



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

Volume 28, Number 6

February/March 2007

To A Very Special Valentine



A Dependable

Lady

Walk in to vote...there's Alli.
Need a library book... there's Alli
Activities at Church ...there's Alli.
Working on a Ladies Aid Quilt...there's Alli.
Watching over Fair exhibits...there's Alli.
Serving Senior meals...there's Alli.
A neighbor needs help...there's Alli.
When you just need a friend...there's Alli.
You, Alli, are everybody's Valentine!

Happy Valentine's Day to a good friend.

Thanks for being a "second Mom" to my son in years past and for putting up with those boys' youthful antics!

~ Love, Ruthie Johnson



Editors note:

Alli was one of the founding members of the *Herald* whose Volume 1, Number 1 was published in April of 1979. She served on the editorial staff and as staff reporter during the paper's first ten years, retiring in 1989.

In addition to her editorial duties, Alli was a frequent contributor to the paper reporting on the Heath Agricultural Society and authoring articles about New England small farmers and life on a dairy farm, the Community Hall, the library, Peters' Store, the Heath Bicentennial, among others.

From 1985, as town librarian, she contributed "Library Lines" until she retired.

A Selfless Volunteer

Alli Thane-Stetson is, and has been for many years, one of the most selfless volunteers in the town of Heath that I have ever known.

I met her shortly after I moved to Heath nearly 38 years ago. She had moved here about ten years earlier and was already involved in several endeavors besides farming, raising her family, and working at a full-time job.

I believe she can accomplish anything she decides to do. She is a great seamstress, quilter, knitter, crocheter, cook and baker, crafter and painter and rug maker on the loom. Anyone would be hard put to think of something she cannot do. I am truly envious!

Alli has convinced me many times to join her in volunteering for various town jobs or committees and therefore I have worked with her in many capacities.

I believe the last endeavor together was when we were asked to a meeting to organize and publish the *Heath Herald*. Our work included doing interviews, writing articles, making many phone calls, even editing. We met once a month to decide the theme for the next issue and the importance of each article. Alli always had good suggestions and worked with unflagging energy in all she set her mind to.

Even after all these years of helping others, she continues to do so, and will probably outdo "the Energizer Bunny"!

~ Terry Pettengill

("To A Very Special Valentine" continued on page 3)

Heath Herald

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Meals Servers, Dottie Sessions, Douglas Stetson,

David Thane, Steven Thane, Town Coordinator

Heath Union Church News

As everyone embarks on the New Year, the Heath Church wishes you all the best and extends afresh the invitation to join your neighbors at our services. To save energy costs, we are now meeting in the Lower Level for Sunday morning worship.

We had a beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service and were so pleased to celebrate the Lord's birth with so many friends.

Pastor Phil is at the church on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:50 p.m. and can be contacted at 337-4019 or at 413 648-9077. If anyone has family members or friends in the hospital or nursing homes, he is willing to visit.

Our calendar continues as follows: Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m. and Bible study and prayer at Dot Sessions, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. We have re-instituted Sunday School and welcome all children through the 6th grade.

If you have any questions please contact Richard Gallup, Chair of the Deacons, at 337-5367.

~ The Deacons

The Heath Herald is a nonprofit newspaper staffed by volunteers and published six times a year. Donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE April/May 2007 issue is March 10, 2007. All articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call (413) 337-8594 or E-mail Jane at jdeleeu@crocker.com.

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Winter Solitude



Photographed by Jane de Leeuw

Heath Free Public Library

Editors Note:

Alli worked for a year, 1960-61, as librarian after which she served as a library trustee until 1985 when she was appointed Heath Librarian which position she held until 1996. Later she served as library substitute until last year.

An inveterate reader, she is a frequenter of the library and is on hand whenever the Bookmobile arrives to help pick and shelve books, audios, and videos.

When she retired in 1996, the Herald ran a front page article from which the following quote was taken:

"For over a decade Alli's warmth and her nurturing soul in the library have made it a wonderful place to visit and a delightful place (in which) to learn. We thank her for her presence in our lives as Heath's Librarian."



I first used the library sometime in the early 60s. Alli Thane was working that day, and I felt her welcoming, friendly greeting. I then worked as her assistant for many years in the 80s and 90s. Her friendly, warm presence made the library well-used and attracted many. I was always amazed at her ability to be a grandmother to all of the kids and yet continue to do all of her work. She was definitely missed when she retired. May she long do all of her volunteer work for the town.

~ Don Dekker



COA and HCHC

I have had the privilege, over the years, to work alongside Alli as a member of Council on Aging Committee, and as a past member of the Community Hall Committee. She's always there for us, regardless of her personal situations, no matter what our needs may be. She always looks on the "brighter side" of life and consequently passes that on to all who know her. Thanks, Alli!

~ Val Kaempfer



Voting Registrar

In 1988, Alli was appointed a Voting Registrar in which capacity she is still serving.

Senior Center Meal Servers

Armed with a smile and a willingness to be of service to her community, Alli doesn't hesitate to share her time and talent.

Alli has been a food server for the Senior luncheon program since its inception in April of 1999, and we are grateful to have her as part of the team. She is always willing to pick up supplies and is always on hand to help where needed. Her joyful disposition makes it a pleasure to work with her.

~ The Senior Center Meal Servers



The Canasta Club

On the lighter side----The Canasta, Philosophy, and Story-exchange Club.....

Alli was our teacher as we relearned the game. She had been playing all along but the rest of us not since? Well, whenever. We are still learning; Alli is still teaching, and, although she won't like our saying this, she is one crackerjack of a player!

Thank you, Alli, for all of the above, and our shared laughter!

With admiration, gratitude, and affection,

~ Lois, Ruth, and Jane



Heath Union Church

On behalf of the Heath Union Church, we wish to thank you, Alli, for serving on various committees, assisting your Deacon husband, and especially for your contributions to our coffee hour and meals. Whether we attend services regularly or occasionally, your welcoming greetings are greatly appreciated.

~ The Heath Union Church



Hi Alli

You are a great lady. There isn't much that you can't do. You sure have been a good friend to me, seeing that I get rides to where I have to go, Church, Ladies Aid, Seniors, and many more. I enjoy the many nice talks we have.

Just keep up the good work, but do slow down and take time to smell the flowers.

Thank you for being you.

~ Just Me, Dottie Sessions

("To A Very Special Valentine" continued on page 4)

Heath Ladies Aid

Alli will be happy to tell you about the Heath Ladies Aid.

Each year we sew handcrafted items and bake for our food sale. These items are sold at three sales during the year. Did you see the beautiful quilt we raffled last year? A Ladies Aid cookbook is in the works, no date of availability as yet.

What do we do with the profits? We contribute to Good Neighbors, Meals-on-Wheels, the Salvation Army, and our school library. This year three high school students received scholarships to help them start college.

Who attends our meetings and helps support these recipients? There are up to eight participants. We don't care which church, if any, they attend, and we are not connected to or do we support the Heath Union Church. We do meet in the social room of the church where our work materials are housed and it has proved an ideal place to meet and sew.

We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month during the winter as we prepare for our sales. All are welcome whether a crafter or not.

Yes, Alli is a very active member of the Heath Ladies Aid!

