a three-year term on the Cultural Council – part of the time as Chair – and working as a minute-taker for a number of boards and committees (a great way to get a better sense of what's going on!). Tate was appointed as the Town's Finance Assistant at the age of 17. Since 2019, he has chaired the South County Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and come up with options to increase ridership. By May of 2023, he had worked with the RTAC and

the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority to design and secure funding for a pilot microtransit project, which doubled as his senior thesis project at Simon's Rock.

Tate's project recommended a one-year microtransit pilot for seniors in South County. It was not some vague proposal: He incorporated a review of best practices, a cost-benefit analysis of potential



zones, a nationwide field research study, vehicle- and passenger-demand modeling, and feedback from more than 2,200 residents. This high response rate was a big factor in South County receiving the start-up grant, as was support from Sheffield, Great Barrington, and Egremont, who together ponied up a \$94,000 match. The pilot came more than a century after Egremont's trolley tracks were torn up in 1919, leaving the town with no transit for the general public for more than 100 years.

The program has expanded rapidly under Tate's leadership. Rides for seniors

and those with disabilities are prioritized, but some funding is aimed at workforce ridership, helping people who can't drive or don't own a reliable car get to work sites. One woman with disabilities, for instance, regularly takes a paratransit bus from Becket to Monterey and is picked up by TriTown to get to her job in Great Barrington.

The service allows for more social engagement -- seniors who might want to share a dinner and glass of wine with friends in the next town over don't have to fret about getting home in the dark. Some riders use it for grocery shopping. A popular pilot to offer free rides to veterans has now been extended through next June. "Our riders were previously getting somewhat unreliable rides from friends and neighbors and family as their main way of getting around," Tate learned while measuring quality-of-life impacts of rural transit on its riders, using the TriTown Connector as a case study for his master's thesis. "And a lot of the trips that they take with us are trips that they would not otherwise be able to make."

He keeps coming up with ways to improve the service – staffing, and the funding for it, is the limiting factor. The program currently employs five, full-time, benefitted drivers, and a few other "On Demand" drivers, to help when things

> p. 5

What Does the Finance Committee Do after the Town Meeting



First we take a big sigh of relief; after months of weekly meetings, endless reports, and conversations with every department,

committee and board imaginable, we've finally nailed down our plan for the town's budget next year. Think of it like planning your own expenses—once the must-haves like housing, transportation, and food are covered, we decide what else we need. Be it yoga classes, art supplies, our children, or maybe a bit extra for the pet food stash. That's what a budget is, a plan of what we will do, as expressed by

where we spend our money.

Post-town meeting, the finance committee isn't just kicking back and relaxing. Nope, we dive right back in to help any department that needs a hand sticking to the plan we just cheered for. And yep, every year there's always a few of those complicated issues that pop up—like figuring out the best deal for hauling trash that makes us think about the assumptions we built our budget on and how they will play out.

We're also like the busy squirrels in fall, checking on our stockpile—reviewing spending reports and keeping an eye on department budgets. Overspending? Underspending? We catch that early. We work with the Town Administrator (TA) to figure out why before it snowballs into a bigger headache. Our TA served on the Finance Committee and assisted in setting up our dashboard and reports. This is the

monthly information we use to keep our pulse on town spending. He knows what we are looking for and has a good idea of the information we need to make decisions moving forward.

With each committee member elected to voice their unique perspectives, we gather up all the intel, prep our concerns, and get ready to dive into the next budget cycle come January.

—Ilene Marcus

Editor's Note: Reflections, opinions, and updates on town topics are welcome submissions. Send yours to montereynews9@gmail.com.

Election Day is November Fifth

Polls (Town Hall 435 Main Road) are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The deadline to register to vote in the presidential election is October 26, 5 p.m.

The **Early-In-Person** voting schedule is: October 21, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (weekdays) and October 19 and 26 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (weekends). Early-In-Person voting is held at the same location.

The deadline to request a **Vote-by-Mail** application is October 29. All Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received by the closing of polls on election day. Voters are encouraged (not required) to use the drop box located at the entrance of town hall to return Vote-by-Mail ballots.

Contact Town Clerk Chris Andrews 528-1443, extension 113. Town clerk office hours can be found at www.montereyma.gov/town-clerk. 🌸🌸



Gary Shaw and Chris Andrews, 2024.

Digital Equity Initiative A Gathering to Involve the Town



Steve Moore

On Saturday, September 14, a day-long program, facilitated by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, was held in the Monterey Library to develop a plan to address the digital needs and challenges facing the town. Funding for the event was provided by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). The program was run in two sessions with breakfast treats for the morning group and sandwiches for the afternoon group. The food was sourced from the Southfield Store. Twenty-five residents attended.

Monterey is among twenty-one Berkshire County towns participating in municipal digital equity planning with MBI funding. Monterey has been awarded \$56,603 by MBI to implement key recommendations resulting from the plan. There has already been considerable work done by BRPC staff assembling demographic and town data to help illuminate the community's internet and computer device and skill needs.

I attended the afternoon session, which was largely presented by Aleasha Siddiqui, an AmeriCorps Lead for America Fellow, with support from her supervisor, Wylie Goodman, BRPC's Senior Economic Development Planner.

What is "Digital Equity?"

This term has been around for a long time, but many people are unfamiliar with it. It was explained that "digital equity" is when everyone, regardless of income, age, ability, race/ethnicity, language, and so on, have the information technology capacity they need for full participation in society, democracy, economy, and personal needs. Digital equity is increasingly critical for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Using the natural ecosystem as a metaphor, Siddiqui made the point that the vitality of each part of our digital equity ecosystem informs the whole system, and all of us. When there are folks among us who cannot access the computer, internet services, and supports they need, or who are unable to use them due to lack of knowledge, the community as a whole suffers.

A Picture of Monterey

Any town is best described by the people who live there. Using data gathered from several sources, including the 2018-2002 five-year American Community Survey estimate, as well as MBI's Internet for All survey, attendees were presented with a demographic, economic, and social picture of Monterey, especially as it relates to "covered populations," people most needing digital support. Many folks would simply describe our town as largely white, affluent, well-educated, and capable in their daily lives.

But this certainly is not the complete picture, as both the data and the attendees noted. Monterey has people who have limited mobility, hearing, or vision. There are folks who are unemployed and perhaps can't access support services. There is a small but growing segment of the community who would be considered people of color and who, in the larger society, are often statistically underserved. Some residents' income can't support the monthly expense of an internet connection to their home, or the cost of having a connection installed. And an important element that statistics don't highlight is that in our town there are plenty of folks who are not skilled at using the devices they have or that are available to them.

An advertisement for The Brockman Group. The top half features a black and white photograph of a large, two-story house with a porch, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The text "Everyone deserves the exceptional" is written in a serif font. Below this, a smaller line of text reads: "Our clients choose us because we genuinely care, we listen to their needs, and we consistently deliver exceptional results." The bottom half of the ad is a dark grey box containing contact information for The Brockman Group, including their address (448 Main Road, Monterey), phone number (413.528.4859), email (info@brockmanrealestate.com), and website (brockmanrealestate.com). It also includes the logo for William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty and the text "Thinking of selling or buying? Chapin Fish 917.723.1074".

These are the people that this municipal digital equity plan seeks to help. Everyone described above risks missing out on the benefits of living in an increasingly connected society.

For more information, and to become involved, please read "Making (Internet) Connections" by Aleesha Siddiqui (p. 21).

—Stephen Moore

(continued from p. 3) get busy.

