



HEATH HERALD

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Happy Holidays



Heath Herald

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Heath Union Church News

The October Family night was a tasty event as we baked cookies using our new oven for the first time. Many cookies were eaten and plates of goodies shared. The November Family night featured a movie.

The congregation assembled Thanksgiving eve for a worship of Thankfulness. A potluck meal was enjoyed on November 2. The next one is January 4 following the morning worship service. All are welcome. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of "Baseball and Bach" on November 9. The concert benefited both the Heath/Rowe Little League as well as the Johnson Organ Restoration Fund..

Please be advised of our Christmas season activities. We welcome anyone who would like to sing in a choir on Christmas Sunday, December 21, and need more children to fill the cast for our Nativity Pageant that morning. Contact Tracey at 337-4008 or Ruth at 337-4367 for more information.

To help conserve energy we will move our morning worship to the Lower Level on December 28 until Palm Sunday.

The Johnson Organ Restoration Committee wishes to draw your attention to the informative article on this historical treasure in this issue and to the insert for donations, continuing our quest for funds to restore this valuable instrument.

Adult Sunday School at Church, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's hours, Thursday. 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

He can be reached at the church at 337-4019 or at home at 412-648-9077.

~ The Deacons



Memories of Christmas



Looking at the Christmas shopping list for this year in the midst of all the present financial woes made me recall how it was when I was a child.

Our immediate family memories are the best. We usually had one shopping day in Greenfield when Dad would park the car on Main Street and tell Mom to take us girls to buy, while he enjoyed himself watching the people go by. Gifts were not as big and numerous as today but certain items were not to be homemade.

We always hung our stockings and thoroughly enjoyed the process of seeing what was in them. There was always an orange in the toe, some nuts in the shell, and small gifts like a new toothbrush or hairbrush, or a special candy bar, or maybe a tiny toy. There were no lumps of coal so our antics were forgiven. Dad had, of course, been up since five to milk the cows and would tease us by taking forever to get cleaned up and ready for coffee and cinnamon buns or butterhorns before attacking the items under the tree. We usually got the "big" gift we wished for and some other more useful things as mittens, socks or sweaters knitted by Gramma Landstrom.

One year we were all delighted with new skis made in a local mill by a friend of the family. They were much wider than today's skis with a slight turnup and a leather strap to slide the foot into. We did learn to ski with them and even maneuvered a jump we erected in the north field. Another time an uncle made a big chalkboard that graced our playroom wall for years. A year when we were quite young we got a table and graduated stools (to fit our various sizes). Again made locally and I still use my low stool by my bed. Another year a bushel of blocks, actually odds and ends from a woodworking shop. Many creations were made from those. Store-bought items included our dolls and our Flexible Flyers with the oldest getting one, one year and then down the line to me. What a lot of miles we put on those! Another year the oldest got ice skates, then the second girl, then the third but these were swapped with cousins so we all could be out on the ice!

I think the fondest memories we three sisters have is the annual trek to pick out our Christmas tree. Sometimes Mom came, but more often than not it was our special time with Dad. As South Heath has very few spruces we had to search the whole pasture hill. We girls would find "a nice one" but Dad always found some fault with it so led us on. This took some time but we had a real romp in the snow and lots of hilarity until Dad would "find" the tree. Of course he had located it months before and just enjoyed the agonizing quest for us. Such fun.

So to get back to my opening idea, I hope you can see how much fun and joy can be derived from Christmas gifts from the heart and hand, not from the pocketbook. Economize and bring joy.

~ Ruth Landstrom Johnson



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Editors' Note: At a recent gathering to celebrate this venerable house, Hazel, speaking as the House, read the following.



200-Year-Old House

Drive up from Charlemont on 8A towards Vermont. After five miles and 200 feet you will come around a curve and behold, there is a handsome red house nestled behind an ancient stone wall, shielded by a 300-year-old sugar maple tree.

I am that house. I am now 200 years old and sit proudly on a flat garden called grass. The abrupt mountain standing 100 feet across has protected me from snow and wind and remains a friend with memory.

Moses Smith asked Colonel David Snow to build him a house in 1808. He thought I needed a 10-foot-by-9-foot square chimney as the foundation for a New England house. He made three opening fireplaces – for a sleeping, hence burning room, a kitchen, and a living room. I'm most proud of my kitchen which still has its side oven with the opening below where ashes are collected. The cover for the ash pit still has a sturdy iron door.

My attic is of standing height and large for sleepers. I'll never divulge the antics of young and old who have loved this private place.

At some point in the years after my birth, four rooms were added to make me look like the traditional New England house with center hall and stairway. I prevailed in making a 9-inch step so people do need to show respect, not speed, using my stairway. As you enter through what is now the front door, with glass panels on each side, you see a dining room-library on the left and a bedroom or study on the right. My master has replaced my front door with a cherry door, the wood taken from across the road. I am told that Les Patlove created this handsome door. I like, indeed approve, this door. When you carefully ascend the stairs you will find two bedrooms, both of which have closets. One has a doorway into the full attic for mice and squirrels to spend winters in free play.

I have a slight problem with dementia in remembering all the people who lived in my house. After Moses Smith, then came Daniel Gale. I can tell you that in the 1960s Phyllis Owens, a lady from New Jersey, raised large dogs

who had free range of the house. She cut out a pulley door in the closet of the downstairs study so her pets could come and go as they pleased. They've scratched my red door into the hall. So we won't forget their presence.

In 1970, a small lady called Betty Maitland from New York City was searching for a house in the Vermont area... a ski house. Driving down via 8A from Vermont she saw me and inquired...was I wanting new residents? Yes, yes, yes. Her husband agreed the minute he saw me. I know he did lots of reading to discover my history which pleased me greatly. I understand that after they paid money for me that Mr. Maitland asked to be demoted in his foreign service work for the Brits so that he could move from New York to Boston. He really liked me.

This fabulous couple began healing my wounds. Alastair Maitland began by giving me a new foundation. He did it all by himself. Later a necessity called a bathroom was created from my attic. These are conveniences for a couple who have three grown children, Ian, Angus, and Anne.

For a number of years I became a weekend retreat from Boston. Betty created beautiful gardens while Alastair took care of me. I don't know how a busy Scot working for those Brits learned how to scrape and paint but it feels good to be taken care of. I began to feel very important to both of them - I am a home.

During winter months they flew to Paris with their cat and dog so I was often rented to a strange assortment of people who did not respect me. In the late 1970s Betty became ill and left me and her husband. I became empty and sad. My master continued alone, caring for me, building fires in a new Yodel stove in the living room. Several years passed.

One day a white-haired lady knocked on the door asking to borrow a book. My master invited her in and served tea and cookies. He talked for a long time telling her what the book was about so she left no longer needing the book. She later confided in me that she was so impressed with this man that she did not remember much the book was about.

Alastair began to visit this lady. After several meals in her home and several movies and parties together, she began to come to me and parked her car in the barn. She spent the night. After a few seasons these two were married in her house and had a reception in my living room. This made me very proud. Since then they set up living together in my very nest, even though she has a home in Heath. They care for me, and I feel warmed by them and their friends.

I now have a new basement, built in 1991 by Bruce Cromack who had to dig out a floor and find a conveyor belt on which to carry the dirt out the window. My handsome chimney and foundation walls are a sight for all to see and ask, "Who carried all these huge rocks to build this 200 years ago?"