~ Ruth Corey

Heath Agricultural Society

Alli has been an active member of the Heath Agricultural Society over the years. She and Ernie became involved shortly after they moved to town in 1958. The next year their kids started to exhibit their crafts and animals at the Fair. For years, Alli and Sophie Coe were in charge of the exhibit hall, and Alli is still very much involved as she continues to help exhibitors and works with the judges.

Alli and Ernie were members of the Heath Grange until it was disbanded.

For years I have been a guest at Alli's dinner table for holiday celebrations and birthdays, and used to have breakfast with the family when I went for milk. Alli and I, together, attended evening sewing classes at the Whitingham School, and now sew together at the Heath Ladies Aid. She is always busy but somehow

finds time for making her rugs, quilts, and many other crafts.

Alli is a good neighbor who is always there whenever needed.

~ Grace Crowningshield

The Heath Historical Society

Alli Thane-Stetson is not only a longtime member of the Heath Historical Society but is on the Board of Directors. She brings a wealth of historical information to the society and valuable ideas, suggestions, and input at board meetings. She is the first to volunteer for projects and events. Her background, as a longtime resident, active volunteer, and lover of her community, makes her outstanding in the society.

Even though she is my mother-in-law, she is one of my Valentines!

~ Jack Cable, President,
The Heath Historical Society

Roses are red
Violets are blue
To Alli, for all your work
We say a big

"thank you."

Happy Valentine's Day!

Tom, Brian, Sheila
(Heath Selectboard)

What is a gift made with tenderness and care;
without a ribbon or bow, yet a treat so rare?
It's soft and its brown, and it's braided so neatly;
it removes any frown, and it's baked so completely!
Give up? Well I'll tell you instead...
that the prize which I speak, is Alli's Finnish Bread.
Happy Valentine's Day,

Love, Sheila Litchfield

("To A Very Special Valentine" continued on page 5)

WHAT A FAMILY!

Editors Note:

Alli and Ernie Thane moved to Heath in 1958 from Maynard where Alli was born and graduated from high school.

Together they had 4 children, David, Beverly, Steven, and William. Alli now has 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grands.

Following Ernie's death in 1998, Alli and Doug Stetson, who had grown up in Heath and whose wife, Nada, had died in the same year, put their families together, adding Doug's 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.



It was my daughter Olga's 16th birthday and it happened to coincide with Easter Sunday. "Nanny" wanted the birthday and special family festivities to be at the farm. Several days before that day she bemoaned the fact that there would be only five people present. Later, on the way north, Olga and I wagered that Nanny would beat the bushes and add to her guest list. The final total: 18 diners!

Over the years, the same abundant generosity could only be measured in gallons. The coffee pot is always on. Carroll Stowe knew this and had a regular breakfast at the farm. Others, too, can mark attendance at an occasion. How interesting a guest book would be if kept in the front hall!

The whole family knows Alli as Nanny, and we know that if you need a specific something, you check first with Nanny. The treasure trove of necessary sewing projects and ideas is endless. And the magic in the kitchen is constant.

What better comfort for us all than to know that such plenty is always available? This constant in our lives for the entire family, is measured in abundant love.



~ Beverly Thane Cable

My mother's accomplishments are many: mother, wife, librarian, church member, library trustee, Agricultural Society and Ladies Aid member, and *Heath Herald* staff member. Many people have asked me how anyone could be so involved and succeed at so much. As a first generation American and the child of Finnish immigrants, she didn't even speak English when she entered first grade, as was the case of most of her classmates. But she learned a poem that she would recite to us as we were growing up.

If it Couldn't Be Done

By Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done.

But, he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't" but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, as he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;

At least no one we know has done it;"

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done.

There are thousands to prophesy failure;

There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle right in with a bit of a grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it,

Just start to sing as you tackle the thing

That cannot be done, and you'll do it.

A "Can Do" attitude has always been her strength, and her philosophy is that there is no sin in failure, the only sin is in not trying.

~ Steven Thane



Nanny, We love you!

~ The Grands



When the Thanes moved to Heath in 1958, I was in faraway New Jersey raising my own family thus never really knew the Thanes until recently. When I returned to live in my birthplace, Heath, I finally got to know Alli when she married my brother Doug.

It's been an inspiration to observe the two of them in a "second chance" relationship, a blending of two families that essentially grew up together. I admire Alli's energy, commitment to family, her involvement in town, church, and school affairs. She's a "WONDERWOMAN."

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane



Wild Ramblings

Beneath Our Feet



By Bill Lattrell

Not long ago I found myself returning from a long tour in the woods. After climbing up and down steep hills all morning I was now descending down one final hillside. The long hike had taken a toll on my legs, and my feet felt heavy, as if my boots were made of iron. I caught my toe on the branch of an old log that graced the forest floor, and as I fell forward my pants cuff became entangled on the branch. My large body mass and gravity pulled against the long arm of the log and wrenched it out of its place on the forest floor. As I lay spread-eagled on the thick mat of dead leaves I glanced back to see what had tripped me up. I noticed that this old log, perhaps in place for more than 10 years, had been rolled over. As I picked myself off of the ground and dusted myself off, I noticed a lot of activity in the shallow crevice left behind where the rolled-over log had once been nestled into the forest floor. A white-footed mouse, a red-backed salamander, centipedes, beetles, and other insects all scurried about. I stood watching this for a few moments when it occurred to me that in some ironic way my clumsiness had opened my eyes to a world that was very active, but not very apparent. I had just finished hiking miles in search of a new adventure, when right here under my feet, not a quarter mile from my house, there was a whole world to be explored.



The forest food web finds its foundation in the soil. Leaves and branches fall to the forest floor where they begin sometimes a short, and sometimes a very long cycle of being reorganized and recycled into useful food for plants and animals alike. For example, when an oak leaf falls to the forest floor many small animals like beetles and springtails fragment it into small pieces which the fungi can start decomposing into smaller bits of organic matter. Bacteria and algae also serve to break the plant material down into soil-like particles. Protozoa, springtails, and nematodes graze on the organic matter converting the remaining plant material into soil. These creatures, in turn, are often consumed by mites. A centipede is apt to eat a mite, and in turn be consumed by a rodent. And, of course, every predator in

the forest loves to dine on rodents. This is a simplistic view on the soil food web. For example, we know that some nematodes feed on fungi and some fungi feed on nematodes.

In trying to understand how vast and mystifying this world is, consider this. In $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of soil over 100 million bacteria, one million actinomycetes, and 100,000 fungi may reside just waiting for some new organic material so that they may convert the matter into soil. Of course, the exact populations of these organisms are highly dependent upon soil chemistry, including soil pH, available oxygen, and organic matter levels. This organic material, highly processed by the available microorganisms, is available in the form of nitrogen, carbon, and nutrients, all necessary ingredients to host new plants in their journey through a life in the forest.

The soil of the forest is rich in animal life. It may contain mollusks such as slugs and snails, annelids such as earthworms, many varieties of insects, and countless vertebrates, all dependent upon the decomposition of plant materials for their part in the soil food web.

My long forest journey, ending in an accidental observation, will remind me of just how complex forest ecology can be. Perhaps I will now be more aware of just how far I need to go to seek true adventure, and while I'm sure I will still journey longer distances in search of wild flora and fauna, I will also take a little time to explore the vast, infinite world found directly under my feet.

