



VOLUME 21 NUMBER 2

JUNE/JULY 2000

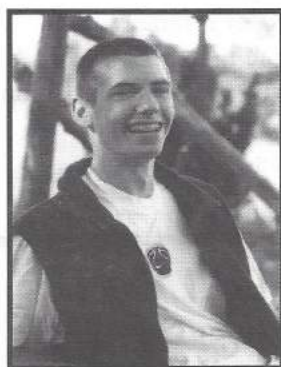
HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

75¢

Congratulations, Graduates!
The Heath Herald Salutes You!

~Heath Graduates of Mohawk Trail High School~



Carl Ayers



Joana Gomes
Baptista Bontempo



Lindi Donelson



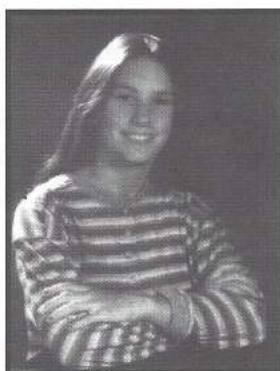
Rebecca Holden



Katelyn Litchfield



Lara Thane



In Memory of
Jillian Gilbert

Not pictured: Christina
Beaudoin, Zhaymar Dayub

~Heath Elementary Sixth Grade Class~

Seated: Pauline Cerone, Maria Lively, Shannon Archambault, Rita Marcotte, Caleb DeLisle, Meisha Begin Standing: Teacher: Stephen Bechtel, Anna Armstrong, Lisa Crowningshield, Jeremiah Montgomery-Thompson, Christopher Vilbon, Joel Singley, Christopher Geyster-Missing from photo: Jennifer Godbout



**Good luck
in your
pursuits!**

BETWEEN NEIGHBORS...

June is a time of rebirth, of magical, marvelous growth and change. It is also a time when high school, elementary school, and college students can step out like a chrysalis unfolding its wings. Its wings are viscous and shaky like many students of life looking back on the comforts of what they knew to be safe and secure. Also, the wings are strong and powerful and ready for flight. It is this change that never fails to amaze. June is a time for letting go – quietly, without rejecting, easing the grip of old habits and ideas. How we get anything at all accomplished is the amazing thing! It is astonishing, when you think about it, how many people are graduated, couples are married, and babies are born during this enchanting month! We need to honor and grieve those who pass away and thus bring the month of rebirth full circle. So we journey into our "School's Out" issue with happy photographs, memories, and hopes for the future.

We invite you to read about the wonderful Longhouse project that Mary Vilbon discusses in some detail. This project was a true community effort. Pat Leuchtman was working overtime with her superb reporting on the GOALS 2000 Grant, the Mary Vilbon interview, and her poignant Memoriam for Michael Bakalar who passed away at the end of May. We have a new contributor in the person of Tim Luce, our principal at the Heath Elementary School. Welcome! Bob Gear makes us feel the excitement as Heath readies for the fair on August 18th, 19th, and 20th. All the other columns and special contributions in this issue are sure to please, make you think, and keep you informed. And finally, we know that summer has truly arrived with Joanne Fortune's timely warnings about Lyme Ticks!

...summer is on its throne, playing its string-music; the willow, whose harp hung silent when it was withered in winter, now gives forth its melody ~ Hush! Listen! The world is alive.

Thomas Telynog Evans, 'Winter and Summer'

Until we meet again,
Lea Banks Bohrer

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General Information: The Heath Elementary School is happy to provide children in our community unique programming that is fun and exciting! The staff of the summer program is CPR and First Aid-certified. To register for the summer programs and for more information, call the Heath School at 337-5307.



We Want You!

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Join our amazing volunteer staff who faithfully publish Heath's 21-year old newspaper, *The Heath Herald*. We print 6 times a year, every 2 months. We need you to take the articles on disc, photos, and Email and transfer them to

Adobe PageMaker. Design skills, ability to retrieve information from a word processing program or disc, text placement, photo and advertisement insertions, and the final design of the newspaper is required.

Actual layout should take no more than 8-12 hours per issue depending on skill. This could be a shared position.

If interested in this position, please contact
Lea Bohrer, Managing Editor at 337-0217.

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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Don Dekker, Joanne Fortune, Robert Gear, Pegge Howland,
Pat Leuchtman, Tim Lively, Tim Luce, Anne-Marie Lucid,
Colin Lucid, Edith Royer, Karyn Skiathitis, Carroll Stowe,
Todd Sumner, Mary Vilbon

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ADVERTISING RATES – Display ads: \$4.80 per column inch (discounts on six or more insertions)

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Send all correspondence to:

The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054.

HEATH LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by Bob Dane

The Heath Land Preservation Committee is off to a great start. We have helped facilitate the preservation of the Dickinson Farm and begun a successful fund raising effort. We would like to thank all who have played a part, both large and small. We are pleased with the results of our efforts thus far, but we realize there is much to be done to preserve the beautiful landscape of Heath, and we must move quickly before some of the last agricultural land in town is developed.

The Dickinson Farm has been preserved from development under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. Ralph and Howard Dickinson have sold the development rights to the Franklin Land Trust, who will then sell them to the State APR Program. This beautiful farm will now remain undeveloped in perpetuity. The Dickinsons have again shown that they are leaders of our community with their generous and warm-hearted spirit and their desire to see their land preserved.

As part of the effort to preserve the Dickinson Farm and other significant parts of the Heath landscape, we have raised almost \$70,000 in donations, loans and pledges. This is a giant step towards our initial goal of \$100,000. Many people have come forward to help preserve the rural character of the town we love. We would like to hear from more of you! A donor has announced that he or she will match the next \$15,000 we raise, to bring us to our goal within the first year. Please consider making a gift or loan to our preservation fund. Your generosity will help us twofold.