He's always trying to do more with less. His scheduling app builds in factors like past ride volumes and weather trends into the calculus of how many drivers are needed for specific hours. A volunteer transit advisor will be on board soon to help riders get more comfortable with the system. And for anyone who likes the idea of making friends while cruising around the county, volunteer driving is now an option.

Tate continues to adapt digital technologies to improve the service and is always on the lookout for more funding opportunities – only about 15-20 percent of the \$450,000 budget is paid for by fares. That percentage could go up with increased ridership and efficiencies, "But we don't charge a higher fare, because that's not the point of the program," he said. "It's designed to be a community service."

Clearly, we are very lucky to have Tate on board. But having just completed two master's degrees at UMass Amherst (civil engineering and regional planning) while running the program, he may soon be on to other challenges. In fact, his job has been posted on the town website for months (along with several other interesting transit vacancies, including an operations manager).

While the program is very important to him, Tate believes the tools are in place for its long-term success. "At this point, we have a very stable, solid team and operations procedures, although we continually are looking for ways to improve them. We've got a lot of individuals in our community who use and benefit from the program. And I mean, that's what it's all about at the end of the day."

Keeping it going could be a fantastic job for the right person. But his will be big footsteps to fill.

—Janet Jensen

Riding the Connector



Janet Jensen

The TriTown Connector was a lifesaver when a broken shoulder kept me from driving for a month. Family and friends generously offered to help, but how often can you ask someone to drive you up to Pittsfield and back? I had doctors' appointments, needed a haircut, and had an urge to get out of the house from time to time.

Then I recalled the notice about senior transit in the Council on Aging column. I was initially skeptical, imagining an inconvenient schedule, wait times, and a circuitous route. But with one phone call to the number listed, I booked a pickup at home the next morning to arrive just in time for my appointment in Pittsfield. I couldn't arrange a return trip until two hours later but was happy to hang out in town to drink coffee at Dottie's.

The drivers were prompt and interesting to talk to: A young man of Albanian heritage spoke enthusiastically about his culture and visits to his family's country of origin. A young woman's tales of her broken collarbone made my recent break seem like a picnic. She also mentioned how pleased she was that the service extended to Sheffield so her 16-year-old could get around without her help. I found I liked the company and freedom from the 24-hour news cycle that I typically find myself compulsively tapping into when driving alone.

Reserving a day or two ahead is recommended to ensure a ride when you need it. However, though I typically booked on the same day, I never had much of a wait. Booking is easy by phone, but I had trouble with the app, which accounts for about one-third of the 75 to 80 rides scheduled each day.

For each of the dozen or so rides I booked, I was the only passenger. The aim is to schedule more pooled rides, to gain efficiency, but it's difficult when serving 17,000 residents over 250 square miles.

If you schedule a ride, don't keep the drivers waiting. After five minutes they are instructed to leave to maintain their stellar on-time performance -- 95% of trips within 10 minutes and 98.1% of trips within 15 minutes.

Need a ride? Call (413) 591-3826. Or check the website: tritown.org. Dispatch hours are from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. weekdays, and 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on weekends. Or get the app so you can book any time.

—Janet Jensen

Thai Yoga Bodywork


*Local
References*  *Sliding
Scale*

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

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(508) 873-9489

Library Notes Memoir Workshop



Mark Makuc

Mary Jo Maichack has a grant from the Mass Cultural Council to present a four-session workshop on preserving your memories at the

library. Have you

ever wanted to create your memoir and leave a record of your life, but haven't found a way to get started? This workshop will use memoirs from writers, past and present. Professional storyteller Mary Jo

gives you prompts for jogging important memories and events from your life so you can get into a writing flow. Easy, fun, totally non-judgmental, invaluable—as only you really know your life story. What a gift to leave for others! You are welcome to come to any or all of the sessions,

Thursdays, October 24 and 31, and No-



Mary Jo Maichack

vember 7 and 14, from 10:30 a.m.—noon.

Halloween

Bowie the Clown is back by popular demand. He'll be there as you trick-or-treat to make balloons and perform magic. Park in the center of town and start your trick-or-treat stroll with a little magic. Bowie will be at the library at 4:30 p.m. to entertain kids. Bowie is sponsored by the Friends of the Monterey Library, who will also have plenty of treats to hand out as well!

Library Usage

Thanks to the support of the town, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Friends of the Monterey Library, the number of people borrowing and using our varied resources and spaces continues to increase. In fiscal 2023, we had a total of 10,008 people come through our door, and a total usage of our collection (which includes physical items borrowed and downloadable items as well as views of online resources) of 18,810. In fiscal 2024 which ended on June 30, 2024, we had 10,826 people come in the door, and our total collection usage grew to 24,291, a thirty percent increase! Much of the usage increase was electronic, but there was also growth in print materials as well. We are committed to serving those who

want the feel of a real book, but are also providing electronic resources that are conveniently available 24/7 from wherever you happen to have need of a good read or listen, or would like to know what was in the *Monterey News* in 1970. The growth in attendance shows our commitment to being a community gathering place, whether it be an art opening, a town committee meeting, a place to park your laptop and do some work, or simply meeting your neighbors. If you haven't stopped in lately, please do and see what we can do for you.

—Mark Makuc



Memoir Workshop Making a Present of Your Past

Want to Preserve Your Memories? Come to this Engaging & Fun Workshop for Adults & Seniors

Have you wanted to create your memoir and leave a record of your life, but haven't found a way to get started?

This workshop can help you! Using memoirs from writers past and present, professional storyteller Mary Jo Maichack gives you prompts for jogging important memories and events from your life so you can get into a writing flow. Interesting questions get your heart remembering and your hand writing. Easy, fun, totally non-judgmental, invaluable—as only you really know your life story. What a gift to leave for others!

Free & Open to the Public
Dates: Thursdays, Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7 & 14, 2024
Time: 10:30 - 12 pm
Monterey Library, in the 1931 Room
Need help attending for Deaf or Disabled? Please ask.

Hosted by the Monterey Library with support by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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



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Knox Gallery News



MaryPaul Yates

Everything
New All
Around You,
visual and audio works by the collaborative artists Rachel Sherk and Aaron Rourk, will be on view

at Knox Gallery through October 19. This installation features work inspired by the wonder with which brand-new humans (aka babies!) view the world.

At the opening reception, on September 13, Sherk and Rourk gave a brief overview of their artistic practices and the work of their nonprofit, MAPS, followed

that are created from negative space, and a mixture of ink and acrylic paint for the positive motifs.

Rourk's 62 compositions, scattered throughout the installation, are accessible via QR codes, and are "little sound worlds, both playful and serious." All of the compositions were recorded in one take using the alto flute and signal processing.

Sherk and Rourk work across media, including music, sound, installation, video, puppetry, and horticulture. Together they run @maps_musicartpuppetsound, a local arts nonprofit. This fall they are running a 10-week artist residency at New Marlborough Central Elementary, grades PreK-4th, to explore educational curricula through the lenses of artmaking.

Everything New All Around You is on view until October 19, and a few days later Pat Badt's *On View* opens on Friday,

Gallery through December 8, and will be discussed more fully in the November *Monterey News*. Thanks to the Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Council for supporting the talks, interview, and performance for both exhibits, and the Friends of the Monterey Library for supporting the Knox Gallery.

And for a quick mention, our traditional holiday group show will open on December 13, and be on view through January 25, 2025. (Dates may be adjusted.) We decided that this year, instead of a show title, we'd offer a prompt. From Dr. Seuss: "You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's no limit to what you can do." We hope you'll think about something new for you, and we are eager to see the work.