I also have 25 new windows and a new set of garage doors. Alastair and Hazel, their families and friends, still enjoy being in my presence.

~ Hazel Porter

The Deacon Moses Smith House 1808 – 2008 Celebrating 200 Years

(Editors' Note: This article by Alastair Maitland was first published in the April/May 1986 issue of the paper.)

I have always known that for anyone seeking information about Heath, (past as well as present) the best source – the real fountainhead – was the Director of the Heath Central Intelligence Agency, Esther Dickinson. So that, when invited by the *Heath Herald* to do a piece about the house I live in on Route 8A, I naturally turned to Esther for assistance and guidance.

As a preliminary step I had dug into Edward Calver's 1979 History and Guidebook and had followed his trail northwards from Charlemont Hill to the Green and Walker lands, through the almost impenetrable Old Testament thicket of prolifically philo-progenitive Asaphs, Elijahs, Jobs, Jonathans, Benjamins, Asahels, Reubens, Isaacs, Calebs, Obadiahs, Jonahs, Arons, Abners, Elis, Jesses, Othniels, Nathaniels, Ebenezers, Samuels, Asas, Solomons, Seths, Jacobs, Josephs, Pelatiah, Ephraims, and Shearjashubs. But, at the point on 8A where the old Myrfield-Rowe Road takes off up the hill toward Paul Burrington's present (former) home, I lost my way and turned back.

It was then that Esther took me by the hand and guided me back into the clear light of day. More precisely, she directed me to page 124 of the Calver tome where there is not only a neat pen-and-ink drawing of the house – complete with the stone fence built on the south side in the 1950s – but also the statement that the house was "taken up" in 1808 by Moses Smith, one of the children of Pelatiah and Rhoda Smith. According to Calver the Moses Smith house was built by (Colonel) David Snow, who is described by Pearle Tanner in the Heath Sesquicentennial book as a housewright. He was also a Man of Property. He "owned a great deal of real estate, seemed to own a large part of the center (and) owned some land in Dell." Mrs. Tanner tells us also that Snow built the present Heath Union Church (1833) as well as the "Historical hall" or old Town House (1834).

Deacon Smith and his eldest son, the Reverend Lowell Smith, were among those converted by the Reverend Moses Miller during Heath's "Great Revival" in 1822-23. Lowell was to become one of the two Heath missionaries whose lives and work were the subject of Amy Barry's *Book of Heath* essay, "From This Mountain House." In 1839, a few years after Lowell Smith's departure for the Hawaiian Islands, his father sold the house in Heath and moved to the more benign climate of Greenfield.

The Smiths were followed by Otis Gale and later by Otis' brother Daniel, who is reported to have added a "carriage house" to the Heath property (then extending to some 125 acres) and to have made other "improvements." Daniel, as Calver notes, was "political, like his father," Luther serving as selectman, assessor, school committee member, justice of the peace, and state legislator.

Precisely when the Gale family's tenure ended is not clear. But thanks to the collective memory of Esther Dickinson and her brothers and some useful input by Ralph Sumner, we know that the Gales were succeeded, perhaps after an interval,

by Morris M. Stacy (1906-14), by Eugene James, his daughter Nellie, and his mother (1914-20, the John Mansons (1949-64), and Alan Janus and his wife Phyllis (1965-69), from whom we acquired the property. Some time between 1920 and 1938 the property may have been owned by Carleton Davenport. At some stage during this period the house was rented by Alex Tatro, who was then employed by Miss Grant, then living in the Graebner-McCutchen house on 8A.

So much for the history of the place. As to the house itself I have always felt that its appeal lies as much in its location as in the simple elegance of its façade. It is held in the affectionate embrace of the stage road as it moves in a sweeping curve northward. And it is guarded by an ancient sentinel, the majestic maple of which Clyde Churchill once said: "Indians slept in the shade of that tree."

There is no sign of Daniel Gale's "carriage house." There is now nothing grander than a 2-car garage. And one wonders what Gale's "other improvements" were. Whatever they were they must have succumbed to the general neglect from which the house evidently suffered in the years before the Mansons' tenure. "It looked like a total wreck," some have said. The Mansons appeared to have undertaken a major restoration and rehabilitation exercise, involving amongst other things the modernization of the kitchen.

And it was probably they who made the happy decision to change the color of the exterior from white to barn red. Further rehabilitation was carried out by the Januses, who were responsible for the afore-mentioned stone fence as well as for a new barn equipped with a couple of horse-stalls. The barn builder was Wilbert Rainville. Since the Janus era the house has been provided with a new roof, and a couple of sills have been replaced. There has also been some propping-up-and pulling-together to arrest middle-age spread, together with some internal rearrangement – the elimination of a downstairs "winter bedroom" in order to enlarge and brighten the sitting room.

Except perhaps for the great brick fireplace with its old brick oven in the center of the leg of the L and the carved mantelpiece in the study, the interior is unremarkable. The simplicity of the exterior is continued inside. It is the sort of house in which you never have any difficulty in orienting yourself. I only wish Colonel Snow had paid attention to the design, shape, and depth of the cellar. But you can't have everything.

(Editors' Note: the "ancient sentinel, the majestic maple" elicited another article by Alastair for the Heath Tree series in the August/September 2001 issue and from which the following is taken.)

Homage to a Patriarch

...Did the maple tree pre-date the house, as Clyde Churchill believed? Or was the tree planted there, at the time of construction, and as part of the original, over-all décor, by David Snow...? The chances are that Clyde's estimate was correct, given the tree's impressive girth – 5 feet 6 inches in diameter at breast height – and the generally accepted belief that sugar maples may live up to 500 years.

(*"The Deacon Moses Smith House"* continued on page 7)

Wild Ramblings**Vantage Point**

By Bill Lattrell

I watch red oak leaves falling from above. I am archery hunting from a tree stand overlooking an open hardwood forest. Some of the leaves fall in a spiral pattern, slowly floating to the ground as if stuck to the edge of a vortex. Other leaves swing back and forth, swinging in a parallel end to end pattern on the way to the forest floor. I look up through the branches of the oaks, maples, birches, and a lone butternut. Through the morning mist I can see layers of clouds passing overhead moving from west to east. Sunrise was about an hour ago, its beauty hidden by the overcast morning.

The falling leaves trigger an explicit memory from my childhood and vivid images appear in my mind. I am about eight years old and I am sitting in a white pine about 50 feet off the ground holding on tightly as the wind blows the tree back and forth. To the east I can see the last leaves falling from a white oak tree and, like now, they fall in patterns that lengthen their journey to the ground. Despite the swaying motion of the tree, I remember feeling safe, alive, and most of all, content. The space between the bottom of my feet and the surface of the earth provided a buffer that was comforting.

The movement of a gray squirrel running through the leaves brings me back to the present. The squirrel hops over to the base of a large oak and digs through the leaves finding an acorn. He pops the acorn into his mouth and begins to scurry off to some hiding place where the acorn will likely be buried. As he scurries away I notice the squirrel has only half a tail; the result of a near miss, no doubt, from an encounter with a predator looking for a meal.