January 2, 2007

An unbelievably mild day for this time of year, sunny and breezy, so I decided to take a walk – to enjoy the great outdoors.

I walked out through the woods towards my son's log home by the site of the lumber mill of years past. The sun was warm on my back and the sound of the wind on the trees made the usual music of the forest that I love so much. I continued down into a stand of maples that had been part of my Dad's sugar bush. My sisters and I named the area the Rocky Mountains for to us it was pretty steep and a challenge to carry a bucket of sap back to the tub on the horse-drawn dray. I walked on down to the spring, so gaily rippling along, and crossed over the brook to the little pond where a toy frog rowboat was nestled at the shore. There was not a speck of ice on the water. As I walked on by the brook I startled three partridges from under an old crab apple tree. Maybe I should admit that they were the "startlers," as so often is the case with the abrupt departure of these woodland aviators – off with a roar into the wild blue yonder.

Below the apple tree was the site of the last butternut trees I knew of on the farm. Mom used to garnish maple sugar candy with those delicious morsels. Nearby was a huge pile of rocks collected over many years as farmer after farmer "picked" stones from the fields. I remember often following the horse-drawn stoneboat, walking in the smooth soil that had recently been plowed, harrowed, and now smoothed, my bare feet enjoying the coolness of the ground, and we girls trying to help our Dad by throwing stones (as big as we could lift) onto the boat.

Walking farther along the edge of the woods I found smaller piles of stones, and in the hedgerow, saw evidence of the stumps where we had cut firewood. I stopped to ponder the old orchard, once a producer of Macs. As the trees grew too old to bear good fruit they were cut for firewood, and the area became a productive night pasture for our dairy herd.

Enough walking for today, so I turned across the field to the house until another day, another walk, with more observations and more memories.

~ Rej

View from North Forty

The BEST New Year's that I have ever experienced was 2000. As the end of the millennium came we had a party at our Burnt Hill home with a few close friends. As midnight approached and the weather being very mild (and no snow), we drove our vehicles to the top of Burnt Hill. We stood out there and watched the midnight hour – the new millennium – under a clear, star-studded sky and the state fireworks that were discharged on Mount Greylock, and we had on a North Adams radio station that was broadcasting music to coincide with the display. We also saw fireworks in Pittsfield, Al-

bany. Mount Snow, Boston, and Northampton-Springfield-Hartford areas. Just a memorable night on Burnt Hill and, as 2000 arrived, Beverly's daughter, Olga, noticed that the lights were still on so the feared electric light glitz didn't happen.

What a joyful occasion we witnessed – an exceptional event in an exceptional place – Burnt Hill.

~ Jack Cable

P.S. **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**



A CURE FOR THE WINTER DOLDRUMS!

A GAME AFTERNOON

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Garden of Love



By Pat Leuchtman

Valentine's Day makes February the month of love. Since it is also a month for tending the fire instead of the garden, I've spent my time imagining a garden of love, a garden that would include all manner of romantically named plants.

The entry to the garden might be enfolded with Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate. This tall annual with large leaves has three-inch long pendant panicles of blossom with small deep pink flowers, a perfect old-fashioned plant to set next to the garden gate where a shy lover might wait to steal a kiss.

What should lovers wear on a stroll through the garden of love? Gentlemen might take a hint from the bachelor's button, blue and jaunty; ladies might wear a fuchsia or lady's eardrop.

Love needs time to grow and so my garden must include a sheltered seat, perhaps set beside a border of pansies, or love-in-idleness. Pansies are also known as heartsease, a promise to true lovers. A heart can rest and take its ease when it knows the lover is true and steadfast throughout all the trials of life.

Love-in-a-mist, nigella, with its flowers in shades of blue and finely cut foliage, suggests a delicate landscape, but the vitality of its decorative seed pods could also promise a cottage full of babies.

Those babies are even easier to imagine if there is a bed (pun intended) of bouncing bet. These hardy plants bloom throughout the summer with a flat pink blossom, as sweet as a country maiden's cheek. The flowers are especially noticeable in the evening and since the plant is a soapwort the leaves can be crushed in water to make suds. Perhaps they could wash all those nappies. I do wonder about the first bouncing Bet. Was she a bold milkmaid who wandered out in the evening to collect a kiss or two over the garden gate before settling down in that cottage?

Bouncing bet does suggest that at some point some disrobing will take place. I think of naked ladies (sometimes called autumn crocus) who send up abundant green foliage in the spring, but by the fall they have tossed aside all modesty and foliage and appear leafless in their glowing mauve loveliness.

In my garden I must have one of my favorite roses, Passionate Nymph's Thigh. This beautiful fragrant rose has gone by many names, some innocent like Maiden's Blush and La Virginale, some as racy as La Seduisante. But whether the blush is that of the ingénue or the experienced woman of the world, it is a tender pink.

One rose in a garden of love is not enough, however passionate she may be. I would at least have to plant Belle Amour, hardy and pink, as well as the mysterious Mutabilis, which inexplicably blooms in shades of yellow, orange and red, a reminder that love will – and must – change over time.

Unfortunately it is true that the course of true love does

not always run smooth. There would have to be a place in this garden for love-lies-bleeding, an amaranth with its long red chenille-like blossoms that droop on the ground, suggestive of a brokenhearted maiden in graceful swoon.

Perhaps forget-me-nots, low growing and true blue, should be planted near the swooning maiden, with only this whispered prayer on her lips. Forget me not.

Sometimes a scorned lover does not merely pine away, but storms off in a bitter mood. Rue must be included in the garden of love. The airy little leaves and the pale yellow-green flowers arranged in a loose panicle are lovely, but the taste is bitter. There is another side of rue which is also known as herb of grace. It is considered to be an antidote to poison and a cure for many diseases, perhaps even lovesickness.

A garden of love should include flowers for the wedding day – and a jack-in-the pulpit to perform the ceremony. If Jack is not enough perhaps I should include Cardinal Hume, a rose that blooms in shades of deep pink shading to purple, to conduct the solemnities.

There is bridal wreath, spirea, a carefree shrub with graceful arching branches laden with white flowers that would adorn the veil of any bride. Miss Lingard, a pure white phlox, blooms so dependably in June that it is called the wedding phlox. Achillea 'The Pearl' is also known as bride flower and its tiny white blossoms would be a happy addition to any bridal bouquet.

Peonies are as long-lived as any happy marriage. On our wedding anniversary one year my husband gave me the tender pink and bouffant Pillow Talk.

However, I have to admit that this imaginary garden of love is nothing compared to the less ideal, but very real gardens that I plant with and for my own true love.



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Impression of the Massachusetts Constitution Convention

My head is thick with the buzz of the car. We just got in from Boston, singing rounds over the motor noises from Concord to Greenfield. We went to the State House to make our stand for the freedom to marry. There was, as one of my friends, a father who was there with his adolescent daughter and wife, observed, something of a pep rally feeling to the event. Across the street the opposition held aloft a forest of professionally made signs, all looking orderly and exactly the same. They read LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!