Please keep a lookout for an email blast to break down deadlines for application, size and specifics of work, and deadlines. —MaryPaul Yates

The collaborators' arts nonprofit site is: www.musicartpuppetsound.org

Personal websites: www.rachelsherk.com; www.aaronrourk.com; www.pat-badt.com; www.thethirdbarn.org

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](https://www.facebook.com/Knox)



by a short audio/visual performance. The partners tailored this installation to cater to a group that is totally unrepresented, but completely enamored with observation—babies! Their first child was born in May, and "is amazed by everything around her. Edges, moulding, trees, sky, faces—the world presents so many interesting things to look at!" Although the work was created for newborns, the partners feel that it inspires them to explore the world anew themselves. "We know that those under 12 months will love looking at this work. We hope you do too!" Sherk quips.

Shrek's paintings, which nearly overtake the gallery wall, play with form, soft edges and high contrast, utilizing shapes

October 25. The artist will have a reception on November 29, the day after Thanksgiving, which will include an interview of the artist by Sarah Varney.

Badt is painter who also makes artist books. Pat Bat's work is inspired by location, filtered through experience and sensibility. She has exhibited widely, including exhibitions both domestically and internationally.

Her statement: "PAINT - I love it! It is color made physical. I am trying to get a sense of something without being something. I paint landscapes of memory. My process is to paint through a matrix that demands that I stay on the surface of the painting."

On View will be on view at Knox

Everything New All Around You

Rachel Sherk & Aaron Rourk

thru October 19

On View

Pat Badt

October 24 - December 7

Artist discussion and reception:
Friday, November 29

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
Artist Talks sponsored by MA & Monterey Cultural Councils

Pet Parade

This year, Halloween is going to the dogs (and cats, and birds), at the Monterey Community Center's First Annual Monterey Halloween Pet Parade. Dress up Fido as a firefighter, your cat as a king, or your pig as Sir Paul McCartney, and join us on Sunday, October 27 at 2 p.m.

Hosted by Maggie BARKin, the festivities will take place on the grounds of the community center, as pets and their people parade in front of a panel of three celebrity judges competing for top honors in three categories: Dynamic Duo, Best Trick, and Judges' Choice.

All pets are welcome if they are leashed. No horse too big or small!

—RJ Supa

Community Center Calendar

Weekly, biweekly, 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. *Inter-medio y superior*—to practice Spanish and meet new friends.

Simple meditation, all are welcome, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

October 28: Cook book club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com.

October 28: Book club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month.

Tuesdays:

Berkshire Mobile Farmers Market, 12:30 to 3 p.m., through October 15. Produce, bread and dairy from local farms!

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, 4 to 6 p.m.

October 16: Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Third Wednesday of the month. Please send an email if you are interested to Lindarneilson@gmail.com.

Thursdays:

Mahjong, 2 to 4 p.m., except first Thursday.

October 3, Darn Yarners, 1 p.m.,

first Thursday of the month.

October 17: Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m.

October 10 and 24: Exercise 1 to 2 p.m., second and fourth Thursday of the month.

October 24 and 31: Open Studio with Beth Hoffman, last two Thursdays of the month, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. October 10 and 24, 6:30 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments, and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark at mcccjamgroup@gmail.com.

Fridays:

Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. Please register by emailing james-boneparth76@gmail.com.

Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays:

Coffee club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Ping-pong, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sundays:

Al Anon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

Monterey Marijuana Anonymous, 7 to 8 p.m.

Special Events:

Campfire Sing-A-Long. Monday,

HALLOWEEN IN MONTEREY!

October 31st from 5 - 7 pm

THE COMMUNITY CENTER
TRICK OR TREATING

LIBRARY
TRICK OR TREATING
BOWIE THE CLOWN!

TOWN HALL
TRICK OR TREATING

FIREHOUSE
STOP BY TO SEE WHAT TRICKS
OR TREATS THEY HAVE THIS YEAR!

OCT 27

WINNER!

All pets are welcome! They just have to be leashed.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MONTEREY HALLOWEEN PET PARADE
OCT 27 2 PM

HOSTED BY MAGGIE BARKin!

SUNDAY OCT 27 AT 2PM!
468 Main Road Monterey MA
CELEBRITY JUDGES!

AWARDS FOR:
DYNAMIC DUO
BEST TRICK
JUDGES CHOICE

October 14, at 5 p.m. Come join Bonner McAllester as she leads a sing-a-long around the campfire on Indigenous People's Day.

First Annual Monterey Halloween Pet Parade. Sunday, October 27 at 2 p.m.

Light Bath * Breathwork * Reiki. Wednesday, October 30, at 7 p.m.

Backyard Ecologists – How Best to Plant a Tree. Saturday, October 5, 11am to 12:30 pm. How best to plant a tree? Ask the Tree Warden Saturday, October 5, 11 am. A Backyard Ecologists program presented by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group. Town of Monterey Tree Warden Kevin West will discuss when, where, why and how to plant trees successfully. Hint: Fall is a great time. After the talk, those who are interested can meet a short drive away for a demonstration planting. We'd like to make sure we can accommodate everyone, so kindly register for this free event at Pollinators01245@gmail.com.

Trick-or-Treating at MCC! Thursday, October 31, 5 to 7 p.m.

This listing is based on information we had as of September 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.

—RJ Supa, MCC director, and Nancy Kleban

Mobile Farmers Market



The Berkshire Mobile Farmers Market continues weekly on Tuesdays from 12:30-3 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center through October 15.

The Mobile Farmers Market offers fresh produce, meat, dairy, eggs, and products (like bread, granola, honey, and jam) all grown and produced locally. Most importantly, the market operates on a flexible pricing model that allows customers to self-select a payment tier based on their current financial situation—either full retail, 50 percent of retail, or for free (up to \$60 each week). The market also accepts SNAP/HIP, WIC and senior Coupons. This program is designed to support local farmers and ensures that everyone in the Berkshire community, regardless of income or location, can access fresh, nutrient-dense local food. For more information and to see where else the Mobile Farmers Market stops, visit www.berkshirefarmersmarket.org.

—Stephanie Bergman
Director of Development
Berkshire Grown, Inc.

Swap Shop Volunteers Needed

Monterey seeks enthusiastic volunteers to help at the Transfer Station Swap Shop. This is a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community while promoting sustainability and reuse. Volunteers assist in sorting and organizing donated items, as well as interacting with the public and transfer station staff. Your efforts help reduce waste, encourage recycling, and foster a spirit of sharing. If you're passionate about the environment and community engagement, we'd love to have you join our team. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help. Please contact Roger MacDonald, town administrator, at admin@montereyma.gov, or call 528-1443, ext. 111. Volunteering at the swap shop is also part of the Senior Tax Abatement Program. Information on this program can be found on the Council on Aging's web page, www.montereyma.gov/council-aging.

—Roger MacDonald
Town Administrator

Daytime Book Club

At our 1:30 p.m., October 9, meeting we will be reading *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Hope to see you there!

—Beth Hoffman

The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver

In her most accomplished novel, Barbara Kingsolver takes us on an epic journey from the Mexico City of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover. *The Lacuna* is a poignant story of a man pulled between two nations as they invent their modern identities.