The squirrel no longer in sight, I look at the trees that surround me. The trunk of the sugar maple next to me has vertical ridges that remind me of a braided stream channel. The high ridges are dark in color, and the linear channels between the high ridges are light in color. A bright green moss grows along the top of some of the darker ridges, mimicking a forest along a stream bank. The white and black bark of the white birch in front of me has horizontal stripes, punctuated with little tears that make the lines look like the dots and dashes in the written form of Morse code. The onion skin-like edges of some of the tears in the bark flutter in the breeze making a slight buzzing noise. The thick black and purple bark of a black birch to my left is torn and fragmented both horizontally and vertically, giving it a checkerboard pattern that is three-dimensional.

There is much to see with so few distractions.

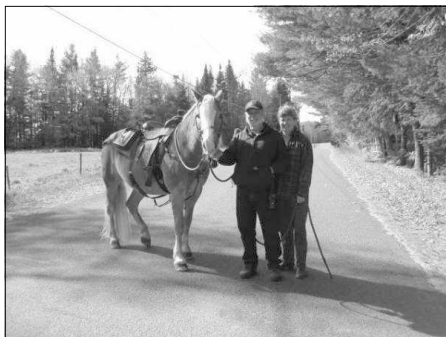
The floor of the forest is mostly covered with a thick layer of newly fallen leaves. A few evergreen wood ferns and Christmas fern fronds struggle to stay on the surface so that they can photosynthesize until they are buried beneath a December snowfall. Most of the fallen deadwood trees lying on the ground are pointing in an eastward direction, indicating they were toppled by prevailing winds from the west.

My observations are interrupted by a rustling sound coming from the distance in front of me. At first I can't visually locate the sound, and then, around from the back of a hemlock a red fox prances into view. The fox is very light on its feet, barely making a noise in the crispy leaves that litter the ground. His reddish coat blends well with the leaf litter background as he travels from north to south about 50 yards in front of me. I realize he is going to disappear off into the distance quickly, so I moisten the back of my hand with my tongue and press my lips against the moist area to blow a high pitch squeal that mimics a wounded rabbit. The fox stops dead in its tracks and looks directly at me in the tree. I am in complete camouflage and remain still. He cannot decipher me from the tree. It occurs to me that this fox may be responsible for the missing part of the squirrel's tail. The fox slowly approaches the tree, smelling the ground along the way. As it gets closer I notice that its bushy red tail has a wide black band located along the bottom. The band runs the length of the tail from the back of the fox's legs to the white pointed tip of the tail and is a feature I have never witnessed on another fox.

The fox is not timid as it approaches my stand. I tuck my tongue into the corner of my cheek and make a clucking partridge sound. The fox's head perks up straight into the air and it looks from side to side with great intensity. The fox checks the area to right of my tree stand, and then checks the area to the left of my tree stand. It looks back up the tree trunk at my hidden form and still does not recognize my human shape. And then, without notice, he prances off back to the exact trail he was on, presumably satisfied that there was no easy meal to be had.

Realizing that the day could not get better, and a repeat performance is unlikely, I begin my preparations to leave my vantage point in the tree. As I begin to untie my safety belt I look into the distance and an oak leaf lazily swirls to the forest floor and in my mind I am an eight-year-old boy again, feeling safe, alive, and, most of all, content.

Haflinger Mare Stars in Film



A local stable recently received an unusual request. Birch Glen Stables, LLC of Heath, MA, was asked if they would provide a horse for a film shoot. After selecting the hill towns of Rowe, Heath, and Conway as ideal locations to film her thesis project, Sloane Arcaro, a senior student at the New York School of Visual Arts needed a horse to star in the opening scenes. Birch Glen Stable owners Joan Schoenhals and Joe Kovach agreed to supply Gemini, JMT, their ten-year-old Haflinger mare to fill the part.

The peak of fall leaf season during the week of October 13 proved to be a perfect time for this little adventure. Sloane brought a cast and crew of about ten people to the farm and set to work.

After introducing Gemini to the leading lady, Joan and Joe gave Kat Stenbeck, an actress from Sweden, a crash course in beginner riding skills. She then successfully rode Gemini down a trail on the Gilbert's property, past cameras and camera operators. Later in the day, the group relocated to a scenic spot in Rowe, where riding for the lead, Joan trotted Gemini up a hill and through an open meadow at sunset. Everyone enjoyed both working and relaxing in the spectacular fall color. When completed, the short film, *Lion Bold*, written by Alexia Arcaro, Sloane's sister, will be previewed in Manhattan in April or May 2009.

Meanwhile, on typical days Birch Glen Stables is home to seven horses, including



three Haflingers, two quarter horses and one appaloosa. They offer full or working board, which comes with the use of their new Megadome riding area. A skilled horseman, Joe provides training to meet the needs of the individual horse, ranging from starting horses under saddle to correction of problems. Joe also maintains a limited farrier practice. In June of 2008, Birch Glen Stables hosted a program sponsored by the Rowe Camp and Conference Center, titled "Spiritual Kinship: Soul Journey with Horses." Joan and Joe invite you to stop by anytime to visit their star mare, see their sale horses, or learn more about their services!



~ Joan Schoenhals

("The Deacon Moses Smith House" continued from page 5)

I have known and cared for the maple for the last thirty years. It has required surgery from time to time. Protective bracing has been installed. And there have been timely applications of fertilizer. The result would have pleased the Swiss botanist, Augustin Pyrame de Candolle, who believed that trees die from injury and disease not from old age.

However, time marches on. And, while the great tree will long survive me and will continue to stand guard as it has from the time of Moses Smith, it has seemed to me that a way had to be found to ensure that its image – its spirit – will not be lost with the passage of time. The way I chose was to help it to have authentic and identifiable heirs and successors.

It was easy enough to collect a sufficient quantity of the samaras, or winged seeds, when in due course they spun to earth through the autumn air. The seeds were then stored in the freezer until the following spring when a dozen of them were planted beside the barn. They have all survived – there may be something special in their genes – and the majority have by now reached a height of 11 feet. This coming autumn two or three of the best specimens will be dug up and re-planted at sites that have been selected to provide the young trees with the space and visibility that we wish them to have.

All of us perhaps have a little something of Joyce Kilmer in us, "A poem as lovely as a tree?" Can a fair comparison be made between a sonnet by Petrarch or Shakespeare or Keats and a venerable sugar maple of more than ample girth? Perhaps not. But who would deny that only God can make a tree.

~ Alastair Maitland



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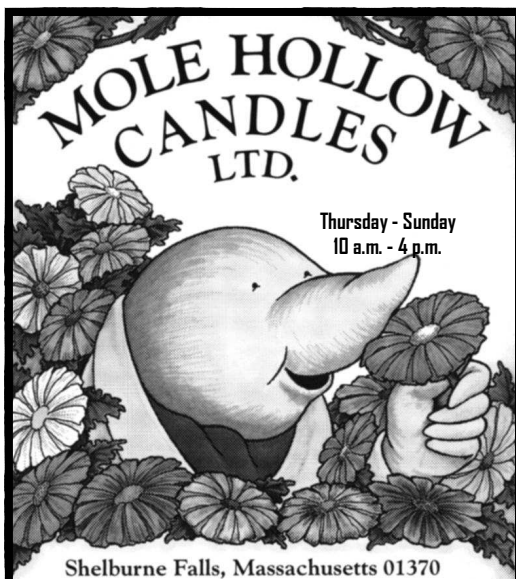
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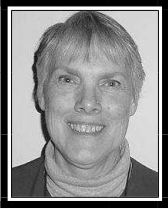


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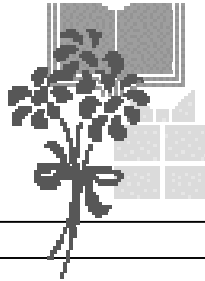
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Green Thoughts

Gift Books for the Gardener



By Pat Leuchtman

Long before I was a gardener I was a reader. Since I can't really garden much during a Heath winter, or even on days that are too hot or too wet or too buggy, the next best thing is reading about plants and the garden. I find I am not alone in this, so herewith are a few of the books I most enjoyed this year.