Please help us in our efforts to preserve the rural character of Heath. Donations are tax-deductible. Also consider placing a Conservation Restriction on your property or donating open land to a conservation organization to ensure that what is now wild will ever be so. For more information contact Mark Zenick at the Franklin Land Trust, 628-4696, or one of the HLPC members: Jack Cable, Bob Dane, Dave Freeman, Dick Gary, Bill Gran, Alastair Maitland or Del Viarengo.

A CARD OF THANKS

From Ruth Corey

To the many friends who enriched the life of Olin Whipple: your many "drop in for coffee" visits and numerous phone calls brightened up his days, giving him the opportunity to reminisce, to ponder the future, and for a time, to forget about his pain. For the kindnesses and support extended to his family and myself, a heartfelt thank you.

HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Millennial Centennial Alert

by Pegge Howland

Plans for the 100th birthday of the Heath Historical Society, its Millennial Centennial, are taking shape rapidly. The Board of Directors along with many local participants are working hard to bring you an event to be long remembered. We are going to call it "Old Home Day" named after "Old Home Week" which was held July 27-30, 1902, and was the first event the newly formed Society sponsored. Over 500 people signed the guest book that week! With your help, we hope to match that in one day. Our event will take place on Saturday, July 22, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Heath Center, rain or shine.

All our historic town buildings, the Old Town House, the Old Schoolhouse, the Library, the Church, and the Community Hall, will be open all day with displays of art, old photos, old post cards, HHS publications, and our new HHS note paper. Then there will be some special events all day long to whet your interest - a 19th century fashion show, a variety show, and a band concert. The Heath Ladies Aide will have their annual Fair and will provide a "light lunch." There will be a large tent put up on the town green under which will be displays and sales of Heath crafts and business products. To fill in between, there will be children's games, storytelling, a hat-making contest, and a cakewalk. Then to whet your appetite, there will be food concessions and a Ham Buffet Supper. The Heath Historical Society Annual Meeting followed by a well-known speaker will wrap up the day's activities.

Sounds like something for everybody so please mark your calendars - Saturday, July 22 - for Heath's Old Home Day.

P.S. If anyone has an act or a display they want to be considered or just want to help out in some way, please call me at 337-4980 or E-mail me at howlandd@crocker.com. We would love to include you!

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ASSESSORS REPORT

by Don Dekker

It is said that the Assessors "set the tax rate." While it is true that we have the responsibility to do so, we really manipulate the figures given us. The town voters decide at the annual meeting just what the town wants to spend. Of course, many expenditures are really decided earlier such as the school budgets, salaries, and fixed costs. The Town Clerk is responsible for giving the Assessors the amount to be raised. The Town Accountant gives the amounts received from the state as well as those raised by the town, from the Department of Motor Vehicles excise, fees, etc. to the Assessors.

After this total is subtracted from the budget, we have the amount raised from taxes, which is applied against the value of all property owned in the town and a tax bill results.

Determining the value of property – assessing - is what we really do. Values are adjusted every three years and are based on sales. Cost tables are similarly adjusted periodically. The state each third year checks to see that all these procedures are followed and certifies this.

After I was elected the first time, I wondered why the Assessors had this responsibility of setting the tax rate. We are not town administrators and know little about budgets, cash flow, etc. So at the Assessor's class, I asked that question. Assessors have the responsibility due to history and the reluctance of past assessors to give up power. In the past, after the town meeting decided on what is wanted to spend for the upcoming year, the assessors would go out and assess

the value of all holdings in the town which includes each home place valued at \$10.00 each (except for mansions which were more) each field at \$5.00, as well as the animals – milk cows, hens, hogs, etc. – for animals then meant income: butter from the cows, ham and bacon from hogs, eggs from hens. After evaluation, the assessors would then determine what the tax rate would have to be in order to raise the money needed by the town. Then bills were sent.

This back then was a big responsibility. As times changed and the value of homes and land became the real basis of taxation, the Assessors from habit and tradition and reluctance to give up a large responsibility, kept "setting the tax rate." We should probably give the value of the town to the executive staff and let them do it, but I bet tradition will not change soon. So, nominally, we do it, but in reality, Joe Boudreau from the Springfield office of the Department of Revenue comes up and sets the tax rate for us as a service provided by the state. We almost totally concentrate on the evaluation of property and keeping track of that.

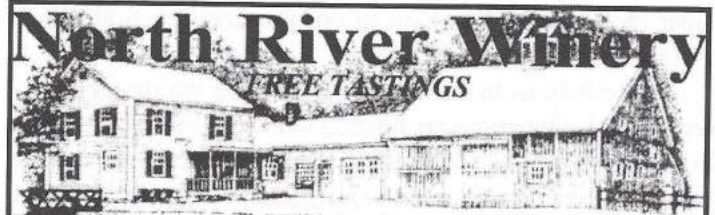
Do you like to write? Perhaps you enjoy photographing or drawing your town. Give the Heath Herald's staff a call or

Email Lea at saleda@crocker.com if you are interested in joining our town's "first newspaper." One time only or first time contributions are more than welcome. If you have any ideas for stories or columns, please let us know. After all, this is a community paper and it's *your* community! We'd be happy to hear from you.

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HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

Our May meeting was held on Wednesday the tenth and several projects were discussed and initiated. Most important was the kitchen-remodeling project for which work was begun on May 17. We have started demolition work and within the next several weeks the kitchen will have a new floor, washable plastic walls, a three-bay commercial sink, and many minor amenities, which will make the kitchen a more pleasant and efficient place in which to work.

The rabbit and chicken exhibit building is being totally repainted and as well as undergoing some minor repairs. At this time we are discussing an addition to this building to accommodate the large waterfowl exhibits we have begun to get in conjunction with the chickens. For several years we have been trying to complete a building to shelter the livestock scales at the pulling pit, and we think we can at least get a roof on if not actually complete this building this year.