With deeply compelling characters, a vivid sense of place, and a clear grasp of how history and public opinion can shape a life, Barbara Kingsolver has created an unforgettable portrait of the artist—and of art itself. *The Lacuna* is a rich and daring work of literature, establishing its author as one of the most provocative and important of her time. 🌿

OCT 14

CAMPFIRE SING-A-LONG

Monterey Community Center, 468 Main Road, 5PM October 14 2024

Join Bonner McAllester as she leads a sing-a-long by the campfire. From traditional Hopi lullabies to sea shanties to classic folk songs, come join for an Autumnal evening of music and merriment! BYOM*
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Catching up with the COA

The COA is making a few changes to our regular schedule moving into fall. Our Game Day has been shifted to the sponsorship of the Community Center on the second, third, and fourth Thursdays of the month from 2 - 4 pm. It will show up on the MCC calendar as Mah Jong, and there will indeed be Mah Jong played as there always was on Game Day. But feel free to bring any additional games you would like to play.

We are bringing back our Wednesday afternoon movie, this time showing both documentaries and other movies as well. Stay tuned on email for the date. This event may start in October, but if not, then definitely November.

The COA is also trying to arrange a gentle exercise class, but this is still a work in progress.

To reach me to reserve for events, with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call 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

Friday, October 4: Lunch at Paige's Place at Noon, 119 South Main Road, Otis. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.

Monday, October 7: COA board meeting at Town Hall 10:30 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, October 9: Movie Night at the Monterey Library 7 p.m. Our September movie is *My Favorite Year*, from 1982. Rotten Tomatoes says "My Favorite Year is a joyful ode to the early days of television, carried with a deft touch and Peter O'Toole's uproariously funny performance." The story centers around a fledgling comic who gets a chance to work with his screen idol, and finds him not to be what he imagined...Get there a few minutes early for schmoozing and light refreshments.

Thursday, October 24: Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman. 10 a.m. to noon at the 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

Monday, November 4: COA board meeting at Town Hall 10:30 am - noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website. All are welcome.

Monday, November 11: Veterans

Day Observance at the Library. 10 am - Noon. Refreshments will be served.

Friday, November 15: Lunch at Roadside Cafe at noon. Reservations with Kathryn are encouraged.

Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, October 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the 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.

—Lin Saberski

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Beechdrops and Winter Ants

Local beech trees made the front-page news earlier this summer, with concerns for their leaves. Some combination of factors opened up the trees, or at least their leaves, to trouble that might have threatened the health of the trees. But beeches have had trouble for a long time in the form of an insect/fungus combination resulting in “beech bark disease.” The smooth pale grey bark of many beeches shows blisters, as the bark sort of scabs over the injury and the tree soldiers on. Lesions push the bark injury outwards and the cambium or inner bark is spared any real damage. These trees can grow and bloom, form seeds, and pass along their genetic ability to tolerate the bark disease.

Beeches can also reproduce asexually, sending up saplings from the roots. A big old tree often has many young saplings coming up all around it, beneath its shady branches. These will grow straight and tall. I have taken some for trellis-building in our nearby vegetable garden. I like twelve-foot poles to make tripods for pole beans. I lash them together at eight feet and let the top three feet stick way up above. The bottoms of the poles are spread apart and anchored to the ground.

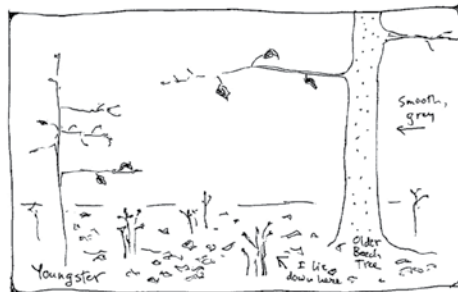
Besides harvesting poles from our beeches, I like to lie down under them and look up through the leaves to the sky. I am always looking for blossoms and beechnuts, and these only form way up high. I use binoculars.

Meanwhile, down on the ground right next to my bed on last year’s fallen leaves, something else is growing. These are the specifically dependent plants known as beechdrops. They are called obligate parasites, meaning they have only one host species, so they are “obliged” to grow in the soil over the roots of a beech tree. In this case, at this site, there are so many young saplings coming up it’s easy to picture a network of shallow roots.

Beechdrops are flowering plants, though they may look more like some kind of tall slim mushroom, as they have no chlorophyll. This is not to say they are without color. They are pink and brown and fawn, also purple. There is no green, though, so beechdrops cannot produce

their own food. They depend upon the trees to make sugar from sunlight, water, and chlorophyll. Fortunately, beech trees make plenty enough to share with the obligate neighbors down on the ground. These plants are five to eighteen inches tall, and their blossoms are white and purple, or maybe maroon. The shape of the flower is tubular, with pretty, little, short petals at the open end, but there are only a few pollinators the right shape to get in to where the nectar is and carry pollen to another blossom.

One such insect is the “winter ant.” This is a real ant, looking like many another, but one which likes cool weather. During the hot days of summer, winter ants go into a dormant state called estivation. They move way down in their tunnel,



which may go straight down for as much as ten feet. There are some side tunnels and chambers, but the reason for such a deep home is to stay cool. Some winter ants, living in the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, were seen up and active at 6° F. There may be 10,000 ants in one colony, and some of the adults are designated food storage specialists, carrying around liquid food supplies in their hind quarters. These become quite enlarged.

The winter ants also carry pollen

from one beechdrop to another, providing genetic mixing, which is always a good idea. But just in case there are no pollinators around, beechdrops can reproduce asexually like the trees. The beechdrop seeds which are produced by self-fertilization, by only one parent, form down near the ground. The ones that may be cross-pollinated by the ants are up at the top, handier for dispersal.

How do beechdrops get fed by a beech tree? They help themselves by sending out little filaments called haustoria that look like roots but which are designed to poke into the tree roots and get food for the plant. They go right through the cell walls and then carry nourishment back to the above-ground plant. Tree experts agree this is not harmful to the beech tree.

I am keeping my eyes open, hoping to see winter ants come along, once the weather cools off. I lie there admiring every aspect of the beech community: green leaves way up against the sky, pale dry leaves right under me where I am lying. Tall strong beech trunks of all sizes and age classes. And the delicate little flowering intermediates, beechdrops, growing in the shade in small clumps. Some early naturalists I’ve read manage to wax quite critical of any plant that does not produce its own food. “Nature brands every sinner somehow, and the loss of green from a plant’s leaves may be taken as a certain indicator that theft of another’s food stamps it with this outward sign of guilt.” (Neltje Blanchan, *Nature’s Garden*, 1900)

The more we hold still and watch, the more we will notice interaction, mutual aid and dependence, the balance of nature. All this thanks to remarkable adaptation, evolution, and biodiversity. Let us judge not.

—Bonner McAllester



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On the Road to Revolution – and Independence The Legislative Assembly of October 1774



As mentioned in an earlier article (July 2024), October 1774 was a pivotal time on the Road to Independence in Massachusetts and the Berkshires. A legislative assembly was scheduled to be held in Salem in October 1774, with delegates from each of the towns in the colony – the beginnings of the Commonwealth. During the spring and summer of 1774, the British Parliament had passed laws that dissolved the Massachusetts assembly and forbid even town meetings throughout the colony. In defiance of these “intolerable acts” by Parliament, the legislative assembly met in Salem. Among the delegates was Col. Giles Jackson of Tyringham.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony had a long history and tradition of self rule. Of course, there was a Royal Governor and other appointed ministers at the top of the colonial government, but the members of the General Court – the equivalent of our legislature – were elected by the voters. Parliament’s increasingly severe acts taking away the colonists’ property and rights as British Citizens inflamed the populace. Those in Boston and in the Berkshires who were advocating for independence from Great Britain raised their voices even louder, and

the population became more inflamed. That first “independent” Massachusetts legislative assembly in October 1774 set the stage for the events that would unfold seven months later in Concord and Lexington and the Declaration of Independence less than two years later.