During October my garden was looking pretty good. There was some colorful foliage, and the asters and dahlias kept on blooming and blooming. This was a surprise because I usually think of my garden as a spring garden. The timing was perfect to run into *Fallscaping: Extending Your Garden Season into Autumn* by Nancy J. Ondra and Stephanie Cohen (Storey, \$22.95) with gorgeous and colorful photographs by Rob Cardillo. I suddenly realized that there are any number of plants I could add to the new areas in my garden that would not only make my fall garden a real star, but would be stellar additions to the garden in the summer season as well.

Fallscaping is seductively organized, beginning with the Key Players section reminding us that Beautiful Bloomers like asters, dahlias, heleniums, sedums, and veronicas as well as fall blooming bulbs are just the start. There is also Fabulous Foliage for Fall, and Showy Seed Heads and Bountiful Berries.

Ondra and Cohen give lots of general gardening information along the way. I was happy they raised the issue of holding beds because more and more I feel that anyone who has the space to spare should consider maintaining a holding bed. When plants are divided we often have more plants than we can use in our own garden. With a holding bed we can keep those divisions for a fund-raising plant sale, or for a friend who admires a plant. It is so easy and so pleasant to be generous and have plants to give away.

A holding bed is also a place to put plants you have bought on impulse without having chosen a place for them, or those plants you have bought at a closeout autumn sale. It's also easy to be greedy when faced with a plant sale.

Ondra and Cohen not only talk about individual plants, they also give great ideas about interesting and beautiful combinations.

Some gardeners may already be familiar with Ondra and Cohen's previous excellent book *The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer*. Nancy Ondra has two other books, *Foliage* and *Grasses*, as well. I'm also a frequent visitor to her beautiful blog, <http://www.hayefieldhouse.com/>. She is such a knowledgeable gardener and always has suggestions about plants that are unfamiliar to me and for ways to use them with other plants.

Many of us in our area are still mourning the close of Blue Meadow Farm, a nursery that sold so many wonderful annuals and tender perennials as well as their sturdier relatives. Now

former owners Alice and Brian McGowan have come out with a beautiful and useful book about overwintering all kinds of tender plants including bulbs and tubers, *Bulbs in the Basement, Geraniums on the Windowsill: How to Grow and Overwinter 165 Tender Perennials* (Storey, \$17.95).

There is a general introductory section, followed by basic information about the different requirements of various plants when they are brought to overwinter in the house. Some plants will be happy socializing with you in front of a window all winter long. Plants that propagate themselves by corms or tubers will need storage in the basement. Beverly Duncan of Ashfield, known for her precise botanical drawings, wonderfully illustrates these first two sections with her delightful watercolors. More than half the book is given over to descriptions of individual plants, with a photograph for each. Hardiness is given, along with names of the McGowans' favorite cultivars, ways to combine certain plants, and advice on overwintering and propagating.

The book is as tempting as a walk through the Blue Meadow gardens. I can imagine many of us making up a list of plants we must have! Fortunately, the McGowans have anticipated this reaction and have included a list of nurseries where plants and seeds can be obtained.

Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens by Douglas W. Tallamy (Timber Press, \$27.95) is one of the best books I have ever read about the importance of native plants in our gardens, even in a small suburban garden.

Out here in Heath, we have lots of room and lots of native plants in the fields and woods, so the whole issue may not seem very important to us. Still, in a world where we are patenting plants so that you can only purchase them from the patentee, where genes are being modified in unimaginable ways, and where people forget how important it is to have open-pollinated plant varieties to maintain a strong and varied gene pool, it becomes more and more important to understand how the food web works. Tallamy has given a readable and expert explanation.

The concern is not only about avoiding invasive plants that have arrived intentionally, or accidentally, but providing plants that insects eat so that they can be eaten in turn. Tallamy did surprise me when he said that a balanced ecosystem needs more insects! It is when the balance of the system is disrupted that problems arise.

The subject is a big one, but the book is a page turner, and Tallamy, who is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, often speaks out of his experiences in his own backyard.

These three books look at the garden from different angles. Maybe one of them will suit the gardener on your gift list and set them to making new plans. Catalog season will be along very soon.



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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 Fair News

Blue Ribbons for Heath Fair Publicity

When the Heath Agricultural Society met at the Heath School on November 19 for our annual meeting we were greeted by a display of photographs and publicity for the 2008 Heath Fair. Conrad Halberg, who assembled the display, had the foresight to enter this year's poster, T-shirt, and brochure in the publicity competition at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs Association. The brochure and T-shirt took **FIRST PLACE** and the poster took **SECOND PLACE** for medium-sized fairs. We have several people to thank for these awards: Susan Smith for her beautiful design work and layout of the brochure and poster. Richards Steinbock for the image and the Heath Fair logo, Gloria Fisher for chairing publicity and shepherding the process of choosing this year's image, holding out for full color and organizing production, and Silver Screen Designs for reproducing the artwork from several sources for the T-shirt. And, of course, we have to hand it to Conrad who showed us once again that if you want a blue ribbon you have to enter the competition. We hope everyone remembers that at Fair time 2009!

At the meeting we reelected the current slate of officers and superintendents as follows:

Copresidents	Gloria Fisher and Pam Porter	At-Large Members
First Vice President	Shirley Toombs	David Freeman
Second Vice President	Bradley Toombs	Conrad Halberg
Treasurer	Jan Carr	Carol Sartz
Secretary	Christine O'Brien	Robert Tanner
Auditor	Eric Sumner	
Cattle Superintendent	Tom Lively	
Exhibit Hall Superintendent	Kim Richter	

Many thanks to all who came to the year's last work bee on Veteran's Day. Many hands made light work of putting picnic tables undercover and securing the buildings.

Many thanks also to the Heath Parent Teacher Partnership for their generous donations of funds for the ice skating rink. So far it's looking like a great year for ice!

We have shifted our meeting day to the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Heath School. We will be discussing a proposal by the Heath Firefighters Association to build a structure over the barbecue pit.

~ Pam Porter
Gloria Fisher
Copresidents

Freeman Farm News

Recently, T. Susan Chang, the *Boston's Globe's* regular cookbook reviewer, posted an article on NPR entitled "Beefier Madness" in which she describes a get-together with friends to parcel out three grass-fed, free-range steers purchased from a "nearby farm" – Heath's very own **Freeman Farm**.

In her piece, she says "Here in Eat Local country it is not uncommon for a group of neighbors to band together at the beginning of the season and buy a "beefier," a whole steer. Some of us had quarter-shares, some had sixths. I had an eighth. Even that much I learned is a lot of meat – and an instant lesson in carnivorous diversity."