The Heath Volunteer Fire Department has approached us with an idea for a joint venture through which we will erect a roof and vent system over the new barbecue pit. Eventually we will also work together to build an adjacent roof over the eating area which will eliminate the need to rent a tent every year.

Work parties are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evenings. If you would like to help out come over about six p.m. or give me a call at 337-4844 to find out more. The above projects are ambitious but they are within reach. We can always use help. Please feel welcome to participate.

On the first weekend of August, we will again host the Yankee Beemers' annual New England Rally. The Yankee Beemers are a BMW Motorcycle Club. Last year this was a great success. The Beemers are the best bunch of people that have ever rented the grounds, and they have proved to be an asset to the entire community. The ladies from the Heath Union Church will be running the food concessions, and the firemen will host the Saturday night barbecue. This is a financial boost to both of these organizations. Additionally, the Beemers spend a lot of money in the community by patronizing local businesses, a good deal for the entire town.

The music lineup for the Fair is great, a wide mix of different styles to suit every taste. Eddie Forman's Polka Band

proved to be one of the biggest musical attractions we've ever had, and we will be having them back again this year. It's possible that we will have a wooden dance floor as well.

The fair this year is on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of August. The next issue of the Herald just before the Fair will have a detailed account of all the musical acts and other exciting attractions which we hope will make this new Millennium Fair the best yet. So stay tuned.

HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

by Pastor Colin and Anne-Marie Lucid

We've had some active times on Sunday afternoons at Youth Group. Our basketball and hockey games are only for the very brave who also have a sense of humor. We have approximately seventeen teens joining us at Heath School for sports, prayer, and Bible study. Some of our group are young adults who are in college but refuse to leave us so have become youth leaders. The rest of the group are from grades 7-12, and many of our teens come from surrounding towns.

We play sports for about an hour and then proceed to find our candy-filled pet egg. During our meeting time we get into our calendar, prayer, and Bible Study.

In the past, the Youth Group has sponsored a "Creation Seminar," two separate retreats (male and female) on "Purity and Dating," a Youth Rally at Mohawk High School, a town Easter Egg Hunt, Parents Time-Out, and our RACK attacks (Random Acts of Compassion and Kindness). For relief time we have climbed Mount Monadnock, gone on a thirty-two mile bike hike on Cape Cod, had some bowling and game nights, cookouts, Christmas party week, and progressive dinners.

During our Bible Study time, we are studying a book entitled The Holy War, which deals with Satan's attacks on our teens in the areas of sex, drug abuse, music, communication, self-image, and the occult. We are studying biblical principles in these areas and God's Strategy versus Satan's Strategy.

Some upcoming events other than our usual meetings are Game Night, climbing Mount Washington, and camping. We would like to invite the teens of Heath to join us. We are non-denominational and stick with God's word as truth.

Worship Service - summer hours have been changed to 9:00 a.m. There is no Girl's Club or Boy's Club this summer.

Richard C. Bishop

Elder Law Attorney

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

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## TOWN NURSE NOTES

### Lyme Ticks and Disease

by Joanne Fortune, RN

Ticks are parasites that fasten themselves to skin and feed on blood. They should be removed, as soon as they are discovered, by using a pair of pointed tweezers, and grasping the tick by the head or mouthparts right where they enter the skin. DO NOT grasp the tick by the body. Without jerking, pull firmly and steadily directly outward. DO NOT twist the tick out or apply petroleum jelly, a hot match, alcohol, or any other irritant to the tick in an attempt to get it to back out. These methods can backfire and even increase the chances of the tick transmitting the disease. Save the tick in a jar (in case Lyme symptoms develop) so that the tick can be tested for Lyme. After removing it, wash the area and apply an antiseptic.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread by the deer tick, which is the size of a period at the end of a sentence. It is estimated that 1% - 8% of the ticks in this area have Lyme. The tick has to be attached for longer than 24 hours to transmit the bacteria. It vomits the Lyme when it becomes engorged with blood.

Seventy percent of Lyme-infected people experience symptoms. Early symptoms of Lyme disease usually include a red bulls-eye rash with a white center around the bite, which develops 3-30 days after the bite and lasts 3-10 days. There may be flu-like symptoms such as fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and joint pain. If these symptoms occur up to 30 days after being bitten, please see your health care practitioner. Lyme disease is treated with antibiotics to prevent possible later symptoms, which may include Bell's palsy, meningitis, and arthritis or heart problems. If treated early it is easily curable in most people.

There is a genetically engineered vaccine for Lyme disease, called LYMErix, for people 15-70 years old. It is not a treat-

ment but is used for the prevention of Lyme. It is given in 3 doses at 0, 1, and 12 months with the third dose ideally given in March, just before tick season. The vaccine is expensive, its long-term safety is unknown, and regular boosters may be necessary to maintain immunity. Antibodies from the vaccinated person enter the tick and kill the bacteria, preventing transmission to the host.

To prevent being bitten while out in the woods or in tall grass, wear light-colored clothing and hiking boots. Tuck your shirt into your pants and your pants into your white socks. The recommended repellent is one that contains DEET. Please don't put it on children's hands; they put them in their mouths. Check for ticks while still outside (they like warm, dark, moist areas such as the back of your knees and scalp.) Thoroughly do a whole body check when you return home. Children can be checked in the bathtub.

For further information, please call me at 337-5716. I now have office hours in the Community Hall on Tuesdays from 12-1p.m. and on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m.

## HEATH EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS

by Timothy Lively

The following EMT calls were answered since the last issue of the Herald:

3/10/00 - West Main Street - Medical  
4/20/00 - Number Nine Rd. - Bicycle accident  
4/25/00 - Colrain Stage Rd. - Medical  
4/26/00 - Rt. 8A North - Medical  
4/27/00 - Number Nine Rd. - Motor vehicle collision  
5/13/00 - Rt. 8A North - Medical

Thanks to the work of Police Chief Lorin Gowdy (through the Community Policing grant), there is a second defibrillator in town. The new unit is kept at the school due to the fact that we have a lot of functions going on there.