Monterey Village History Walk and Presentation

The Monterey Historical Society and the Bidwell House Museum led a history walk through Monterey Village on Saturday, September 14. The walk was part of the Housatonic Heritage Walk program. Seventeen people attended the walk through Monterey Village, led by Rob Hoogs.

Rob explained how the village began as a small mill village, clustered around the saw mill and grist mill built by Capt. John Brewer in 1739 along the Konkapot River. One of the attendees was a Brewer who enjoyed walking in the footsteps of his relatives. 100 years later, in the late 1840s, the new Meeting House was built in the village, and Monterey separated from Tyringham. The village grew and became the center of town. Many of the homes along Main Road in the village were built during the 1850s, and many remain today, creating a mostly intact nineteenth century streetscape.

In the 1900s, the village prospered as Monterey became an early resort destination, with many of the old houses boarding summer guests, and stores and inns added to the village.

We got to peek inside several colonial-era houses. Kevin West, owner of the 1750

Capt. John Brewer House, gave the group a tour of the inside of this historic house and inn. (The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)



Kevin West describing the 1750 Capt. John Brewer House and Inn for the History Walk group.

A number of people were on the wait list for the September walk, so we may offer another village walk during October. If you’re interested, send an email to bidwellhouse@gmail.com. If ten or more people are interested, we’ll pick a date and let you know.

On Thursday, October 24, the Historical Society, in collaboration with the Monterey Historical Commission, will be hosting a program at the Monterey Library about the Monterey Village historic buildings. We hope to have a large turnout. Refreshments will be served. See the following article by the Historical Commission for more details.

Thank you for your interest in local history. 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

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Monterey Village Historic Buildings Presentation and Q&A: Monterey Historical Commission

The Monterey Historical Commission will be hosting an evening of history, information, fun – and dessert! – for all interested citizens of Monterey. The program will be at the Monterey Library on Thursday, October 24th, between 6:30 and 8:00. We are going to have a terrific program about the history of our beloved Monterey Village, some of the people who built it, and the buildings they built that today form the core of our town. Cookies and other goodies will be provided.

Rob Hoogs will start off with a slide show with old photos of some of the historic buildings in Monterey Village and stories about how the village developed around the mills in the middle 1800s, becoming an early resort community in the 1900s. We will hear about the houses up and down Main Road and how they reflect the story of Monterey. Did you know that the center of town is one of few intact nineteenth-century town centers in these parts? Do you know where a formerly enslaved man lived for most of his life? Whose house began life as Langdon’s barn for horses and wagons? Whose house had trees growing through the porch roof? Come and find out!

After the slide show, the Monterey Historical Commission will talk about the possibility of Monterey Village being named to the National Register as a Historic District. What would that mean?

Would it restrict any property owners in terms of use or alterations to their buildings? (spoiler alert: No, it wouldn’t.) How might the district potentially benefit property owners? How about the General Store? Would it make town-owned buildings in the district eligible for grants? What about the Meeting House?



We’ll open the program to questions and discussion. We would especially like to hear questions and comments from people who live in the proposed district who would be most directly affected by it. Such as: Would a Historic District affect my taxes? (It won’t at all.) Could I paint my house? (Yes.) Can I build a new addition? (Yes, and a whole new house.) Will the town be looking over my shoulder? (Nope.) What questions do you have? Bring them along.

This will be the first of several public meetings to discuss the possibility of forming a Historic District. The Historical Commission is in the process of seeking the assistance of a professional consultant to help us and property owners understand the possibilities. One of the first tasks for the consultant would be a public meeting to describe in much greater detail the Historic District nomination process, and to answer more questions. The consultant would be paid primarily from ARPA funds allocated by the Select Board, supplemented by a

grant from Housatonic Heritage and about \$4,000 we are requesting be appropriated by the town at the upcoming Special Town Meeting on November 2.



We hope many village property owners will attend this program since they have a personal stake in this discussion. But the program is intended to be of interest to anyone in town.



And remember, we will also have desserts of all sorts, so c’mon out after dinner for a cookie or a cupcake, or maybe something else...a “Tea Room Tart?” Come chat with your neighbors, hang out, and let’s have some fun. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

—Monterey Historical Commission: Rob Hoogs, John Higgins, Suzy León, Barbara Swann, Bob Rausch

(Note: the Monterey Historical Commission is a town committee appointed by the Select Board for the preservation, promotion and development of the historical assets of the Town of Monterey. The commission is distinct from the Monterey Historical Society, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a related but separate mission and membership.)

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Fall Haiku

After Labor Day,
When the water is cooler,
There are no lifeguards.

After “back to school,”
When warm days are a blessing,
Sun rays blind, not warm.

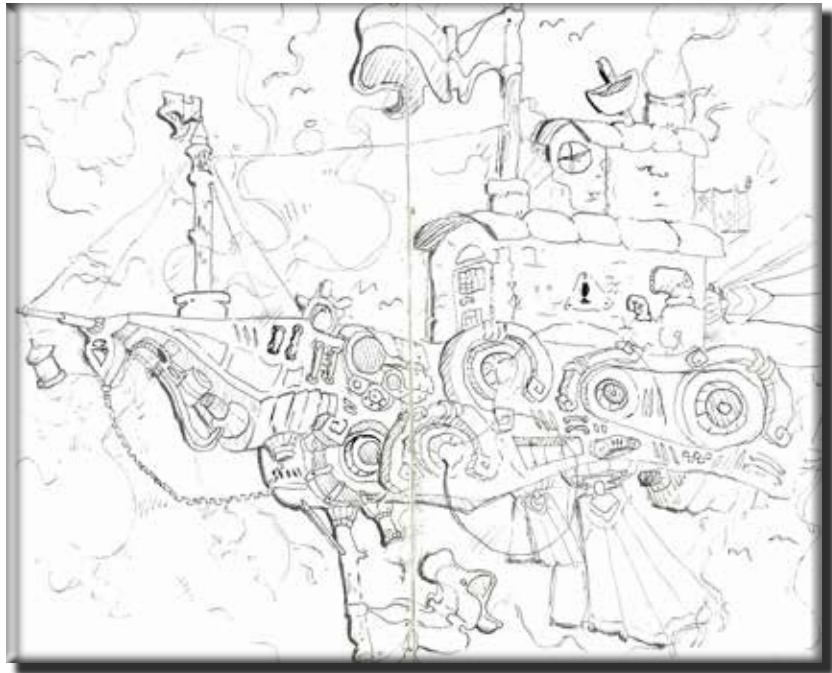
After September,
The tree leaves match the pumpkins-
Sold in the market.

After our brisk walk,
When the sun is barely there,
My fingers are numb.

After Halloween,
My hands are filled with candy,
Yours hold a toothbrush.

After November,
Fall weather turns to winter,
Leaves covered in frost.

—Cece Birch



Airship, top, by Augie Mudridge Neilson, of Monterey. And above, Window, by Phoebe Tryon, of Monterey.



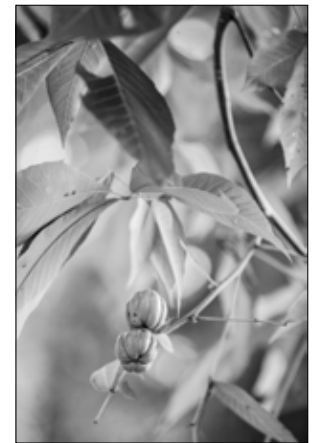
Cece Birch, 15, is a sophomore at Newton North High School. She likes to read, bake, bike and ski, and plays the violin and piano. She has been swimming in Lake Garfield since age five. In the winter, she is a ski instructor assistant at Ski Butternut.