She goes on to talk about using her share and gives recipes for Beef Tongue, Braised Chuck, Chili, and London Broil. For these see Web site: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=968653677ps=bb1>.

The Oldest Playable Johnson Organ



The story of so valuable a treasure as the organ in the Heath Church would usually be found in history books. While there are several histories of early American organs, none has the story of the one that belongs to the Heath congregation. It began in a white three-story clapboard building, the factory of William A. Johnson, a self-taught organ-builder of Westfield, Massachusetts. In 1851 he assembled a team of craftsmen to build Opus 16, or the sixteenth of what would be a line of 860 organs built from 1848 to 1898. With his reputation for quality and respect for the needs of rural churches, William Johnson was to become one of the three most prominent organ builders of the nineteenth century. This was the second two-manual that the company built. The pipes ranged in size from that of a thick pencil to a wooden pipe sixteen feet in height. Later that year the company installed it in the Haydenville Congregational Church.

That congregation chose 23 years later to replace their organ with a larger one that was also built by William Johnson. Eventually, Opus 16 was sold to the Congregational Church in Whately. Whately knew that the instrument they were getting was rather old without some of the latest gadgets and fancy stops that were the talk of modern organ building. In 1874 they may well have appreciated the sweet tone that some of the more modern instruments lacked, an experience that listeners in 2008 still enjoy.

But by 1912 the Johnson was viewed as crude in light of electrical action and manufacturing developments. The Whately congregation, which had become wealthier, purchased a new organ from the Esty Company of Brattleboro. The Johnson organ was offered in trade for a reed organ which was trendy but did not age well.

The next home for Opus 16 was the Heath Church. In 1914 the congregation of Heath purchased the organ for \$100 with funding organized by Mrs. Anna Burrington.



After being moved by wagon, it was reassembled in Heath. According to local history, Warren Hitchcock, whose mill was on the Branch Brook, and Orman Hicks (the father of Clarence Hicks) both worked on the project. Around 1940 Walter Coates gave an electric blower which replaced the hand pumping by people such as Ralph Dickinson and Dick Tanner. That has been the only change in the workings. The original tracker mechanism is there.

Although 15 Johnson organs were built before this one, none of them has survived. Experts speak of the soft, windy quality of the sound and express a passionate interest in its restoration and preservation. The Heath Johnson Organ Restoration Committee hopes this 157-year-old work of art can be appreciated by future generations.

Photographs by Eric Sumner

~ Ned Wolf

Baseball & Bach



They say baseball is a religion in America. Well now it's official. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who came out to the Heath Church on Sunday, November 9, for the "Baseball and Bach" benefit concert. Many know the Heath Union Evangelical Church as the place where Reinhold Niebuhr delivered his famous Serenity Prayer sermon. However, the church may soon become just as well known as the venue where "world class organist" Thomas Pousont played Heath's treasured 1851, Opus 16, William Johnson pipe organ, the oldest of its kind in the United States. Director of Music at the First Church of Deerfield, Tom has performed with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, and as a solo recitalist. He is also the father of Heath/Rowe Twins' pitcher and outfielder Dorian Pousont.

The performance Tom gifted the assembled, the Johnson Organ Restoration Fund, and the Heath/Rowe Little League players and coaches was as entertaining as it was sublime. Tom maintained a lovely call and response with the audience throughout the evening. He was joined on one piece by his accomplished colleague Marc Dancer on recorder. Tom joked with the fourth graders in attendance that if they stuck with this instrument, a favorite of grade school music programs everywhere, who knows where it might lead them. Halfway through the concert Tom played an original piece titled an "Improvisation on an American Tune." When he asked if anyone recognized the song he'd just played a child sitting in the front row raised his hand and said, with a brimming smile, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game!" The young fan's reward for guessing right was to be serenaded to by the real thing, which the eighty plus people in attendance joined in singing while Heath/Rowe ballplayers passed collection plates in the pews. The sum of six hundred dollars was collected for the Johnson Organ Restoration Fund and Heath/

Rowe Little League! We think that amount will grow even larger as several donors said they would be sending their contributions through the mail.

After the seventh inning stretch, Tom returned to his program of Bach, Stanley, Handel, Vienne, and Mozart. It was a truly exceptional hour of classical music.

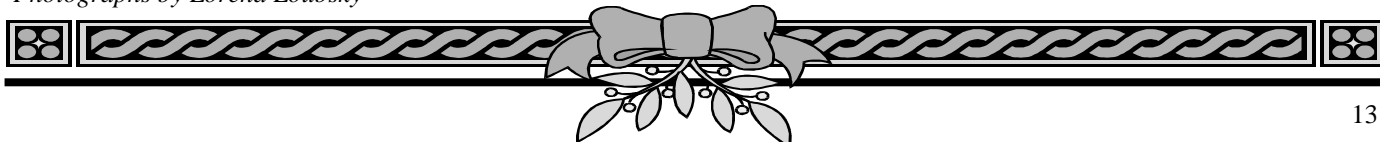


The organizers hope the concert's success inspires others to hold similar events at the church. Prior to introducing Tom, one of the event organizers, Ruth Johnson, reminded concert goers that the church is both a religious and a Heathan landmark. Said Ruth, "It is all of our responsibility to see that it is maintained properly and that its contents, especially the Johnson organ, are loved and cherished." Amen!

~ Jonathan Diamond

Donations can still be made by mail. Send checks to Heath/Rowe Little League c/o Heath School, 32 Jacobs Road, Heath MA 01346. Please specify "baseball and Bach" or "concert" somewhere on your check—thanks!

Photographs by Lorena Loubsky



Heath Happenings



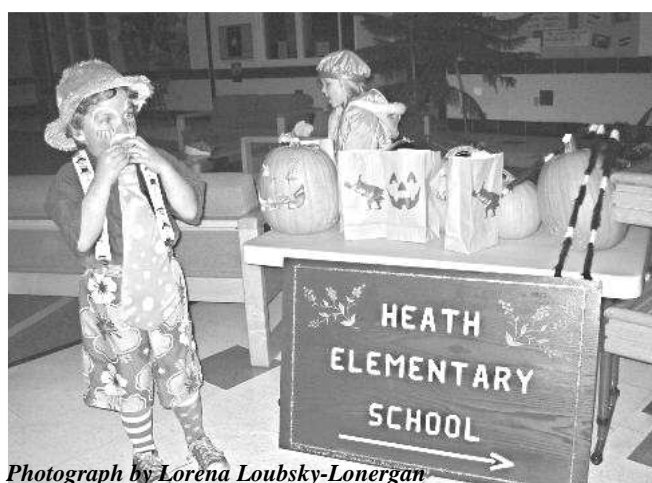
Ladies Aid Holiday Sale at the Heath Union Church



Community Hall Craft Fair
Photograph by Dianne Cerone



Qigong "energy exercise" held at the Community Hall



Photograph by Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan

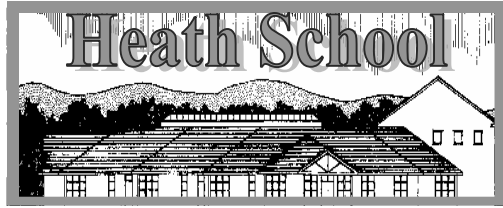
Halloween Party at the Heath Elementary School



Friends of the Heath School Library Book Fair



"Baseball and Bach" benefit concert at Heath Union Church
Photograph by Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan



Heath Elementary School's Primary Red's Fish Tank

The first and second graders at Heath Elementary School worked together to produce this article for the town of Heath.