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## FIRST YEAR OBSERVATIONS

by Tim Luce

It's hard to believe that I'm nearing the end of my first year as principal of the Heath Elementary School. However, a quick glance at the calendar reveals that only a few weeks of school remain. The old saying "Time flies when your having fun" is certainly an appropriate description of my first year at Heath. The time has, indeed, flown by, and I have had a ball.

The school year, 1999-2000, marked my twentieth in the field of education. During that time I have been associated with four different schools, and visited and observed in countless others. Based on my experience, I see the Heath School as a unique and special place. It seems like I have said this many times this year in many forums, but I think it's because I am struck by the fact so often it is frequently on my mind. I'm sure everyone associated with the Heath School is aware of how special it is. Sometimes it takes a newcomer, like myself, to see things with fresh eyes to remind everyone of the obvious.

What makes Heath School unique? Here is my list of observations:

**THE STAFF** – Every single member of the Heath School staff is a positive and supportive person. Being positive is certainly important for a staff, but without skills, the most positive group in the world would not be very effective. I'm pleased to say that the level of skill and teaching professionalism of the Heath School staff is unique. Here there is seriousness toward the teaching profession and a tireless effort to do what's right for kids. This atmosphere is present in some schools, but not to the degree that it exists at Heath.

**THE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY** – When I look at all the events which have taken place this year, and the numbers of parents and community members involved, I'm astounded. Many schools have active parent organizations and involved community, but I have never seen community involvement to the degree I have seen it here. What makes the Heath parents and community unique is an attitude of action. When an idea is put forth it is acted upon. It is not debated in circles until the enthusiasm for the idea dies. The results are amazing. The Halloween party, the Variety Show, Teacher Appreciation Day, all the programs sponsored by Goals 2000, and the daily involvement of parents with the school illustrate the quality of interactions between the school and community. It is truly a partnership.

**THE CHILDREN** – Heath School children are great! This fact has been best illustrated throughout the ongoing construction of our longhouse. The students have been given tremendous responsibility working with tools, making accurate measurements, and producing quality workmanship. They have responded with a seriousness of purpose, respect for the job they are doing, and keeping each other safe. The type of behavior demonstrated during this project is present throughout each day in every classroom in the school.

**THE BUILDING** – Needless to say the Heath School is beautiful. It provides a learning environment that is second to none. Beyond aesthetics though, is the fact that the building is in such constant use. It is truly a community building.

Most schools have one or more of the items I've listed present. What makes Heath unique is that ALL of the items are present. The result is a dynamic, exciting environment in which to work and learn. Do we have room for growth? Absolutely. With all the pieces in place that I have described I know we will continue to grow. Yes, my first year has flown by, and I've had a great time becoming part of this amazing place. I look forward to more of the same!

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## The Way It Is In The Country

*If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life,  
don't change it."*

by Carroll Stowe

Every time I attempt to put ink to paper for the Herald, I hope that all readers will try to understand that my desires are to depict something of great value and helpful usefulness.

Near our north property line there rests a derelict piece of farming equipment. I think it was the summer of 1952 that the Stowe Farm in Colrain, MA bought a newly built model 45 twine tie baler. The cost was an outlandish sum of \$1850.00. This machine was bought to help with the hay harvest on our farm and to work for other farms in the area to help to offset the cost. These balers were shipped only partially assembled and at about two feet wide to be able to get more on a rail car. When they reached the respective dealers they were unloaded and the assembly was completed. Our baler had sat somewhere on a rail siding enroute to J.W. Parsons in Northampton, MA. One twine box had a 22-caliber bullet hole in the side and the bullet was still in the box. This bullet hole was a good conversation piece. When they reached the respective dealers they were unloaded and assembly completed. We were very fortunate to have been able to find this baler as demand far exceeded the supply.

I had gone to mow a field of hay before my dad had found this baler. My youngest brother came and stopped me from mowing any more. We went to the dealer and picked it up by truck. It was rather awkward as the wide part had to be toward the center of the road, but we made the trip home without trouble.

This new piece of machinery in the area caused some interest. When we were ready to bale, a serviceman from the dealer came to the farm and adjusted things so that all would perform well.

All balers have a real personality and this unit had one all its own. It always would refuse to bale if the dew had started to fall. That little quirk kept the operator from baling hay that

was too damp. Also some balers use regular length twine and others work better with extra length twine. This baler had baled some in excess of a 100,000 bales before fatigue over took it.

As I ready the farm's machinery for the auction, I cry profusely with emotions thinking of all the hours we had spent together. This old baler that rusts away is of no more use, and I will probably cut it up to get it out of the way. I can't help but have some good memories of that old iron and think often of how much good it did the community were we lived. I always wanted to bale a thousand bales an afternoon but never could get past 900. That \$1850.00 was money well spent. It was most certainly good iron to help good people.

## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY AT CHARLEMONT

by Todd Sumner

Spring always is the busiest time of the Academy year. Things are winding down, but there is so much to do as the school year comes to a close.

The second annual Humanities Exhibition and Art Show took place on May 4. English and history students presented their research on a large variety of topics. Each student had a display and answered questions and talked knowledgeably about his or her topic. Topics ranged from Kent State in 1970 to how the Voodoo religion affects Caribbean culture, from Egyptology to the death of Socrates. The evening was highlighted by a presentation by the junior class, which described their research into Burrington House, the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick house which graces our campus. Four groups of juniors gave analyses of the architecture, the culture and genealogy, the geography, and history and socioeconomics of the house. Student artwork was displayed for the evening as well.