On our side of the street we chanted LET THE PEOPLE MARRY! and TELL ME WHAT EQUALITY LOOKS LIKE! THIS IS WHAT EQUALITY LOOKS LIKE! Our chant leaders were energetic but not hugely imaginative. We only had two or three chants and called them over and over and over again.

The opposition was well-dressed and predominantly white-haired. Their chants were musical and well-coordinated. There were a couple of scrub-faced teenaged girls who chanted shrilly and with enthusiasm. There were a couple of babies in strollers. There was a clutch of nuns in long old-fashioned habits; a white tab across the forehead, and the long black triangle flowing out behind them. Beside them stood a cluster of black-clad priestly companions.

On our side of the road the crowds were mostly young with spiky hair and pierced body parts. Not all. It was a mix, couples with toddlers and teenagers, well-dressed and well-trimmed business types, students, boring white-haired church goers like me, aging hippies. A young man in a long, black wool coat and skinny pants balanced on his shoulders a young woman who carried a rainbow flag. Our chant leaders were more flamboyant. They had empty plastic water bottles that they beat on with flat sticks. A woman with a long, rainbow pastor's stole, who clearly cared about these things, tried to get them to listen to one another and beat their rhythms together so our chants would be together.

Cars honked as they drove by. (THEY'RE HONKING FOR US! OUR CAUSE IS JUST!) One couple in a blue car wouldn't look our way and sped up quickly when the man next to me called out to them. He was saying, "Hey, you in the blue car! You have a flat tire!" And they did.

Our signs were mostly homemade and came in all shapes and sizes. Some were printed up by Mass Equality, but mostly they were big handmade jobs with colorful lettering.

EVERY FAMILY COUNTS!

LET FREEDOME RING (printed around two large gold wedding rings. My personal favorite)

DON'T LEGALIZE BIGOTRY

EPISCOPALIANS FOR FREEDOM TO MARRY (or something like that, in gold script on a purple banner held by some of those boring church goers.)

The Unitarians had a big banner hanging from a nearby building that said something like MARRIAGE IS A CIVIL RIGHT! Our nun, who especially liked the Unitarian message, was dressed in blue jeans and had very short hair. She was visiting from San Antonio where she is a massage therapist and teaches reading to adults.

After a couple of hours of chanting some of us went into the State House to watch the Constitutional Convention on big screen video in the Gardner Auditorium. The opposition, wearing big round yellow stickers with a two child, one woman, one man family printed on them sat on one side; we with our big blue Es for Equality, sat on the other. The tension was thick, anticipation and anxiety high. Then with three strokes of the gavel the Constitutional Convention was called to order by Senator Travalini. The vote on the constitutional amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman was taken immediately, without discussion or debate. The pep rally atmosphere evaporated in the instant as we sat in leaden silence, feeling the realness of what was taking place. The outcome would have real effect on the lives of real people, our families, friends, and neighbors. The other side erupted in cheers as the outcome of the vote became evident. We sat still and silent. I wondered how people could cheer about something that causes such hurt and inequity.

We sang all the way home to console ourselves and resurrect our spirits. The debate is not over. Another vote must be taken before the amendment moves to popular vote. We are determined, not discouraged, to stand and work for equal rights, for every family and for the freedom to marry.

~ Pam Porter



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

"This publication is supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

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Fax: 413. 337. 8304
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Heath, MA 01346



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Charlemont, Mass.
Phone: 339-4472

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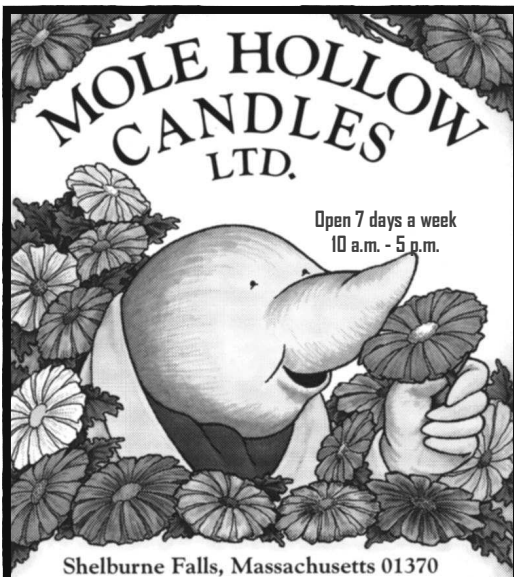
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Richard C. Bishop Elder Law Attorney

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona
P.O. Box 121, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-2574 / fax 625-8321

40 School St., Suite 5, Greenfield, MA
01302
413-773-1818 / fax 773-1881



Town Nurse Notes

New Year's Resolutions

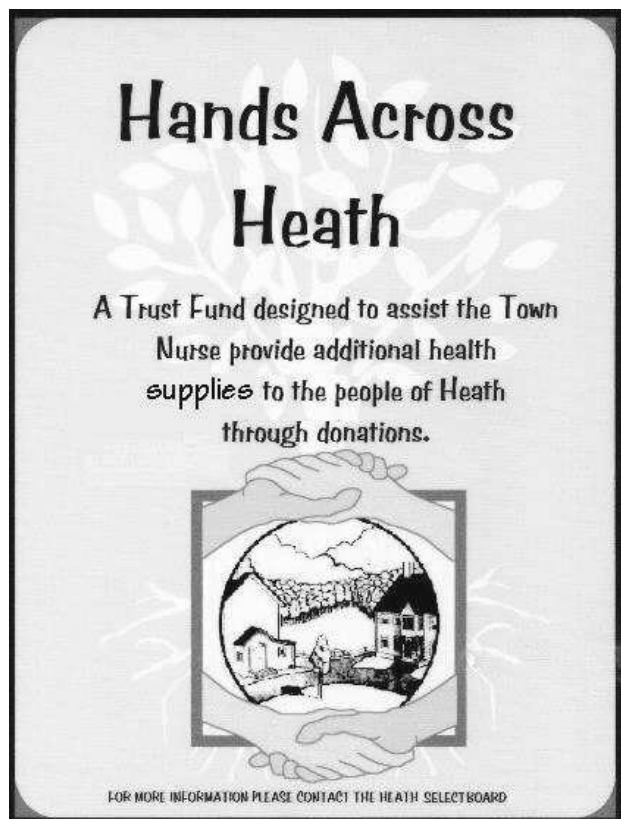
By Robin Booth R.N.

How are people doing on their New Year's resolutions? By now, statistically, people have 'gone off the wagon.' It doesn't take long (statistics show it's usually the first week in which people cannot live up to their hopes!) for folks to fall back to old patterns. My latest way of dealing with this reality is to make my resolutions fall into the category of "the positive and simple." This year, for instance, I decided I would try to learn how to make a good gumbo. Not any big sweeping change, but something I want to learn how to do. Maybe this is a cop-out, I'm not sure. I look at it as a way to succeed and get a warm reward at the same time.

If one looks at health as a continuum, going from the least healthy to the most, one can evaluate where to place oneself on the scale. We all are constantly moving back and forth on this scale based on things like our habits, circumstance, nutrition, fitness, and mental and emotional outlook. It seems to me the goal, if one needs one at all, is to move in the right direction, going and growing towards more health if possible. This is different and personalized for each of us. Beyond my need for gumbo, I am quite sure I need to move more and more often. Another person may need to face cigarette addiction. Another may need something completely different.