Our Primary Red Fish Tank has really cool fish! Feel free to drop by and see it sometime! It was a long, careful process we had to go through to have the current fish tank in our classroom. It all started late in August when Virginia Gary, Veronica Smead, and Max, a student, went over to Virginia's parents' house, Richard and Dorothy Gary's on Avery Brook Road. The fish tank Virginia was looking for was in the barn. It is a 50-gallon fish tank that measures 30-inches- wide and 30-inches-tall. It's a big tank! It was very dusty and dirty. They carried it out carefully and washed it thoroughly. There were dead rats and mice skeletons in it. After washing it, the tank was brought to the school.

As our school year began, the class was expected to be involved with all of the aspects of owning a fish tank. First we (the students) put little stones in it, coarse river rock gravel. Then we began filling the tank up.

While adding the 50 gallons of water, something really funny happened. We were adding 2 gallons of water at a time. We used our classroom sink. This took awhile. The water was continuously running to fill the buckets as fast as we could. Suddenly, Tim Lively, our custodian, came rushing into the room to stand by our sink. He said breathlessly, "I heard the water running and running. I thought someone had forgotten to turn off the water." Relieved, he laughed with us at how worried he had been!

As the water settled into the tank, Virginia added a filter, which ended up not working right. Then Veronica and Virginia used their computer and went online to order the filter, a heater, and other fish tank supplies. We ordered plants and a large piece of driftwood. All we needed was a background for the tank. One of our parents, Emily Gopen, volunteered to create a background with the students. Each student helped make a fish or animal which is in the background. The picture is an underwater scene. It is beautiful and made by the students!

We use our fish tank in many ways. We make daily observations that are shared at our class meetings and written in our Fish Tank Journal. We test the water everyday for the pH level, nitrates, and ammonia. We also test for water hardness. The pH and the temperature are also charted on a line graph. These line graphs are created and maintained by the students. There is a fish chart which is used to record how many of each kind of fish are observed each day. The daily uses of the fish tank are informative and enjoyed by the entire class.

When we were finally able to buy fish, we were really happy. We had to wait until the tank's environment was safe for the fish to survive. We had decided as we were setting up the fish tank, we wanted fish that would get along with each other. We especially wanted to have at least a couple of angelfish. Again, we used our computer to research the different choices we had for compatible fish. Once we had an idea of what to buy, we figured out how many fish to buy by following the rule, one inch of fish per gallon. That meant we could have 50 inches of full grown fish. One of our students, Bryan, is 50-inches-tall so we used him as our measuring stick to figure out how many fish it would be. Three students went to get the first third of the fish at a local pet store. Veronica went with them. She had the students work with the pet store employee to select the fish. When they arrived at the school, that night a fry was born! So instead of 10 fish, we had 11. The second group of students went to buy more fish a few weeks later. There were six students on this trip. Virginia and Veronica accompanied them to the pet store. All the fish we have purchased have survived except the swordtails.

We are really enjoying having the fish tank in our room.

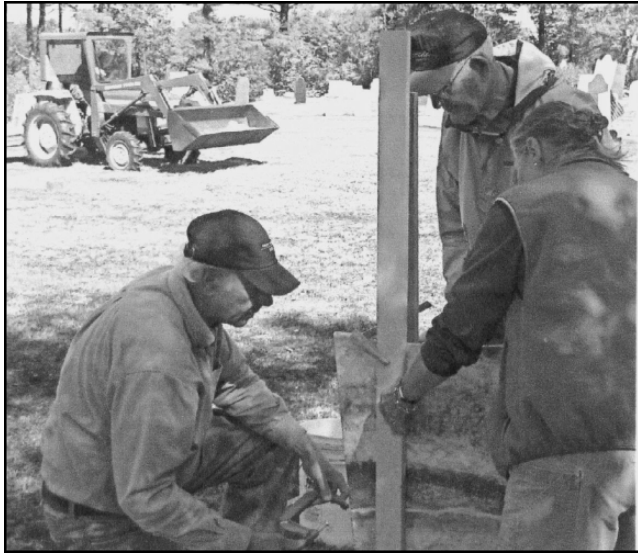


Fish tank background

We are also learning a great deal about fish, their environment, and the responsibility you take on when you have a fish tank. Some of the students wanted to share their thoughts about the fish tank. Charles says, "I love having the fish tank. It makes me happy to sit and read next to the tank." Alouette shares, "The fish relax me." Taylor says, "I love watching the fish swim." Other students wanted to tell you about the fish. Mac shares, "We have a fish we named Bob. He is a catfish." Jennifer says, "We have a big spotted, brown fish called a gourami." Geannie shares, "We have two angelfish. One is white and one is black." Finally, Max says, "Fish soothe me. I recommend having a fish tank."

Our class has hopes and dreams for the tank. We would like to continue observing fish, testing the water, and doing other science activities related to the tank. We would like to get a new fish tank for frogs. Our class is really excited about our fish tank. We would love for you to visit our school so we could show it to you!

Volunteers Reset Tombstones



Today, Almira, Caleb, Edwin, Franklin, John, Melissa, Sally, Samuel and Timna are all resting more comfortably in the Heath Center Cemetery. This is thanks to a small group of volunteers who reset their leaning tombstones. Ebenezer is particularly pleased that his broken monument has been repaired and together with the others now faces cheerfully toward the afternoon light and a section of the boundary wall that has been restored. Horace, Cynthia, Rena, William, and the Coates family are delighted the sun can reach their resting places now that tangled brush that obscured them has been cut away.

One of the strengths of our community is that so many needed tasks are performed by volunteers. Our Heathan group - the Carrs, Bob Dane, John Doherty, Ken Gilbert, Dave Howland, Doug Mason, the Viarengos, and Ned Wolf - achieved these objectives during two recent work sessions. They were led and trained by Fred Oakley from the American Association of Gravestone Studies.

The group learned how to lift fallen and leaning stones using Fred's tripod, prepare a new bed and footings and reset the stones. We now also know how to repair those that were broken. We have a source list of required tools, various cements and drawings for our own tripod which Ken Gilbert will construct when funds for the material are made available. A follow-up meeting has been held with the representatives of all three Heath cemeteries to capitalize on the lessons learned and to explore sources of funding for the equipment needed to continue restoration on our own.

Much remains to be done, but real progress has been made and it was exhilarating to work together on two spectacular autumn days.

Samuel Emerson's epitaph says, in part, "...a disinterested man who died suddenly on July 20, 1801." May he and the others rest peacefully knowing that future generations still care.

~ Bob Viarengo

Letter to the Editors:



The October/November edition of the *Heath Herald* contained the obituary and a tribute to CW2 Herbert "Bud" Stetson. As a career soldier myself, I was moved by both.

In the tribute ("Heath People in the News - Native Son") Bud's sister Lois pointed out that Bud had earned the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Viet Nam. What was not mentioned in the article was best illustrated by the picture of Bud in uniform. In that picture he is wearing the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), a visible recognition of his combat service as an infantryman in Korea, where he was wounded also as evidenced by his being awarded the Purple Heart. Only an infantryman can earn the CIB and it can only be earned in combat.