There were field trips galore in May. The seniors took their class trip in Montreal. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade went to the Mark Twain house in Hartford. Biology students went to the Cape for a whale watch weekend. In addition to whales, it included the study of 3 to 4 types of ecosystems. Included were a dune walk, a salt marsh walk, a beech forest walk, beach combing, and a Kettle Pond canoe trip. Juniors studying the industrial revolution took a trip to the Lowell Mills where they saw living history and the way the mills operated under the Lowell System. For the seniors, Mystic, Connecticut was a destination in conjunction with their study of maritime history for humanities class. The eighth grade went to Gettysburg on the last day of exams where they spent the day on the battlefield where the events of *Killer Angels* (which they read in English class) took place. They even took a bit of their final exam on that battlefield.

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## GOALS 2000

by Pat Leuchtman

The Heath School is concluding the second year of its three-year grant, Goals 2000, which was written by the Heath School's first principal Phil O'Reilly in 1998. Under this grant, the school has received \$35,000 annually to meet certain objectives. First, there is a focus on making sure that the children are prepared to learn. The school is encouraging parents to become aware and involve themselves in school activities. To this end, there is a newsletter that goes out to families, but even more important are the curriculum nights when parents have a chance to meet the teachers and to try and do some of the assignments. Curriculum nights give teachers a chance to address the parents' concerns about curriculum and tests such as the MCAS exams. Third, the Goals 2000 Grant requires a search for other funding sources, which can be used to expand the work of the program.

Mary Vilbon, Goals 2000 Coordinator and After School Coordinator, finds that this requirement has involved her with grant research, data gathering, and grant writing. She also works with the Franklin County Family Networks and with Lorin Gowdy, Heath's Police Chief, on a Community Policing grant.

Mary explained that the Goals 2000 Grant has had a tremendous impact on the school curriculum and on activities for children. She said that Ted Watt of Flagg Hill Road has been at the school about two days a week with an inquiry-based science program. In addition to working with the kids in school, he has led a night owl watch with the primary students and their parents as well as a group to see the woodcock mating flight at dusk. The grant has also funded a pilot homework assistance program in conjunction with the Heath

Library. This program will be refined next year with a probable change in hours to make it more convenient for students and their families.

The After School program was expanded this year to include supervised childcare as well as enrichment classes. Children can now remain at school until 5:30 p.m. They can participate in science, art, and cooking activities, as well as do their homework or play outside. Teacher Lynn Kain and an assistant are on duty. The adult-child ratio is one to ten.

Recently Mary Vilbon collected data from various sources including Police Chief Lorin Gowdy's Community Policing research, the Community Partnerships, and the Heath Visioning Committee. She has worked with the Heath parents, school choice parents, school staff members, community representatives and Lorin Gowdy to create a School Community Action Plan, which is required under the Goals 2000 Grant. According to the plan, the school will be attempting to ameliorate the risk factors of our rural location, i.e. the need for transportation and for social services including the need for a nurse or legal assistance: seeking ways to improve communication between the school and the community and increasing parent involvement; and continuing to update parents on their knowledge of the curriculum. This plan supports the local Education Council's school improvement plan by reinforcing and substantiating their assessments and goals.

The Goals 2000 Grant has been, and continues to be, very important to the school and the community because it has provided an incentive for finding additional grant monies. While money is always an important need, the grant has also drawn so many community members to the aid of the school, even beyond those who have children attending the school. It is the whole community's involvement in the education of our children that keeps the school vital and growing.



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## HILLTOWN TASTES

by Terry Pettengill

This time of year is when asparagus and rhubarb are at their very best. Here are a few ideas.

- (1) Steam 1 lb. of trimmed asparagus. Drain. Heat 1/2-3/4 cup of milk. Add 1 tbsp. butter. Salt and pepper to taste. Add steamed asparagus and heat through. Serve on hot toast for breakfast or lunch.

- (2) For a side dish at either lunch or dinner; marinate trimmed asparagus spears in Italian dressing.

(3) ASPARAGUS SNACK SQUARES

- 1 cup chopped sweet onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tbsp. butter or oleo
- 1 lb. fresh trimmed asparagus
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 tubes (8oz each) refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

Cut asparagus in one-inch pieces. Set tips aside. Sauté onions and garlic in butter until tender. Add asparagus, except tips, and sauté until crisp-tender (about 4-6 min). Add tips and pepper; sauté 1-2 min longer or until tender. Press dough into an ungreased 15"x 10"x 1" baking pan. Seal seams and perforations. Bake at 375 degrees for 6-8 minutes. Top with asparagus mixture and sprinkle with cheese. Bake 6-8 min. longer or until cheese is melted. Cut into squares. Yield: 3 Dozen.

(4) RHUBARB PIE

- 1 cup rhubarb, peeled and cut in one inch pieces
- 1 cup sugar

2 tbsp. flour

1/2 tsp. salt

2 eggs, beaten

Plain pastry for a two-crust pie

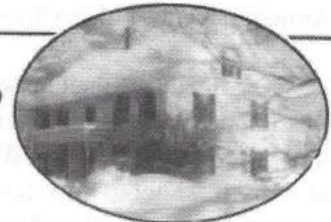
Line pie plate with a single pastry. Mix remaining ingredients together. Pour into crust, then dab with a few pieces of butter. Sprinkle 1/4tsp. of nutmeg, apply top crust, and seal edges. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 min.

Reduce heat to 350 degrees, and bake another 30 minutes or until knife comes out clean and crust is golden brown. Diabetics can use Equal Spoonful in equal amounts to the sugar and it works fine.

(5) RHUBARB SAUCE

Diabetics can add 1 package of Strawberry Sugarless Jell-O to the cooked rhubarb and stir until melted. Cool and enjoy.