Philip Enoch, 16, completed the Josh Billings RunAground on September 15 as an Ironman. The triathlon consisted of bicycling for 27 miles; kayak/canoe/paddleboarding for five miles; and running for 6.4 miles.



Playground, by Connor Simeone (above).



(left) Shagbark hickory, *Carya ovata*, on Brett Road, and (above) detail of the edible nut, both by Kevin West.

Monterey Lights
the Holidays
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Bidwell House Museum



Heather Kowalski

As the weather cools and the leaves change, October ushers in a beautiful season at the Bidwell House Museum! Whether you are interested in seeing the 1760s manse, hiking the trails or wandering the grounds

in search of the most vibrant leaves, there is something for everyone this month. You can visit the house, by appointment, through the end of October, so make your reservation soon. These hour-long guided tours take place on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at either 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. Call the Museum at 413-528-6888 or email us at bidwellhm2@gmail.com to make your appointment.



As we have done in recent years, we are planning to offer a few special tours in November, after the official end of the house tour season. These tours by “candlelight,” followed by a small wine and cheese reception, have been a wonderful way to share the house and celebrate the end of the season, before we close for the winter months. Registration will open on the Museum website later this month, so be sure to check back as all of these special tours sold out quite quickly in 2022 and 2023.

The Museum program calendar has begun to wind down but we have an upcoming program we want to share. On **Saturday, November 9** at 6 p.m., we are partnering with the Stockbridge Library to present a talk and film about Daniel Nimham. In 2020, sculptor Michael Keropian was commissioned by the Town

of Fishkill, New York to create an eight-foot-tall bronze monument to Nimham. In *The Creation of the Daniel Nimham Sculpture*, Keropian narrates the life of Daniel Nimham as he takes the viewer on an informative journey through the complicated and eye-opening process of creating a larger-than-life representational sculpture. Both Keropian and filmmaker Jeff Hodges will be at the Stockbridge Library to introduce the film and answer audience questions. Both of these events require pre-registration, which can be done on the Museum website at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/events.

Finally, we are hoping to hold a grounds clean-up day in late October to get the gardens ready for winter. Tasks will include raking leaves, cutting back some plants and moving outdoor pots, benches and chairs indoors. If you are interested in helping out, contact the Museum at bidwellhouse@gmail.com. As always, we are so grateful for the help of all of our Monterey friends!

Happy Fall, everyone!

—Heather Kowalski

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November Special Town Meeting

In accordance with this May Annual Town Meeting's vote to standardize a November Town Meeting, the Select Board will be calling a Special Town Meeting for Saturday, November 2, at 1:30 p.m. in the fire station. Please take some time to review the Warrant and explanatory cover letter, which will be posted in hard copy at the usual locations, available on the town website, and mailed to each voter household. We hope to see you there.

—Justin Makuc



Lake Garfield Autumn, left, by John Camp.

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Bidwell Summer Party attendees: Chris and Karen Traynor (top), Barbra Bell, Joanne McTavish, and Kathryn Roberts (middle), Cathy Shields, Katherine Walker, and Delight Dodyk (above).



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Here's a Thought...

None of us know how bright the fall colors will be this month but, brilliant or subdued, October always manages a rerun.

Time for a Re-Run

Sifting through old files, I found the text of my *Monterey News* article from November 2020. Here's its last half, the best I have to offer this month, or any other.

...Your connection to the Central World Tree may be Yggdrasil, the Rood of Christ, or Shel Silverstein's small book. Whether your cathedral is the forest, the basilica, the temple, the mosque, or the library, it's when an old cycle is dying and a new cycle is coming into being that guidance is most needed.

Enter Gabriel. In all three Abrahamic religions, Gabriel brings word of momentous change to the world. And Gabriel's still around, tradition says, ready to sound his horn to wake us up to the times we live in.

What if, no matter how the current news and the parallel news to come, strikes any of us, we decide to dance to the music of our lives free of hatred? What if the next steps in our cultural history depend on how we, yes, you and I, respond to the here and now?

The words to *Gabriel's Horn*, below, are some song lyrics I started working on in September 2020. Read them with an open mind and heart, in whatever rhythmic dance patterns appeal to you.



Gabriel's Horn

What if we knew what we were getting into?

Agreed to be here now, before we were born?

What if we promised to dance to this music but forgot the rhythms in Gabriel's horn?

We forgot we're the rhythms in Gabriel's horn.

Ask Brother Martin. He still can tell you radical love was the heart of his plan.

What if we promised we'd travel that highway

but we forgot -- decided not -- to follow the man?

We forgot -- decided not -- to follow. Tattered and torn

we forgot we're the rhythms in Gabriel's horn.

Ask Sister Ruth. I'm sure she'll tell you mercy and justice were always her goal. What if we promised we'd carry her burden but forgot our own strength, deep in the soul?

We forgot our own strength, tattered and torn.

We forgot we're the rhythms in Gabriel's horn.

What if we knew what we were getting into?

Agreed to be here now, before we were born?

What if we promised to dance to this music but forgot the rhythms in Gabriel's horn?

We forgot we're the rhythms in Gabriel's horn.

And if we had no clue in what we were in for,

even if it's happenstance that we were born, well, here we are. Let's dance to the music.

Dance to the rhythms in Gabriel's horn. Let's dance. We're the rhythms in Gabriel's horn.

Let's dance. We're the rhythms in Gabriel's horn.

— Mary Kate Jordan



Hunter Andrus performed originals and old favorites to an appreciative crowd at the library in September.



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Northern Lights,
by Bob Carlson.



Supermoon over Lake Buel,
by Barbara Bean.



Supermoon,
by Bonsai Cox.



Northern Lights, by John Kemp.



Northern Lights, by Ned Castille.



Supper Club

*Baked potatoes, chili fries, applesauce, and more;
Roasted veg, potato quiche, pork tenderloin...total score.*

I don't think my plate has ever been as piled as it was at last month's Supper Club. The theme was Apples to Apples Potatoes, and it resulted in a roasted, baked, diced, and iced combination of dishes, highlighting the tubers and tree candy that couldn't be more in season this time of year.

Quick side note: Ilene Marcus's chili fries were so perfectly spiced, and I'm still basking in their deliciousness almost two weeks later—Ilene, I demand the recipe for your chili.

In addition to the dishes aforementioned, there were several different variations of roasted potatoes: garlic, a medley with roasted beets, brussels, and other root veggies, curry and cauliflower, and another



that involved melt-in-your-mouth brisket. And as usual, I had arrived a little late to dinner (hey man, baked potato bars don't make themselves) and was bumming as Roberta Weiss helped me pick out the last pieces of meat from her slow-cooked beef dish. Little did I know I would have the opportunity to dig into an entire four-quart casserole dish of it later that week when I went to her house for dinner.

It was probably a good thing there wasn't much left though, as I needed a lot of room on my plate to surround my loaded baked potato with not one, but TWO different kinds of roasted pork tenderloin with apples and onions, which were both top-notch, and I was able to snag the last piece of sweet potato quiche...I'm not sure who made this, but it was something to write home about. If only I had the recipe...

Dear Mystery Quiche Master,

Your quiche was splendid.

Egging you on,

Hanna

There were latkes, a caramelized onion and mashed potato pastry, a zucchini dish, and two different kinds of applesauce. The applesauce was on the dinner buffet, although it very well could have accompanied the sweet potato layer cake and apple cider doughnut cake on the dessert cart (yes, dessert cart—this is a five-star supper club, didn't you know?)