I would encourage folks to ponder this briefly and think if there are things you might see as clear areas that need your attention (and intentions!). We all find ourselves on this continuum and have ways to move on it, one way or another! How can you help yourself? Keep it positive and framed so you can succeed.

In the meantime, does anyone have a good gumbo recipe?



The "Hand Across Heath Trust Fund" was established in 1999 in memory of Agnes D. Gingras and George Tougas, as a means of assisting our Town Nurse with funds to enable her to provide additional health supplies to our town residents who are in need.

The people of Heath wisely voted to reestablish the position of town nurse in 1997. The town nurse is a valued asset to the people of Heath, utilizing professional expertise to minister to the physical and emotional health of our community members as well as to lend support and comfort to the entire family.

If you would like to donate to the Fund in memory of your loved ones or simply to make a gift, please make your check payable to: "Hands Across Heath Trust Fund" and send it to Kristi Nartowicz, Town Treasurer. Your tax deductible donation will not only help your neighbors but may one day touch you or your loved ones directly.

Any questions should be directed to the Heath Selectboard.

~ Eileen Tougas



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Heath Preschool is helping you to celebrate Valentine's Day!

Please support our preschool & guarantee your order by
pre-ordering flowers and chocolates by February 8.

Bouquets with flowers from Plants for Pleasure:

_____ Bouquet(s) of mini carnations @ \$6 each \$ _____

_____ Bouquet(s) of roses/alstromeria @ \$15 each \$ _____

Fine custom chocolates from Green River Chocolates:

_____ 3.75 oz bar(s) of milk chocolate @ \$3 each \$ _____

_____ 3.75 oz bar(s) of dark chocolate @ \$3 each \$ _____

Total pre-order \$ _____ (checks to Heath Preschool please)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Orders may be dropped off at the preschool or in the school
office, or placed by calling Sheila at 337-4957.

Flowers & chocolates may be picked up February 13 & 14 between
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the school, or by special arrangement.

*Also, look for additional valentine gifts and treats-
including Heath-crafted solid glass hearts made by
Tucker Litchfield on display at the Heath School
beginning February 5.*

Thanks for being a sweetheart and supporting the Preschool!

Be Thankful for Animal Agriculture

We have just had a Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, and we have much to be thankful for, both for our families and for our abundant food supply.

There have been, of late, a few people who seem to believe it is both immoral and unethical to have any meat, be it chicken, turkey, beef, pork, lamb, or any other animal protein, in our diet. I am not writing this to change people's eating habits, but I would like to state why we should be thankful for a good animal agriculture in this country.

Take a look at the world on a globe. Make a mental note of the northern and southern hemispheres. Take a closer look at the north temperate and south temperate zones. Now look closely at the nations of the world that lie in both these zones. On close observation, you will see the countries in both north and south temperate zones all have good, viable animal agriculture, be it beef cattle, sheep, goats, or other cud-chewing ruminants that are able to graze millions of acres of marginal land on which a bushel of corn, wheat, barley, rice, or any other grain can never be raised. These animals, and others that I have not named, are able to graze and convert grass and roughage from this marginal land and store it for months and even years before they are taken into the food chain worldwide.

Take another look at the world's nations that subsist mainly on a diet of grains, China, India, African countries and many others not mentioned. What do these nations have in common? Drought that cuts the yields of grain, and floods that wash away topsoil that is necessary to grow crops every year. When these crops are harvested, they are liable to be eaten by many sorts of rodents or made inedible because of rot, mold, or other bacteria that destroy unprotected grains. In addition, the grain has to be planted on the same soil that has so many problems including pollution by reason of chemical fertilizers, pesticides to control insects, and chemicals to control blight and fungi, a never-ending cycle that only leads to more of the same.

The nations that can rely on stored animal products of all kinds have a cushion that protects against starvation and food shortages. This fact cannot be refuted, as history tells us.

The next time we hear about the dietary problems of animal protein or of the unethical way animals are handled, bear in mind that the problems related to animal agriculture are ones that can be handled. With an empty stomach, a nation that has no food reserve is a nation of unrest and instability.

I will vote for a good, healthy animal-based agriculture with problems that can and will be solved.
God bless America.

~ Douglas Stetson

Parent -Teacher Partnership (PTP) NEWS

As we move through a school year characterized by transitions and uncertainty about the future, the PTP is committed – along with our new principal Anne Marie Mislak and our dedicated school staff – to preserving and strengthening our school's unique identity and culture, as well as to sustaining the high level of parent and community involvement at all levels in our school. We do this by ensuring that beloved traditions, in-school and after-school enrichments, are supported and that exciting new programs are introduced each year.

Our busy fall season included a successfully spooky Halloween Party – replete with Haunted House and Pumpkin Carving Contest – held at the school. Annual fall fund-raisers, including our Holiday Decoration Sale made possible by the generosity of John and Wanda Musacchio and Greenfield Open Air Market, were quite successful. Monthly Family Movie Nights were held and will continue throughout the year – open to all. We wound up the year with an electric line performance by Bamidele Drummers and Dancers, featuring music and dance of West Africa and the Caribbean. By the end of the event these high energy performers had all the staff and students dancing together on stage. The response from the school, as well as from parents and community members, was so positive that the PTP has plans to support a week-long, artists-in-residency program at the school with Bamidele Drummers and Dancers next year.

This winter, after-school enrichments sponsored in part by the PTP will include Upper 5 basketball for both boys and girls, as well as the popular Drama Club. This year the Drama Club will perform an adaptation of E. B. White's classic *Charlotte's Web* – both at the school and at a Heath community venue at the end of March. Look for upcoming publicity to be posted in town regarding performance dates and times, or call the school (337-5307), and come join us!

Other special upcoming school events supported by the PTP include the All-School Field Trip to *Cirque Éloize: Rain*, a renowned Canadian Art Circus, performing at the UMASS Fine Arts Center, as well as skating events and a Valentine's '50s "Sock Hop" Dance – a mid-winter morale booster for Heath students and staff.

Finally, it's not too early for us to be thinking spring: Gardening Club and Baseball are just around the corner! We welcome community involvement in our various gardening programs, including our Fedco Seed Fund-raiser. Consider ordering your seeds through Fedco. this year to benefit the PTP. Call the school for a Fedco catalog, available soon.

We thank all our parents, grandparents, and the many community members who support school enrichments for our children in so many wonderful ways!

~ Dana Blackburn
Co-chair



Finance Committee Report

Since our last report in the October/November issue of the *Heath Herald* most of the Finance Committee's (FinCom) attention has been directed at issues involving the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD). Not unusual, considering that total school costs represent 62.4% of Heath's tax levy of \$1,463,693 for FY07 and all the talk about school closings.

The FinCom met on October 2 with the Selectboard (BOS) to discuss the Town of Heath's local education task force efforts with regard to "Other Regional Options and Out-of-District Alternatives." Those discussions were reported by the BOS. The one critical issue of establishing an Independent Heath School seemed not to be viable at that time due to an estimated 22% increase in the Town's tax rate. After this discussion the FinCom reviewed a questionnaire relative to the Stabilization Account Study reported on earlier.