Bud Stetson was an authentic hero, serving his country in not less than two armed conflicts. I join with his family and Heath friends in mourning his death and in recognizing his remarkable life.

Bruce Patterson
Wilmington, NC

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“A Table Set For Forever”



Winner of the 2008 Pioneer Valley Sustainability Network's "Art of Sustainability" contest

Photographed by Cheryl Dukes

Detail on Art work

"A Table Set For Forever" is a portable, multi-media, installation piece: a kind of permeable "room" that can be set up anywhere. The central visual motif is a table and six chairs. The table top is a garden-theme mosaic made of colored glass tiles and bits of broken plates (pique assiette technique). The mismatched ("recycled") wooden chairs are painted as blackboards, with questions related to sustainability in our region written on in colored chalk (and viewers are invited to contribute). Six free-standing curtain-like panels in portable frames are set up around the table. Each of the two-sided panels is made of a collage of seed-packets sewn together with images (both photographic and drawn/painted) and text derived from relevant literature and local community sources. The panels are set up around the table and chairs so that people can walk between and around them easily, in and out of the "room."

An essential part of the piece is that it involved the participation of many other people in its process. The artist, Jane Beatrice Wegscheider, sent out and distributed (in local businesses, libraries, etc.) written requests for participation

in the sustainability dialogue, beginning with the question: "What does sustainability mean to you?"

The artist organized several dinner parties, featuring local food and great conversation about sustainability, as part of the development of the work of art. For each conversation, she brought together groups of six to ten people from varying segments of our communities to share their ideas and brainstorm further sustainability activism. These conversations were recorded and excerpts from them became the audio component of the installation, as well as source material for the seed-packet collage panels.

Jane Beatrice Wegscheider's basic premise is that dialogue/conversation/the sharing of ideas (especially person to person) is essential to sustainable activism. Sharing thoughts and ideas around a shared meal is a way to combine activism with community-building. In the conversation about sustainability, we are also talking about basic needs and resources, of which, food is one primary need.

Jane is convinced that small actions need to be honored along with bigger systemic efforts. People change and accept change in different ways. Her aesthetic is generally an "accessible" one. The seed-packet "curtain"/panels will show the significance of ALL actions, ideas, questions, etc. that collectively add up. Even on their own these panels will be a stimulating and informative visual discussion.

the table as metaphor

the table as place

the table as community, family, the future

the table shared

the table abundant

the table as an edible landscape

Jane used the pique assiette technique (broken plate mosaic), along with the garden theme, to refer to the past that is a part of us.

The chairs have questions painted on them to represent the challenges of joining the sustainability discussion/dialogue/effort.

The "walls"/ "curtains"/ panels are permeable to suggest visually that this is not a behind-closed-doors conversation. The seed packets are a literal metaphor: seeds produce multiples of themselves. They symbolize growth and potential.

The installation is purposely portable, each element breaking down into carry-able pieces so that it can more easily become part of various local environments/public spaces: farmer's markets, schools, outdoor cultural events, etc.

This installation is the first phase of this project. The second phase will involve developing the audio component further for web and radio and developing ways to use the installation to disseminate physical cards (for people to take with them) with ideas and information on them. (Jane imagines letter-pressed "information" on vegetable-shaped cards in bowls on the table.) The third phase will be the organization and facilitation of having the installation travel to schools, libraries, farmer's markets, and other public venues.

The installation was exhibited at the Green Energy Connections Conference on November 23 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield and is currently on the second floor at Northampton's City Hall and will travel around the Pioneer Valley over the next few years.

~ Jane Beatrice Wegscheider

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board will continue to meet every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall, unless posted otherwise. The scheduled December meeting dates are; 12/9 (Tues.), 12/15, and 12/29. Beginning in January the Board will be meeting weekly, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held at the Heath Elementary School on October 22, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Seven articles were on the warrant. The first three dealt with correcting the language and dollar amounts of the previously authorized votes to acquire a highway grader. The fourth and fifth articles asked the voters to rescind previously authorized borrowing authority, due to not needing to borrow all the funds that were authorized. The remaining two articles were to appropriate money for the assessors to purchase new assessing software.

Heath Broadband Meeting

Immediately following the Special Town Meeting, representatives from Verizon presented maps showing the distribution of the new DSL service to Heath and answered questions from residents. Forms for requesting service were distributed and collected at the meeting. Unfortunately some areas of town are not covered at this time. Residents in these areas were encouraged to apply anyway in the event that coverage may be extended.

Town Nurse

Claire Rabbitt has been appointed as Town Nurse. She has begun her service by conducting the fall flu vaccination clinic. We are grateful to have Claire on board for this very important service.

Emergency Residential Energy Heating

If anyone in town is having difficulty paying for fuel to heat their house this winter, or knows someone who is struggling, the town coordinator has resource lists of agencies that can provide assistance. She can be reached at 337-4934 or at the town hall during business hours.

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 being updated. All comments and suggestions are welcome. You may address them to Gloria Fisher at towncoordinator@townofheath.org. You may contact the Board 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

Town Clerk News

As we all know, November 4 turned out to be a momentous day in the history of our country. It was a day to remember in the history of politics in Heath as well. There was an all-time record turnout at the polls. 444 out of 520 registered voters cast ballots. That amounted to an 85 percent turnout. Except for a brief time in mid-afternoon, there was at least one voter at the polls all day (the longest wait was about two minutes).

This was the third presidential election that I have presided over since becoming town clerk in 1999, and I was amazed at the large cross section of residents who turned out to cast their votes. Some were the "old faithful" who show every time the door is open on elections, whether it is for local, state, or federal offices. There were many others who voted for the first time since I took office. It was great to see so many folks who wanted their voices to be heard.

One of the occurrences that I find the most touching at elections is when parents bring their children. Several families came in together and explained the process of getting a ballot, marking the ballot and then casting it into the box. I overheard one father with his two sons explaining each individual office and question and then talking about why he had made each choice as he marked the ballot.

I attribute the smooth and even flow of the day to the diligent work of my election team. There are six very dedicated and skilled poll workers, Alli, Don, Eileen, Jane, Jenna, and Val, who make the day, as well as our two constables, Bob and Jeff, who keep order and carefully guard the box. This year I am especially grateful to the 19 additional residents who came out at 8:00 p.m. to help count the ballots. Counting went quickly and we were finished by 9:30 with 100 percent accuracy. Therefore, I will take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped make this Heath's biggest election in the history of our town.

~ Hilma Sumner

(Editors' Note: It was also exciting to see young people exercising their voting privilege for the first time!)