This was a truly fantastic meal, and my leftovers really were all that and a bag of potato chips. Thanks to all for another great palate pleasing plate. Speaking of palates, I start taking in the splotches of color that have started showing up on trees leading up to the first day of fall; a lovely

smattering of color that I find fascinating. The colors are vibrant and ever changing; each trip passing a single tree results in a



different picture. I feel privileged to witness this. NATURE IS SO COOL.

Day by day, more and more color replaces the green that we've seen since spring, and then all of a sudden, BAM. It's straight-up leaf season.

It's a good thing the trees are so pretty, because the state of my garden is starting to look a little ragged. The vines turn yellow before brown as they shrivel their way to death, giving their all to push out the last fruits of the year. There are veggies on the ground, hiding under those dying leaves, and I'm grateful for not squishing them as I go about my personal harvest. It seems like everywhere I go the kitchen counters, tables, and fridges are brimming with cukes, tomatoes, kale, peppers, leeks, beets, chard, beans...and SQUASH.

This month for supper club we will dedicate our meal to the cucurbits in our lives with the theme, Don't Squish the Squash! Summer, zucchini, butternut, acorn, delicata, and spaghetti only skim the surface of how many of these glorious and versatile ingredients that are 100% palate pleasing in either sweet or savory dishes.

We'll dig in around 6 p.m. in the church basement on Monday, October 14. You butternut forget to RSVP, it's required. Please email supperclubmonterey@gmail.com to be added to the list.

—Hanna Jensen

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Making (Internet) Connections: Helping Monterey Allocate its Digital Equity Funding

My name is Aleesha Siddiqui. Some of you might recognize me as the girl who infiltrates local events with a big sign that says “Digital Equity” on it. I graduated from Colby College in Maine back in June and jumped right into an internship at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). This fall, I applied for and was accepted into the AmeriCorps Lead for America program, which means I’ll be continuing my work with BRPC as a Lead for America Fellow for the next year.

Both my previous role as an intern and my current position as a fellow require me to learn as much as I can about community members’ internet and computer needs so BRPC can help towns write municipal digital equity plans. The work I’m doing at BRPC is actually part of a larger statewide digital equity effort by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). The funding for digital equity plans comes from Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

As Stephen Moore explained in his piece, Monterey has decided to create a digital equity plan. As a result, MBI will award the town \$56,603 toward implementing the most critical digital equity recommendations. There are seven implementation categories funding can be put toward (see: <https://broadband.masstech.org/digital-equity-implementation>), for example:

- Increasing staff capacity to address residents’ internet challenges by bringing in a part-time “digital navigator” to troubleshoot tech questions and teach digital skills.
- Providing fast and free internet service in popular outdoor or indoor spaces to ensure service is available in places where cell service is poor in case of emergencies.
- Providing free or low-cost computer devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones to people who can’t afford to buy them themselves.

At the Monterey Digital Equity charrette, we created an online Google document where people can add their funding recommendations. This document will be

open for edits by anyone in Monterey until October 21. You can find the document at



Aleesha Siddiqui, left, Wylie Goodman, right.

this LINK: rb.gy/b5tb7o.

Another way to ensure the plan reflects your needs is to take MBI’s Internet for All Survey (LINK: bit.ly/BCInternet). The information you share about your internet service, monthly internet service rate, and feelings of safety online will be instrumental in helping us craft an

informed plan.

Don’t forget, you can always bring your digital questions and concerns directly to me- it’s part of my job, after all. Coming from a small town myself, I know one of the best things about living in a place like Monterey is the unique opportunity residents have to make their voices heard, so why not use your voice to help close the digital divide?

— Aleesha Siddiqui

AmeriCorps Lead for America
Fellow, Berkshire Regional
Planning Commission
asiddiqui@berkshireplanning.org,
(413) 442-1521 x 33

Brainstorming Recommendations?

To add your comments, enter the link into your browser (Google Chrome, Apple Safari, etc.): rb.gy/b5tb7o

MBI’s Internet for All Survey: bit.ly/BCInternet



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Jamie Bogdanoff Old Timers Day

For those that couldn't make it, the first annual Jamie Bogdanoff Old Timers Day was a huge success! It was iffy whether a game would take place as only five eager silver haired hoopers graced the asphalt at the appointed time. But lo and behold, Greg Carnese arrived to round out the roster. Some questioned his eligibility as he was the only player with a flowing black mane. But upon inspection of his tattered AARP card, he was indeed a qualified player. After some debate, the six players split the teams and decided on a three-on-three half-court game as opposed to full. Ron O. hit the first shot of the game, a fifteen-footer just outside the paint. Invigorated by a full fan club and entourage in the stands cheering him on, Ron hit another shot with the crowd starting to whisper "you can only hope to contain him."

As joints started to creak and loosen, other players joined in the scoring column. Cousin Eric, no relation to Cousin It, scored on one of his patented underhand scoop shots. Steve Aronson hit a high arcing pull up from the left baseline that the crowd knew was money good the moment it left his hands. Jay Amidon, who supposedly retired from the next generation game, yet still finds his way to the court most Sunday mornings, buried a few of his

patented step-in shots. Greg Carnese found his touch and buried the longest shot of the day, a jump shot from just inside that arc that I personally would have awarded two points for though no one asked me.

As players tired, Scott Gervas subbed in and provided a much needed respite for the fatigued despite sneakers that were about as old as him. His Chuck Taylors,




(l to r) Eric Kaplan, Scott Jervas, Jay, Steve Aronson, Ron Oppenheimer, Randy Gelbard, Greg Carnese.

who one player quipped "were likely worn by Chuck Taylor," tore irreparably early in the game. Undeterred, Scott likely achieved a first by wearing work boots to finish the contest. The game was a tight one, and with one team up ten to nine, and players tightening, it took one man willing to put his team on his shoulders to carry them over the edge.

Despite being held scoreless for the morning, Randy Gelbard was stealthily assessing the defense looking for the weakness. And he found it, with a crafty back-door cut past his defender he received the pass and confidently buried the lay up from the left side. What a day—no injuries, no heart attacks, all survived to tell the tale. And here is the picture as proof that this whole event did indeed happen. Hope to see all the players return for the Second Annual Jaime Bogdanoff Old Timers Day next year.


— Rob Kaplan



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Valerie Zantay and Byron Gilderdale were married July 5 in Monterey celebrating with a wedding containing a mixture of Jewish and Scottish heritage. (See poem by Byron, p. 25.)



Leah Saberski, daughter of Lin Saberski, married Cody Sumpter in a beautiful and tender ceremony in Heltonville, Indiana on September 28. A wonderful time was had by all!



Emelia Fedell (daughter of Thérèse and Robert Fedell) and Justin Makuc (son of Mary and Mark Makuc) were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, September 7 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Stockbridge. A reception with dinner and dancing followed at Camp Wa Wa Segowea in Southfield. The Makucs honeymooned in Maine and now reside in Monterey.



Monterey friends gather to celebrate the wedding of Don and Roberta Hutcher's daughter (Zoe Hutcher married Doug Hirschhorn at Harrington Farm in Princeton, Mass). Lto R: Chris & Denise Carnese, Lisa & Keith LePack, Garry, Donna & Zac Klein, Greg & Shannon Carnese, Yvonne & Jon Gumowit, Roberta & Bob Epstein.



Woodburning, by Chris Carnese.



Wildlife Report

Late in August Maureen Banner sent in a photograph of a moth with colorful underwings (below). There are several species with such flashy wings. This one is called a yellow-banded underwing moth and its caterpillars especially love to eat the leaves of basswood trees.