On November 14 there was an All Town Boards meeting at the Charlemont Inn at which Dave Howland reported \$129,584 in Free Cash was available for FY07. He noted that while the Town has used \$50,000 recently to reduce taxes, the balance will allow the Town to increase the Stabilization Fund, for example, or be a bit more flexible with planning the FY08 budget, albeit school costs are the big unknown at this time. He also noted that State funding assistance for the Three-Town Dump closing was still up in the air. The subject of high-speed internet access was reported at this meeting, a subject that the FinCom expects to pursue in coming budget deliberations.

Options about school closings have been well reported, so we won't go into those details here. However, the issue involving the auditing results of Sanderson (Ashfield and Plainfield) and Colrain School's building costs by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) did get our attention. The MSBA cited expenditures not allowed under State guidelines and the use of higher than acceptable interest rates for financing, which resulted in some \$1.4 million dollars being added to the cost of the projects. Obviously, the towns are very upset and understandably so. The Central Office of the District had responsibility in large part for construction and financing, but not entirely. In any event one proposal floated to resolve the problem was for the eight towns in the District to share in making up the "shortfall." The Heath FinCom responded by drafting a letter to Superintendent Buoniconti and the towns of Ashfield, Colrain, and Plainfield, which was supported by the BOS and School Committee as well, at a meeting on December 12. Essentially the letter expressed sympathy for the situation, but noted that other towns have their own very substantial capital obligations. Further, that the Regional Agreement spells out how school capital obligations are to be handled by each town and that sharing such an obligation would involve complicated changes in the Agreement plus appropriate Town Meeting votes. Not easy! In summary, we said the Town of Heath had reservations about signing on for this obligation, at least at this time.

Also at the December 12 meeting, which included School Committee members Pam Porter and Bob Gruen

and Ken Rocke, there was much discussion about the MTRSD's upcoming Interim Report and Heath's position with regard to school closings. The combination of questionable savings, questionable education benefits, issue(s) involving the funding of mortgages on closed schools, and related disruption of family life with long bus rides for small children resulted in a negative position as regards school consolidation. (Subsequently Pam prepared an excellent Minority report, which she delivered to the MTRSD School Committee on January 3, 2007. Tom Lively, speaking for the BOS, supported her report.)

At this time the District's proposals to close schools are not being supported by many townspeople and even by some School Committee members, but there is widespread agreement on one point and that is that the State of Massachusetts is not meeting and has not met its fair share of funding K-12 education. Ken Rocke's study of funding trends since 2001 provides a clear picture of that situation. Thus, lobbying interest is high, but it has to be focused to affect some favorable results in Boston. Heath is doing its share in this regard by establishing a "Save Our School Action Coalition." It also is reviewing earlier conclusions about an independent elementary school via the "Heath Education Focus Group."

We note that FinCom members Janis Carr, Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, and Dave Howland have been serving on various education task forces, and Budge Litchfield, as a teacher, has provided valuable insight into our discussions about education issues. Jeff has also been appointed to the Board of Health.

~ Dave Howland, Chair
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Janis Carr
Budge Litchfield
Jeff Simmons



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- Contact us about the spread, walking the land, this year's crop, or to see how you can assist in the community effort to preserve and transfer this farm. (413) 337-5340, www.gis.net/benplace, benplace@gis.net.

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than by improving its agriculture,
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and other branches of a
husbandman's cares."**

~ George Washington

This section is free to Heath Farmers, and is made possible by the sales of Carroll Stowe's compilation "The Way it is in the Country." Agricultural producers should submit their information to *The Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

FAIR ALERT!

At our January Meeting we faced a hard truth. There are not enough of us able to work on the Fair year-round to keep it going. We need leadership help. We need publicity help. We need people who love the Fair enough to help develop it year-round. The time has come for the people and organizations of Heath to decide how important the Fair is to us and whether we want it to continue. On **THURSDAY, MARCH 8**, at the School at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to come to a meeting to discuss the Fair's future.

It may be that the life of the Heath Fair has run its course. It is not for want of loving it and working hard at it that we have come to this point. Many good people have done much to make it the excellent small fair that it is. But running the Fair is not as simple as it once was. It is, after all, a business that needs promoting and tending just like any other business if it is going to succeed.

It may be that the time has come to downsize and simplify the operation. Certainly the issue of sustainability has come to the Fair, just as it has come to every other part of life in rural Massachusetts.

We are asking your help in deciding whether we can continue to sustain a fair in our community. We are asking your help in considering how it might continue to be sustainable. If you are interested in seeing the Fair continue and are ready to contribute time and talent to tending it year-round, I urge you to come to the meeting on **MARCH 8**. We will discuss the needs as we see them and invite ideas for organization and development.

If you cannot come to the Fair meeting but are interested in contributing to its continuation, call Pam Porter at 413 337-5525.

~ Pam Porter
Co-President

Fred Lively Remembered

Reflections on and Memories of Fred Lively

A peaceful man passed from our midst in a quiet way a few weeks ago. Fred was a good neighbor and a faithful friend. I had the pleasure of knowing him and working with him for 36 years. We never had an argument and found precious little on which we would disagree. We shared a love of haying, logging, cutting firewood, and reflecting on the beauty of the seasons and the landscape.

As a youth Fred grew up farming with his father and his brothers. They cut hay, in his words, through the entire summer well into the fall, keeping the best for the milk cows and the rest for beef cattle and the horses. Fred spoke fondly of his riding horse and long excursions with friends often down to Jacksonville and other parts of Vermont. He was an excellent dairyman and over many years developed an exceptional herd of Jerseys and Holsteins.

Fred spent much of his life working with a great deal of his time devoted to dairy farming, maple sugaring, and cutting brush which he sold to craft persons who made wreaths. After selling his dairy farm he worked at a more leisurely pace, still haying many of his fields and cutting brush in the fall and early winter. He tended a large garden and kept a few cattle and some laying hens.

I admired Fred as much for what he was as for what he was not. I never heard him gossip or speak ill of anyone aside from politicians who deserved his wrath. He was a person of sound and gentle moral habits. Doing the good seemed obvious and natural to him. Being a good worker, paying attention to detail, and getting the job done was important to him. Thirty years ago, when we worked together, we drove ourselves at a pace only appropriate to madness and youth. In later years we were content with shorter days and more modest accomplishments. We would end a short morning or afternoon laughing at our limitations and remembering years gone by.

Fred often shared with me how much he enjoyed singing in the choir at his church. He had a beautiful tenor voice. His spirituality flowed smoothly with the rhythms of his life. He was a person of kindness and prayer, free from the pretense of self-righteousness.

~ Bernard den Ouden



As I Knew Him

Frederic Lively, as I knew him, was an extraordinary human being and a wonderful inspiration to all of the members of the Parish of Saint Joseph. He was very dedicated to the choir and sang God's praises both at the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday at the Mission Church of Saint Christopher and on Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of Saint Joseph. He deeply loved our Eucharistic Holy Hours on Monday evenings and always expressed gratitude for the opportunity to come in prayer before the Eucharistic Lord. He faithfully participated in so many other activities of the Parish. He loved his God and the wonderful creation God has given to us, and epitomized in his life the phrase with which so many of us are very familiar: "He lived simply in order that others might simply live." He is fondly remembered but deeply missed by all of the parishioners of our Parish, but I am sure that he is present to us in a renewed, transformed, and spiritual way.