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## HEATH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTS AN AUTHENTIC NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE

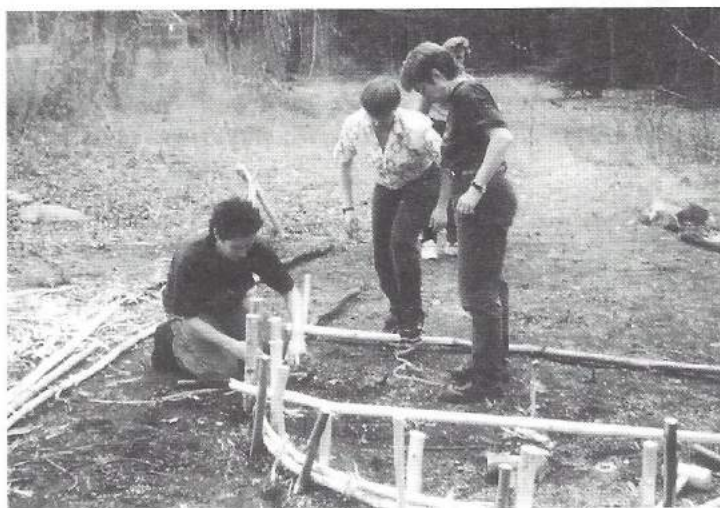
by Mary Vilbon

The inspiration behind the Longhouse project came from Middles teacher Roberta Murphy, who was awarded a Goals 2000 mini-grant this past fall. The mini-grant was written to support the social studies curriculum of Native American culture. The goal was to strengthen the children's, parent's, and community's understanding of Native Americans lifestyles and customs.

In the fall, Native American storyteller, Marge Bruchac, kicked off the studies with a performance for an audience of over 90 parents, children, and community members at the school. This was just the beginning of what was yet to come.

Para-professional and local woodworker, Deb Lively, coordinated the project of the Longhouse and its construction in April. Local landowners donated maple saplings. Each child in the school had the opportunity to debark the saplings by using various tools. The ends of the saplings were then charred over an open fire to preserve the wood once it was secured into the ground. The upper grades incorporated this project into their math curriculum and calculated how to create a pattern to bend the arches, build, and lay them out for the dwelling. The saplings were then bent and lashed and erected by staff and children. Local logger Bill Clark donated hemlock logs that were debarked for the shingles and the siding of the structure. The students determined the amount of square footage of bark needed to cover the Longhouse.

It has been an amazing project for children and adults working and learning together using problem-solving skills. Seventy students, parents and teachers traveled to Plimoth Plantation where they visited a seventeenth century village. The trip's emphasis was on Native American life, particularly the housing structures.



Teachers and families of students  
working on the Longhouse.

## CONNECTIONS-MEET MARY VILBON

by Pat Leuchtman

Mary Vilbon's first involvement with the Heath School was as a parent. She arrived in Heath in June with a preschooler and a first grader. By September she was chair of the Preschool Advisory Board and became chair of what was then the Parent-Teacher Partnership. Then Deborah Phillips introduced her to Judy Singley whose son Joel and Mary's son Chris became inseparable companions. That was how a deep friendship between the two families started.

Through Judy's encouragement, Mary's life gained a somewhat different focus. "It was when our two families were driving to a Garth Brooks concert that Judy, who was teaching at Greenfield Community College, first suggested that I go to GCC to get a degree," Mary said. That was the beginning of turning a strong interest and volunteer commitment into a professional goal.

As she was drawing toward the end of her career at GCC, Mary applied to Mount Holyoke and was accepted as a Frances Perkins Scholar, a program that admits non-traditional age students. Mary laughs when she says she is definitely not 18 anymore. She has now finished her first two semesters. She is listed as a psychology - education major but is working toward designing her own major, which will be in education and community development involving how to work with complex individuals and organizations. This is a real reflection of the work she has been doing at the Heath School since it opened.

Mary's schedule is pretty hectic. She spends about 30 hours a week at the Heath School in her various capacities (she is also volunteering her time to work on the school yearbook and to sew the annual school flag which appears on the cover of the yearbook) and attends classes at Mount Holyoke. She does her own homework and is involved with her sons' school and after school activities. Chris is graduating from the sixth grade this year, and Jeffrey is going into the sixth grade. "If it weren't for the cooperation and help of my husband and children I could never be back at school. They are just wonderful and deserve a lot of credit," Mary says. This summer Mary will have a vacation of sorts. She will not be attending classes but her work on Goals 2000 continues throughout the year and during the summer she will be coordinating a different grant, which will provide a six-week academic program in language arts and math. (During the summer one teacher and one aide will work with children who have been recommended by the school.)



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## LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Summertime rates high on my list of seasons. The time was treasured, with explorations of the countryside in which I grew up, and those moments of quiet spent in handmade forts or by our brook, with books I had squirreled away during the school year; interrupted of course, by occasional invasions of marauding hordes of brothers and cousins! The public libraries offered their summer programs, and books were duly jotted down.

Tradition hasn't changed. Books aplenty, for all ages, and our "Open Books, Open Frontiers!" Summer Reading Program offer opportunities for those who enjoy solitary reading, as well as those who would like to gather with others during the summer.

Each week, at the Community Hall, we will explore frontiers from deepest space (and maybe even space aliens), to the depths of the ocean, to the wilds of our own western frontier. Storyteller Alice Quintano will perform her "From Alaska to the Stars: Tales of Old and New Frontiers" on July 19. She hails from Gloucester, MA, and is joining us this summer thanks to a grant from the Heath Cultural Council. Her stories will feature an Alaskan Folktale, a story of the constellations, and, "Aunt Lila and the Bear," a tall tale of the Old West as told on the patch of a pioneer quilt.

We'll have stories and crafts in our town's very own, "very cool," Community Hall basement! We will begin on Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m., and will wrap up the summer reading program with a final gathering on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We invite parents and family members to join us.

The program is sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Regional Library System, which provides support, bookmarks, reading logs, posters, coupons for a number of area museums, and a nifty program manual.