Karen Schulze lives on New Marlborough Road and keeps a wildlife camera in the woods near them. She sent a photograph of a good-looking coyote (below) and says she and Peter have been seeing two of them in their field. She also men-



tions that “we have rabbits.”

Also along New Marlborough Road, Rocky Greenberg took a fine close-up



photo of a red-tailed hawk (below) perched in a tree. Maybe both the hawk and the coyote have gotten wind of the Schulzes’ rabbits.

In the Stevens Pond neighborhood, Carl Hartman found a red-backed salamander (below) on the basement door and sent



in a photograph. Another Stevens Pond neighbor was visited by a bear and her cub (below). He took their photograph and wrote that they were “as usual: calm and



serene. They both took long drinks from our birdbath/fountain and moseyed on.”

Colta Ives sent a photograph of a bedstraw hawk moth (below) and writes, “There is always something out there to



keep us grounded.” These moths are members of the sphinx group. Their caterpillars eat all sorts of things including bedstraw;



the adult moths like flower nectar.

Jon Sylbert saw a bear (below), “a handsome specimen,” at his place and took a video.

Our own bear neighbor here on Hupi Road comes over from Beartown State Forest from time to time, giving our dog Rocky something to yarp about. We feel these two know each other well.

Thanks, folks, for your photographs and observations.

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

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A Highland Wedding in the Berkshire Mist

In Berkshire's highlands, wrapped in mist,
Where ancient oaks and shadows twist,
Two hearts unite as fate insists,
Beneath the rising moon's soft bliss.

A chuppah in the valley's heart,
Where leaning birch trees stand apart,
With stone walls kissed by ivy's grace,
The perfect setting in this place

The bagpipes call from misty glens,
Echoing o'er the ancient bens,
A melody both bold and sweet,
Where true love and tradition meet

The heather blooms in purple pride,
As clans unite from far and wide.
With tartan kilts and crests displayed,
A legacy of love conveyed.

Clan Cameron gathers, proud and true,
Their tartans bold, in crimson hue,
They watch as love, so pure and new,
Unfolds beneath the evening dew.

Sweet flower girls, like fairies swirl,
In bubbles' flight, they dance and swirl,
Their laughter filled with gentle glee,
That floats upon the evening breeze.

Their petals scatter, soft and bright,
In the Highlands' mystic light,
As love and joy take gentle flight,
Upon the impending twilight.

The groom stands tall, with heart laid bare,
His Cameron kilt, a statement fair,
With vows of love beyond compare,
Their souls will be forever shared.

The bride walks down a petal path,
Her smile as bright as morning's laugh.
Her gown as white as winter's snow,
Her eyes alight with love's warm glow.

With family near, they clasp their hands,
Bound by ancient handfast bands,
The cords entwine with magic strands,
Together forever hand in hand.

The infinity knot tied with care.
A bond both bold and fair.
Symbols of a love divine,
Ancient vows in whispers sign,

Now with a glass, beneath their feet
A Jewish tradition old and deep.
The past holds both joys and tears.
Its strength will guide them through the years.

With glass and chuppah, they remind
That through their love, they must be kind.
For each shard a prayer is cast,
May love and peace ever last.

The whisky flows, the toasts arise,
With laughter shared beneath the skies,
The stars bear witness, shining true,
To love that's deep and ever new.

The Celtic band begins to play,
As laughter fills the golden day.
The reel, the jig, the lively dance,
A celebration of romance

In the Berkshire Highlands, green and grand,
A love is pledged, a life is planned.
With every step, their spirits blend
in timeless love that knows no end.

By Byron Gilderdale

October Contributions

Margaret and Clinnis Dudley
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Thank you for your generous contributions. For fifty years, the *Monterey News* has been free to the community because of donors like you.

Thank you for helping us continue this tradition.



Fall, by Tika Roland Snyder.

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 by email.



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October in History

A lot worth remembering/pondering occurred in the past during the month of October:

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T automobile, designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time and over the course of its production from 1908 to 1927 became our most significant technological, industrial, and cultural change agent.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and was known for opposing the death penalty and championing free speech and civil rights.

October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 6, 1927 - The movie *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson -- the world's first full-length feature film with spoken -- i.e., audible -- dialogue -- opened in NYC.

October 12, 1492 - After a 33-day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas.

October 11, 1939 - Albert Einstein sent a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt warning that Nazi Germany might develop an atomic bomb and suggested the U.S. develop its own bomb. The U.S.

began its secret "Manhattan Project" which led to the U.S. developing such a bomb and ending WWII by dropping two of them on Japan.

October 16, 1916 - Margaret Sanger, a nurse working among the poor on NYC's Lower East Side, opened the country's first birth control clinic in Brooklyn.

October 28, 1636 - Harvard College, the U.S.'s oldest institution of higher education, was founded in Cambridge, MA and later named for John Harvard, a Puritan teacher, preacher and philanthropist who, in a deathbed oral will dictated to his wife, left half his fortune and his library to the college. The college had been created (but not yet built) two years earlier by an act of the legislature of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

October 16, 1701 - Yale College was founded in Killingworth, CT as the Collegiate School of CT, moved to New Haven in 1716 and, in 1886, became Yale University.

October 17, 1777 - During our War of Independence, British General John Burgoyne and his 5700-man army surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American win in the colonials' struggle to achieve independence and what was later perceived as the turning point in a war which had previously been seen by many foreign observers as a likely British victory.

October 26, 1825 - The Erie Canal opened as the first major man-made

waterway in America, linking Lake Erie and points west with the Hudson River and NYC, thereby bypassing the British-controlled lower St. Lawrence River. The canal took eight years to complete and made NYC the country's most significant international port.

October 21, 1879 - Thomas Edison tested an electric incandescent lamp bulb with a carbonized filament at his Menlo Park lab, keeping it continuously lit for 13 hours.

October 24, 1861 - The first U.S. transcontinental telegram was sent from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. addressed to President Abraham Lincoln.

October 24, 1945 - The United Nations was founded.

October 27, 1904 - NYC's first subway began operations, running from City Hall in Manhattan to West 145th Street, the world's first underground/underwater rail system.

—Publius



Bidwell Summer Party: Peter and Linnea (board member) Grealish (top). Group listens as Frank Kern reads remarks honoring Rick Wilcox.



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October Happenings

This is a very small sampling of the events happening in and near Monterey. If you are interested in helping with a town calendar, please write montereynews9@gmail.com.

Community center calendar on page 9.
Council on aging calendar on page 10.

Monday, Oct. 14: Supper Club in the church basement. Don't Squish the Squash! See page 20.

Thursday, October 24: Paint or Draw with Beth Hoffman. 10 a.m. to noon at the community center.

Friday, October 25: Pat Badt's *On View* opens at Knox Gallery.

Through Oct 31: Guided tours of the Bidwell House on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at either 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. See page 16.

Saturday, November 2: Special Town Meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the fire station.

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MontereyMA.gov

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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Frank Abbott
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(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.

Police Emergency Contacts

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

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us

- Police dispatch service number:

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

528-3211

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

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(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
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Community Center: 528-3600
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Sun., Oct. 6, 4 pm • BILL TAYLOR AND FRIENDS

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Oct. 13 – Nov. 10 • WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Opening reception 4-5:30. Slideshow / talk by **Amy Arbus**, world renowned award-winning photographer. Free.

Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am • TRANSFORMING CARE DURING SERIOUS ILLNESS

Talk by **Diane Meier, MD**, Director Emerita & Strategic Advisor of the Center to Advance Palliative Care. \$10

Sat., Oct. 19, 7 pm • BOBBY SWEET IN THE CABARET

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