~ Father John A. Roach



Thank You

We would like to take a moment to say Thank You to all our friends and neighbors for the outpouring of support we received at the time of Dad's passing. All the cards, food, flowers, photos, donations to Good Neighbors and St. Joseph's Church, and especially the memories and stories of Dad that people shared with us were so greatly appreciated. We would especially like to thank the staff at Rowe school for all the food and also the Heath Parent Teacher Partnership for organizing the reception at the Heath School after the services

~ The family of Fred Lively

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall.

Three-Town Landfill

The new governor, Deval Patrick, has restored the \$1,000,000 previously appropriated by the legislature for the closure of the Three-Town Landfill that was cut by the former governor. We have received the contract from the State for the grant and have executed and returned it. We're waiting for the check.

School Issues

The Selectboard voted to oppose any proposal by the Mo-hawk Trail Regional School District that would result in the closing of any elementary school at this time based on current information. The educational, social, and financial impacts of the consolidation plan are not clearly beneficial to the Town of Heath. The Board is supportive of efforts by the district to lobby for additional financial assistance from the State.

The Selectboard has formed citizen committees to gather information with a focus on Heath running an independent school and on lobbying the State for additional funds. The Heath Education Focus Group will explore how Heath can go it alone. The group consists of Leighton McCutchen, Eric Grinnell, Ken Rocke, Dave Howland, Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan, and Jonathan Diamond.

The "SOS" (Save Our Schools) Action Coalition was formed for the purpose of pursuing legislative action to fund our schools. Coalition members include Jan Carr, Bob Viarengo, and Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan.

Appointments

The Town is in need of an animal inspector. The duties of the position include: documenting the livestock in town, reviewing the conditions of their care and keeping, investigating complaints of neglect or abuse, monitoring cases of disease, especially rabies, making reports to the town Board of Health and the State, and assisting in quarantining of diseased animals. If anyone is interested in the position, please contact Gloria Fisher at the town offices.

FY08 Budget

All town boards and department heads are being asked to develop their budgets for the coming fiscal year. The Board will be holding hearings with department heads as soon as we develop the FY08 budget for the Annual Town Meeting in May.

WiFi

The Town has a high-speed wireless Internet connection available to anyone within range of the antenna. Check it out as you drive through the center of town or visit the library.

Heath Online

Take some time to visit the Town's Web site at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The Web site is currently being switched to another service provider and is undergoing a face-lift so keep checking back often. You may contact the Selectboard at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath Web site.

~ Heath Selectboard
Thomas Lively, Chair
Brian De Vriese
Sheila Litchfield

A Thank-You to All Who Helped in the Ice Storm



The Selectboard would like to thank all those who helped out in the recent ice storm emergency.

Mike Smith and the Highway Department crew – **Dohn Sherman, Jason Lively, and Joey Sonntag** – who worked long and hard to sand, salt, and cut trees and branches that were blocking the roads.

Volunteer firefighters **Dave Cote, Tim Lively, Budge Litchfield, Ken Gilbert, Walt Gleason, Earl Gleason, Bob Gruen, Steve Bigelow, and Bob Tanner** for cutting branches and trees and manning the office.

Sandy Gilbert, Donna Tanner, and Sheila Litchfield for keeping the workers fed.

Art Schwenger and Brian DeVriese for leaving work, grabbing their chain saws, and helping to clear the roads.

Tim Lively for his part as Emergency Management Director for the Town of Heath.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our workers and volunteers. This is part of what makes Heath special.

Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery

625-8110

The Benson Place

Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread
337-5340

Fred Burrington

Artist
337-4302

Dave Cote Builders

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337-4705

Robert Delisle

Electrician
337-5716

Russell E. Donelson

Design/Construction/Cabinetry
337-4460

Jerry Ferguson

Handyman - Lic. Electrician
337-4317

Earl M. Gleason

Fire Equipment
337-4948

Heath Brook Studio

Glass and Baskets
337-5736

Maple Ledge Goldens

AKC Registered Golden Retrievers
337-4705

John Mooney

Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney

Realtor
337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries

Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau

Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin

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337-5529

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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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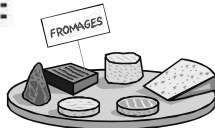
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52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

Library Lines**Homebound Delivery**

By Donald Purington

Homebound delivery is a little-known service offered by the Heath Free Public Library to residents of Heath. Volunteers will deliver (and pick up) books, books on tape or CD, movies (videotape or DVD), or magazines to you if you are unable to get to the library due to a health problem or disability. Deliveries would also be made if you are hospitalized or temporarily in a nursing home.

Please call me at 337-4934, extension 7, or send an e-mail to heath@cwmar.org to request a delivery. We can provide specific titles for you, or you can describe the type of books or movies you like and we will try to find something for you.

The library's December Holiday Raffle was very successful. Tickets for the 21 raffle items were sold for one dollar each or a donation of a non-perishable food item. Twenty-five cans and boxes of food were collected and donated to the Good Neighbors Food Pantry. Money raised by the raffle will be used to purchase new materials for the library.

Dale M. Hellegers, author of *We the Japanese People: World War II and the Origins of the Japanese Constitution*, recently gave the library a copy of this two-volume set. This is a significant addition to our reference collection because Heath was the retirement residence of Charles Kades, who oversaw the writing of the Japanese Constitution in 1946. Mr. Kades lived part-time in Heath from 1976 until he died in 1996 at the age of 90.

Ms. Hellegers' book was published in 2002 by Stanford University Press. It won the 2002 Outstanding Academic Title Award from *Choice*, a publication of the Association of College & Research Libraries. We are very grateful to Ms. Hellegers for her generous gift.

New at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Getting Warmer* by Carol Snow, *Skeleton Coast* by Clive Cussler, *Skylight Confessions* by Alice Hoffman, *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson, *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Innocent Man* by John Grisham, *Tree: A Natural History of Trees, How They Live, and Why They Matter* by Colin Tudge, *Joy of Cooking - 75th Anniversary Edition* by Irma Rombauer, et al, *Good Dog: The Story of Orson Who Changed My Life* by Jon Katz, *Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together With Children* by Sharon Lovejoy.

Young Adult Books: *An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green, *Torchlight* by Carol Otis Hurst, *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation* by M. T. Anderson

Children's Picture Books: *One and Only: Toot and Puddle* by Holly Hobbie, *The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon* by Mini Grey, *Flotsam* by David Weisner

Board Books: *10 Minutes to Bedtime* by Peggy Rathman, *Animal Kisses* by Barney Saltzberg, *Trucks* by Fiona Watt.

Children's Nonfiction Books: *Wild Animals*, a poster book with text by Colrain author Karl Meyer, *Frog Heaven: Ecology of a Vernal Pool* by Doug Weschler, *Egg is Quiet* by Dianna Aston.

Books on CD: *Grayson (nonfiction)* by Lynne Cox, *Nature Girl* by Carl Hiaasen, *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* by Betty Birney.