All library events are free of charge. To participate, call the Heath Free Public Library at 337-4934, E-mail us at [heath@cwmmars.org](mailto:heath@cwmmars.org), or stop by Mondays 4-8 p.m., Wednesdays Noon-7 p.m., and Saturdays 9-1 p.m., for a schedule of events.

It has been a busy time, as we ready for summer, and

continue to work on in-house projects. There are constant changes afoot in the way the world looks at the written word, thus we feel the need to put extra time and energy into this home for information, books, and community.

A daylong "Disaster Workshop" was attended in Ashfield. Its purpose was to begin planning for effective collection-saving actions, in the event of damage by water, fire, or other some other event which could prove disastrous to a library collection. As our group of twenty librarians made our way into a wet, dark, library "disaster simulation," created by a professional from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, we knew we had our work cut out for us. Another workshop, "Preserving Our Community Heritage," was also attended. Attended with town clerk Hilma Sumner, the several day workshop presented how to document, preserve, and make accessible the historical records of a community. Our town is like many others, with its rich and unique historical resources housed by various town organizations. From our understanding of the collaborative process, it is a vast undertaking, worthwhile, but not one either attendee felt could be tackled at this point in time. For those interested there is a copy of the class materials in the library.

We've been stocking up the stacks, with new reads as we head into high summer. There are additions to adult fiction and mystery; young adult and juvenile fiction; nonfiction, including books on environmentalism, trends into the new millennium, technology and human interaction; a Carmen San Diego CD-ROM as well as a CD-ROM to help create a family tree.

As a last note, a welcome to Deb Porter as our newest Library Trustee, and to Paul Karron, who has joined the library staff as assistant librarian.

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Earl M. Gleason  
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337-4948

Alan Nichols  
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337-6665

Cable's Burnt Hill  
Blueberries  
337-4454

Heath Brook Studio  
Glass and Baskets  
337-5736

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337-8704

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Maple Ledge Farm  
Maple Syrup Year Round  
337-4705

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Taylor Brook Road  
337-4964

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If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

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## FRIENDS OF THE HEATH LIBRARY

by Jane deLeeuw

The organization, The Friends of the Heath Library, exists to support the library in whatever ways the librarian, Laurie Wheeler Burrington, deems desirable and necessary. Through two major fund-raising activities a year, a bake sale on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend, and a used-book sale and raffle at the Heath Fair, we raise money for the purchase of library materials.

The recent bake sale held on Saturday, May 27, was, as usual, a sold-out success, and we thank all bakers and buyers! We look forward to another successful book sale at the Fair and welcome book donations for it.

During this past year, The Friends have made possible the purchase of a computer printer as well as books and videos. We are also available for special projects, which require additional person-hours in the library.

Our annual meeting will be held this year at the end of July, and we invite all members of the community to attend. We know you are all Friends of our wonderful library!



## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER TO OFFER EXPANDED SCHOOL- BASED HEALTH CENTER HOURS

by Karyn Skiathitis

With the recent approval of contract language by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Committee, it is expected that Franklin County Community Health Center will expand the hours of the School-based Health Center (formerly known as HealthLinks) by the beginning of the next school year. The site, which has served the citizens of West County since 1995, will be open for eight hours during the school day in addition to the usual Thursday evening hours. HealthLinks was originally established because West County is a medically under served area, and it is estimated that 25% of the residents in our area lack health insurance or an income adequate to pay for medical care. Those who are uninsured or under-insured include many of our elderly residents on fixed incomes and families with low to moderate incomes. Further evidence of this need can be seen in the HealthLinks statistics from the last five years. The Mohawk HealthLinks site has seen between 300 and 400 patients annually during its three-hour Thursday evening session. The School-based Health Center can now also provide services to families with medical insurance.

Traditional school-based health centers are primary care health centers open to all students, located on school grounds, and run by a nurse practitioner. Because of the geography and specific needs of West County, the Health Center at Mohawk will be open to the entire community. The Health Center will provide such primary health care services as sports physicals, immunizations, treatment for infections, tuberculosis testing, employment physicals, and treatment for asthma, diabetes, arthritis, and high blood pressure.

The Health Center staff is a highly qualified group of professionals who have many years of public and school health experience among them. This team has particular interest in the needs of the West County area as two of the members live in this community.

The staff includes:

Dr. Sarah Kemble, Medical Director  
Lisa Miller, On-Site Nurse Practitioner  
Kay Chmura, Health Center Nurse  
Regina Curtis, Administrative Director  
Erin Knight, School-based Health Center Network Coordinator

More information about services provided, acceptance of other forms of insurance and enrollment will be the focus of future articles. If you have any questions regarding the School-based Health Center, please call Karyn Skiathitis, Health Coordinator, at 625-0192, x40.

## DEED TRANSFERS

Phyllis T. Kades to Jewelle Bickford; Nathaniel J. Bickford and Emily B. Lansbury of New York City, NY; Laura C. Bickford of Los Angeles, Calif., and William C. Wooten of Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., 51 and 61 Colrain Stage Road, less than \$100.

Gary R. Josefiak of Charlemont and Susan C. Josefiak of South Deerfield to John J. Charamella and Patricia M. Greene, 13 Colrain Road, also known as Colrain Mountain Road, \$108,000.

Bertille H. Dragon of Hadley to Arthur H. Dragon Jr. of Yorba Linda, Calif.; Deirdre E. DiMella of Hampden and George H. Dragon of Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Lot 2, \$1.

Bertille H. Dragon of Hadley to Arthur H. Dragon Jr. of California; Deidre E. DiMella of Hampden and George H. Dragon of Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Lot 3 \$1.

Jerry Edward McCloud and Joel Robert McCloud of Shelburne Falls; Jeffrey John McCloud of Lyman, N.H.; Joan Muriel McCloud of Shaftsbury, Vt., and Jan Briana McCloud of Lowell to Marion McCloud of Charlemont, Avery Brook Road, three parcels, land also in Charlemont, \$1.