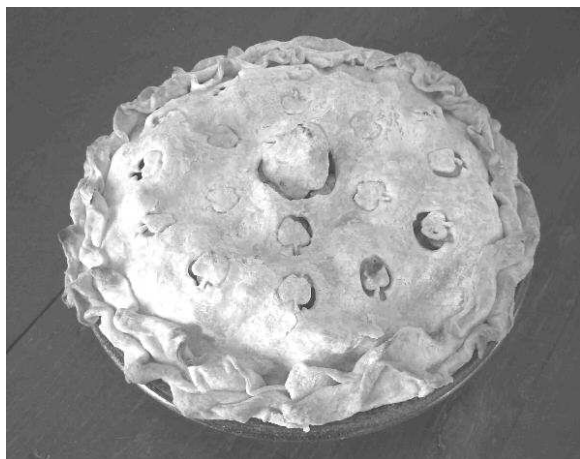
Meeting Scheduled

There will be a meeting on Monday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath School. Under discussion will be issues related to the Stonybrook plan to sell lots along upper Bray Road and Colrain Stage Road extending to Branch Hill Road. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Library Lines**Annual Holiday Raffle**

By Donald Purington

The Library will hold its Annual Holiday Raffle from November 29 through December 20, 2008. Some of the great prizes are:

*Jan's home-baked apple pie*

1. Gift basket: coffee beans (dark roast), all-natural granola, organic black currant elderberry jam, and a handful of the small Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars; all packed in an African Market Basket, hand-woven in West Africa. Donated by the Brattleboro Food Co-op and Kate Bailey.
2. Home-Baked Apple Pie, made with local Macoun and Cortland apples. Baked when you want for the Christmas Holidays. Donated by Jan Carr.
3. Journal with satin ribbon marker, gilded gold page edges, lightly ruled pages, and top grain cowhide cover. Donated by Christine O'Brien.
4. Jar of Homemade Fudge Sauce. Drizzle it on ice cream or eat it by the spoonful – YUM! Donated by Deb Porter.
5. Three children's paperback books by Susan Meddaugh, featuring the adventures of Martha the talking dog: *Martha Blah Blah*, *Martha and Skits*, and *Perfectly Martha*. Donated by the library.

6. Home-Baked Triple Chocolate Biscotti (3 dozen pieces). Donated by Don Purington.
7. *Pictureka!* Board game for 2 or more players, ages 6 and up. Donated by the library.

Look for more Raffle Items to be added soon! Raffle tickets cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5:00, or you may receive two raffle tickets for each nonperishable food item donated to the Good Neighbors Food Pantry. A food collection box will be in the library. Good luck!

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison, *Lucky One* by Nicholas Sparks, *Death Without Interruptions* by Jose Saramago, *Divine Justice* by David Baldacci, *Whiskey Rebels* by David Liss, and *Impossible* by Nancy Werlin.

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Wild Side Adventures: A Memoir* by Nan Williams. This is a collection of stories, primarily nature walks and Rowe history, first published in the Rowe Goal Post from 1982 -1994.

Books on CD: *Sweeney Todd and the String of Pearls* by Yuri Rasovski, *Foul Play* by Janet Evanovich, and *This I Believe: the Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women, Volumes I & II*, edited by Jay Allison.

Young Adult Books: *Ghostgirl* by Tonya Hurley, *Hate That Cat* by Sharon Creech, and *Dragonfly Pool* by Eva Ibbotson.

Children's Picture Books: *Horse* by Malachy Doyle, *Gingerbread Friends* by Jan Brett, and *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff.

DVDs: *Walking With Dinosaurs*, *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, and *Get Smart*.





It's Your Health and Safety

New Town Nurse Appointed



By Claire Rabbitt RN

Greetings, Heath neighbors. Many of you already know that I was appointed Town Nurse on November 1. About a year ago I made the decision to retire from my position at Franklin Medical Center this fall when I would be eligible for early retirement. I still enjoy nursing and am active and in good health so the Heath Nurse position seems a good way to continue practicing with less hours and a much easier commute. It had been my hope to become more active in town after retirement, so I am happy to serve in this way.

I was born in Heath in 1946, the second child of Gilbert and Alice Smith. I have lived here most of my life, having left after getting married, but returning with husband and three small sons in the 70s. My husband, Tom, built our house on Sadoga Road on a section of the family farm. We enjoy visits from our seven grandchildren and giving them rides on our horses. We are active in our church, St Joseph's, in Shelburne Falls where Tom serves as Deacon.

My hours will be flexible, but I plan to be in the nurse's office on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 or 2:00 p.m., depending on when I will be making home visits. If anyone needs to see me at a different time please call me to arrange it at 337-8309.

Wishing you the blessings
of warmth and good cheer
this Holiday Season.



Ladies Aid Cookbook



Heath Ladies Aid Cookbook Order Form

I would like to order ____ @ \$12.00 each= ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

*Mail to: Heath Ladies Aid
Box 116
Heath, MA 01346*



Friends of the Heath School Library

THANKS TO ALL who participated to make our 7th Annual Book Fair a success! Special thanks to Tim Lively, as always, who helps us set up; to the Heath School staff whose wonderful cooperation makes things go smoothly; to librarians Don Purington and Lyra Johnson who lend a hand and give good counsel to the kids, and to those Heath School kids whose enthusiasm makes all our work so worthwhile!!

GIVE A GIFT TO THE HEATH SCHOOL LIBRARY of a volume of the new World Book Encyclopedia. Choose your favorite letter and a bookplate will be placed in your volume, honoring you or another.

Cost per volume: \$40.00
Please send order and check made out
to the Friends of the Heath School Library
to David Adie, Burrington Road,
Heath, MA 01036

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From September 11, 2008	7 ½ "	
October	3 ½ "	1"
To November 10	½ "	

In this reporting period:

The weather for September was fairly normal although Tropical Storm Hanna on the 6th gave us three inches of rain, and we started out the 15th with a humid morning temperature in the low seventies. The month of October was fairly dry and warm, with some beautiful foliage that we hadn't had in a long time. Our first snow on the ground was one inch on October 29.

~ Timothy Lively

Community Calendar

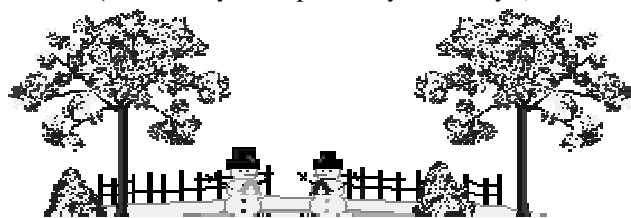
December 2008

- December 03** - Schools Early Release Day; Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
December 04 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
December 05 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
December 08 - Heath School Report Cards sent home.
December 10 - Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Committee Meeting
 Garry Krinsky, Toying With Science !,
 Heath School, 10:00 a.m.
December 12 - Middle School Band Performance, 12:30 p.m.
December 17 - Heath Agricultural Society Meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
December 18 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
December 19 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
December 22 - **HAPPY HANUKAH !**
 Good Neighbors
December 23 - Regular School Day
December 24 - **Winter Holiday Begins – No School**
December 25 - **MERRY CHRISTMAS !**
December 31 – **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

January 2009

- January 01** - **HAPPY NEW YEAR !**
January 05 - **Back to School**
January 15-16 - Mohawk Early Release Day – Exams*
January 15 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
January 16 - Winter Enchantment, Heath School
 Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library,
 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
January 19 - **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY,**
No School
January 20 - In-service Day – No School*
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION
January 21 - Heath Agricultural Society Meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
January 30 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library,
 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

(* Dates may be impacted by snow days.)





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- ◆ Penny Candy
- ◆ Soda, Grinders, Ice Cream
- ◆ Beer, wine, liquor
- ◆ All food essentials



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