DVDs: *Bonanza - Four Episodes* (According to the liner notes, this series started in 1959 with backing from RCA® in an effort to sell more of their new color televisions. They hoped the stunning outdoor scenery would entice viewers to make the change from black & white TVs to color. Surprisingly, the show became a hit as viewers tuned in each week to watch the adventures of Ben, Adam, Hoss and Little Joe Cartwright on their ranch, the Ponderosa.)

*“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends;
they are the most accessible and wisest of
counselors, and the most patient of teachers”.*

~ Charles W Eliot

Milestones

Born on January 28, 2007, **Hazel**, daughter of **Kate Bailey and Michael Wilmeth of Heath**, granddaughter of Edward and Marion Bailey of Beverly and Don and Judy Wilmeth of Providence, RI.

People in the News

Grace Crowningshield is at Buckley Healthcare Center recuperating from surgery. She expects to be there for a few more weeks. Grace will be celebrating a birthday on February 8. Her address at Buckley: 95 Laurel St., Greenfield 01301. She welcomes cards and visitors.

Happy Birthday Grace!

Heath Herald Changing of the Guard



Deborah Phillips and Jan Carr

Deborah Phillips took over the Advertising and Circulation and Business Manager positions beginning with the February/March 1994 issue when Terry Pettengill retired from the *Herald* staff. She is now retiring.

So this is a sincere **THANK YOU, Deborah**, for 13 years of outstanding work on our paper!

As of this issue, Jan Carr will take over for Deborah. Jan wears many hats. She is a library trustee, an invaluable member of the Friends of the Heath School Library Board (Attendees at the FHSL's breakfasts at the ATMs know her as well as a baker of delectable treats !!). She is the Secretary of the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, and a member of the Finance Committee. Given all these commitments, we felt incredible lucky when she agreed to join the staff!

WELCOME JAN!

Reviewing 2006

2006 wasn't kind to the little town of Heath as several people who gave much were put to rest.

Robert "Jake" Tripp, fellow blueberry grower and World War II hero; **Alvin Hillman**, too young – a man who could "fix anything" – farm equipment, motor vehicles of all types – a snow-plowman, excavator, and logger who was always willing to help a fellow Heathan, no matter what hour of day or night; **Ray Pettengill**, family man of good virtues, who served on many town boards, always volunteering for his community, and a columnist for the *Heath Herald*, and **Fred Lively**, family man, farmer, and a superb Heath highway crewman. He had a large garden and a large heart.

These people were part of the basic fabric that helps to hold Heath together as a special place.

We miss you. God bless you and THANKS!

~ Jack Cable

**Nomination Papers
for the May 11 town election
must be obtained from the
town clerk
no later than March 21.**

**The last day to file the
papers with the town clerk:
March 23.**

Selectmen: Tom Lively,
incumbent (3-year term)
Assessors: Val Kaempfer,
incumbent (3-year term)
School Committee Member: Bob Gruen,
incumbent (3-year term)
Constables: Bob Tanner and Jeff Simmons,
incumbents (1-year term)
Dog Officer: Bob Tanner,
incumbent (1-year term)
Planning Board: Dino Schnelle,
incumbent (5-year term)
Library Trustee: Janis Carr,
incumbent (3-year term)
Finance Committee: Jeff Simmons,
incumbent (3-year term)



Frozen in time.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From November 11	3 ¼ "	Dusting
December	1 ¾ "	2"
Up to January 10, 2007	3 ½ "	Dusting/sleet

In this reporting period:

The weather for this reporting period was much milder than normal. There was a strong thunderstorm on the 1st of December, that dumped from 1 – 1 ¾ inches of rain and caused some trees to come down. The total inches of snow in December included three "coatings" of snow, which melted quickly each time. It was warm enough so that any snow that Berkshire East had made soon melted, which caused the ski area to shut down for a part of the season. January 2007 started off with some icing on New Year's day and a mild spell that reached up to 62 degrees on the 6th. There were reports of daffodil shoots and crocuses, sprouting up around Franklin County.

~ Tim Lively

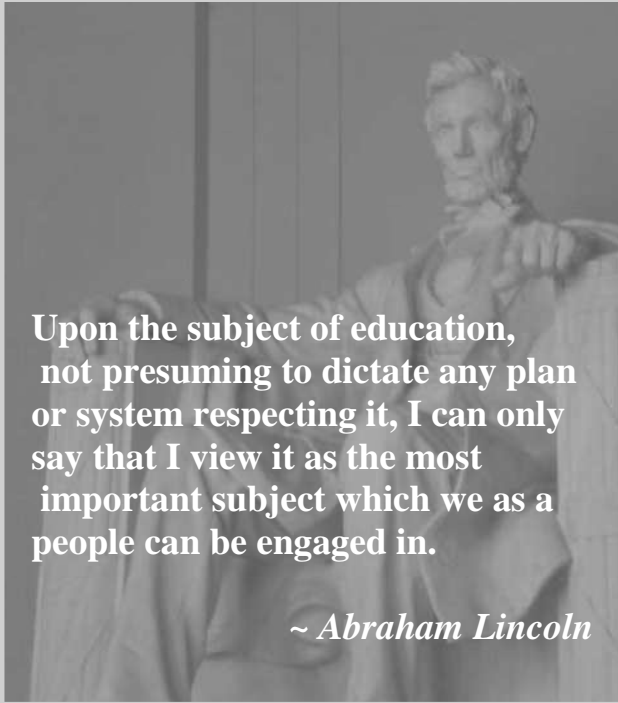
Community Calendar

February 2007

- February 07** - Schools' Early Release Day, 12:45 p.m.
Heath School's All-School Trip to UMass
Fine Arts for Cirque Eloize-
Rain performance.
- February 08** - MTRHS Open House
Student Instrumental Music Concert, Heath
School, 2:15 p.m.
- February 10** - 30th Anniversary All-School Concert,
MTRHS, 7:00 p.m.
- February 11** - Heath Community Hall Committee's Game
Afternoon, Heath Community Hall
(upstairs), 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- February 13** - LEC Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
- February 14** - **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**
- February 15** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior
Center, 11:45 a.m.
- February 16** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00
to 11:00 a.m.
PTPs 50's Sock Hop, Heath School
"The Gospel of the Beloved Disciple," The
Academy at Charlemont, 7:30 p.m.
- February 19-23** - **SCHOOLS' WINTER VACATION**

March 2007

- March 01** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior
Center, 11:45 a.m.
- March 02** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00
to 11:00 a.m.
- March 2&3** - 30th Annual All-School Musical.
"Thoroughly Modern Millie," MTRHS,
- March 08** - Heath Agricultural Society, Heath Fair
Meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- March 15** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior
Center, 11:45 a.m.
Heath School's Grades 3 and 4 to Pioneer
Valley Symphony and Chorus performance,
Greenfield High School.
- March 16** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00
to 11:00 a.m.
PTP Movie Night, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- March 21** - Schools' Early Release Day
- March 22** - Parent/Teacher Conferences, Heath School,
Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m.
- March 23** - Parent/Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal,
12:30 p.m.
- March 26** - Heath School's 6th Grade to Nature's Classroom.
- March 30** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00
to 11:00 a.m.



Upon the subject of education,
not presuming to dictate any plan
or system respecting it, I can only
say that I view it as the most
important subject which we as a
people can be engaged in.

~ Abraham Lincoln

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