Marion A. McCloud to Thomas Kunkel, 224 Avery Brook Road, land also in Charlemont, \$143,000.

Linda Ann (Rothwell) Gritzner and Jean H. Galanti to Donald E. and Linda Ann Gritzner, ° - interest, and Jean H. Galanti, ° - interest, 141 Branch Hill Road, \$1.



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## MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born March 22, 2000, a daughter, **Lilly Viola**, to Julie and Chris Seaver of Charlemont, granddaughter of Sue and Carson Ovitt of Charlemont and **Juliet Seaver** of Heath, great-granddaughter of Charles Seaver of Pebble Beach, CA and Helen Morris of South Deerfield.

Born March 27, 2000, a son, **Lukas Martin**, to **Stephanie and Mark Bird** of Heath, grandson of Ferdynand and Lorraine Muzyka of Greenfield and Judith Bird of Colrain, great-grandson of Raigh Herzig and Darryll and Gladys Bird, all of Colrain.

.....  
**Madeline Terault**, of 2 Navaho Lane, Heath, died May 24, 2000 at home. She was born in Springfield Jan. 31, 1916. She was the daughter of Arthur and Cordelia Barttro, and was a graduate of Springfield Technical High School. Prior to retirement, she worked at Mercy Hospital in Springfield as a surgical technician. She and her husband, Edward, moved to Heath in 1987. Survivors include in addition to her husband of 52 years, a son, **Norman** of Heath, her twin sister, Mare Cooley, of Springfield, and several nieces and nephews. Services were held at St. Joseph's Church in Shelburne Falls with the Rev. Timothy Campoli officiating.

### MIKE BAKALAR – IN MEMORIAM

by Pat Leuchtman

After spending many summers in Heath, Mike and Elsa Bakalar moved up full-time not long before we did. Henry and I arrived just after Mike founded the Shelburne Falls and West County News. We admired the newspaper and were both lucky enough to work for Mike and the paper. That is where our friendship began.

Henry often thinks of Mike as he was in his editor's hat, sitting back, feet up amidst the piles of newspaper, in that first tiny office, which Elsa described as so narrow that you couldn't fall down drunk at the office Christmas party.

I think of Mike telling stories about helping Elsa in their glorious garden. Once he said he spent an entire morning lying in wait on the roof of the house, rifle at the ready to dispatch a woodchuck that had been eating Elsa's delphiniums. Finally, he said, the woodchuck arrived and sidles up to a delphinium. Mike took aim and fired. "I shot the delphinium dead," he said with a laugh. "It was him or me."

And that was Mike, quiet and soft-spoken, a man of good will and good humor. We will miss his stories and his gentle sense of humor. We will miss him.

## And, More Graduation Congratulations!

Nicole Rainville, daughter of **Judy Thrasher** of Heath, graduated as the Valedictorian of her class from Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine with a degree in Elementary Education. A 1996 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional School, Nicole plans to teach in the fall. This summer, she will be working at Camp Nawaka in East Otis, Massachusetts.



On May 20, 2000, Janis K. Steele received her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Dr. Steele wrote her thesis in the field of immigration studies, with particular reference to Montreal, Canada, examining the role of "cultural mediaries" in the process of enculturation.

The Anthropology Department designated her work as a "pass with distinction." The thesis was subsequently recommended by the Department to the Social Science Division for nomination for a national consideration as "outstanding."

Dr. Steele lives in Heath with her husband, Brooks McCutcheon, Ph. D., and her two children, Connor and Rowan.

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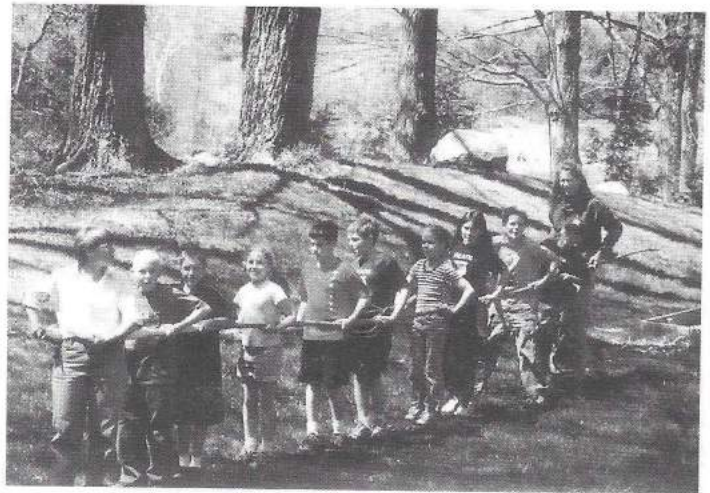
## LOOKING FORWARD TO...

Senior Luncheons continue on the first Thursday of every month at the Community Hall on the Town Common.

Heath Union Church Vacation Bible School Hours:  
August 7-11, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.

Mohawk Trail State Forest to present Old-Growth Forest Tour on June 24, at 10 a.m. Contact Bob Leverett or Steven Adams. The state forest is located off of Route 2 in Charlemont.

We are calling town residents' attention to posted general info regarding permit applications on Community Bulletin Board.



Heath students working on their longhouse project.

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Special Town Meeting will be held Thursday, June 29  
at the Community Hall.

The Finance Committee is seeking one volunteer for one  
position; the Board of Health is seeking volunteers  
for two positions.

### CORRECTIONS

In the last issue, Joe Nirney's name was misspelled. Joe is  
the saxophone and harmonica player for Karen Brook's  
band featured on the front page. Our apologies.

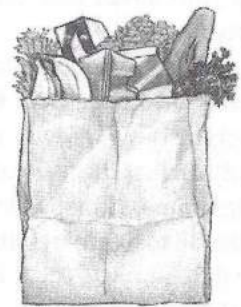
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