



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.50

Volume 32, Number 6

February/March 2011

To Our Special Valentines



Dolly Churchill

I met Dolly right after we purchased our property in Heath. We became fast friends immediately, having mutual friends in Connecticut. I served with Dolly on the Community Hall Committee for quite a few years. She has a wealth of knowledge about the Hall, so if ever you have questions about it, she is the one to contact.

I also worked with her many years opening, maintaining, and closing many "summer homes" here in Heath.

She is a truly wonderful person and is always willing to help.

Happy Valentine, Dolly

~ Val Kaempfer

The first time I went to a Heath Town Meeting was in 1958. Dolly sat in front of me and on her shoulder was the cutest beady-eyed little boy who stared at me through the whole meeting. Since then, Dolly and I have spent many happy days at craft shows. Her doll clothes and "Dolly's Dolls" are works of art. She has also been a faithful worker on the Community Hall Committee and Council of Aging.

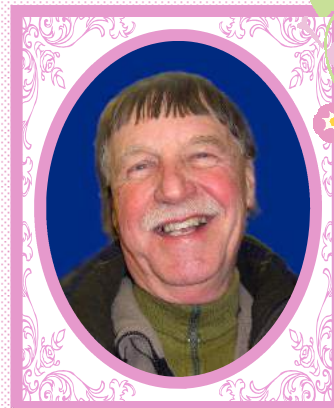
Than you, Dolly. Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

~ Alli Thane Stetson

Happy Valentine's Day to a very special lady!

~ Margo Newton

("Dolly Churchill Valentines" continued on page 3)



Don Dekker

For a long time, Don and I have gone shopping together two or three times a month on Tuesdays. Every time coming out of the store, Don says, "I'm not coming back here. I spent too much money!" Then when we get home to Heath, he says, "I'll see you next Tuesday."

Don is a friendly guy. Otherwise, we wouldn't let him sit at our Senior Meals table. Here's a man who travels all over the world and comes back to Heath where he has no running water, no phone, only wood heat—just electricity.

Roses are red, violets are blue, a great neighbor is Don Dekker, with a true Heathen hue.

~ Howard Dickinson and Art Schwenger

In 1982, while in the process of purchasing our house, Don stopped by and introduced himself.

Happy Valentine's Day, Don! Thank you for everything you have done to help make Heath a better place.

What a wonderful friend and neighbor you have been! Your contributions to the Town have also been tremendous.

*"He's a fixture in town
but he's been around
Of him we are extremely fond!"*

~ Jayne and Bob Dane

1970-

In fond remembrance of things past,
and with best hopes for the coming days.

~ Jane deLeeuw

("Don Dekkers's Valentines" continued on page 3)

Heath Herald

Design and Layout Editor/Photographer

Copy Editor

Typographer

Business Manager

Advertising & Circulation

Coordinator

Technical Advisor

Columnists

Eileen A. Tougas

Jane de Leeuw

Jane de Leeuw

Jan Carr

Jan Carr

Dianne Cerone

Henry Leuchtman

Jeanine Heil, Bill Lattrell, Pat Leuchtman,

Donald Purington, Claire Rabbitt, Le-Ellen Weis

Contributors Rebecca Allen, Dianne Cerone, Jayne & Bob Dane, Lizz

Davin, Jane deLeeuw, Jon Diamond, Howard Dickinson,

Finance Com., FCSWD, Dave Gott, Jean & Bill Gran,

Heath School Staff & Students, Heath Union Church,

Ruth Johnson, Val Kaempfer, Henry Leuchtman, Pat

Leuchtman, Sheila Litchfield, Tim Lively, Lorena

Loubsky, Mike McCusker, Margo Newton, Ann

Pacino, Pam Porter, Joan Schoenhals, Art Schwenger,

Selectboard, Kathy Sprague, Carroll Stowe, Hilma

Sumner, David Thane, Alli Thane Stetson,

Eileen Tougas, Ted Watt

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 2011 issue is March 10, 2011. 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 jdeleeeu@crocker.com.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE ~ One Year: \$8.00 (payable in advance by check or money order).

ADVERTISING RATES ~ Display ads: \$5.00 per column inch. Contact Jan Carr at (413) 337-5747.

CLASSIFIED ADS ~ Free.

Send all correspondence to:

Heath Herald

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! HEATH HERALD

For only \$8.00 a year, 6 issues of the Heath Herald will be delivered to your home.

Name _____

Address _____

- Keep abreast of local happenings
- Give it as a gift to friends or family
- Support your local paper

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

Heath Union Church News

The congregation enjoyed wonderful music as Christmas Sunday was celebrated. The highlight was a duet by Samantha and Sienna Boyle singing "Do You Hear What I Hear?" We also had a well attended Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Family night on January 16 was a Bingo night. The February night will be announced. Watch the Church Bulletin Board. Our every other month potluck meal, held on the first Sunday, was held on January 2. The next one will be on March 6.

Remember, Pastor Phill can be reached at the Church Thursday afternoons and at his home anytime. He will gladly visit anyone who calls and go to hospitals as well as nursing homes. If any person who is shut-in would like to have communion, he will come to you.

We are worshipping in the lower level of the Church during the winter months. All are welcome.

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study/Prayer meeting: Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's Hours: Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Church Telephone: 337-4019, Pastor: (413) 648-9077

Deacons:

Richard Gallup, 337-5367

Tracey Brooks, (413) 775-3872

Ruth Johnson, 337-4367

Walt Gleason, 337-4479

~ The Deacons

Upcoming Events at Birch Glen Stables

We are planning our 2011 calendar now. Two new programs will begin in February. If your young person (ages 9-14) is looking for something to do on afternoons when elementary schools have early release, they may wish to join us for **"Fun with Ponies and Horses"** (1:00-5:00 p.m. on February 9, April 7 & 8, May 4 and/or June 10 & 13). They will learn to care for and handle the ponies and horses safely. For example, they will groom, lead and participate in structured activities/games with the horses. Everyone who wants to will have an opportunity for a short ride. Then, during the two school breaks we will be piloting **"Horses and Cow-boys"** (February 21-25 and/or April 18-22). Children who like horses and are curious about the life and times of the American cowboy will enjoy this program. It is also ideal for students who struggle in a traditional classroom setting. Each day the session will address a theme or life skill, such as respect, creative thinking, and alertness, as illustrated by cowboy history and work on the ground with the horses. Please feel free to call us (337-4044) or stop by to get further information about or to register for any of the upcoming programs. We would love to have 2011 be the year that you get to know us better!

~ Joan Schoenhals

("Dolly Churchill Valentines" continued from page 1)

As a young girl, Dolly learned the value of hard work. Not only was she expected to do her daily chores, but was willing and capable of doing some of the grueling work that had to be accomplished on a farm. The lessons she learned back then have followed her throughout her life.

For many years Dolly was responsible for raising and lowering the American Flag on the pole located across from the Town Common. She did this faithfully until she began suffering with back problems and had to resign from her duties.

Dolly's name seems to be synonymous with the Community Hall Committee. In her many years of service as chair of this committee, Dolly has accumulated a wealth of history, and can tell you just about anything you want to know about the building and what has transpired over the years.

She loves to sew and is an excellent seamstress. It's amazing how she can create dolls and other craft items out of scraps of material that most of us would discard. She enjoys selling her creations at craft fairs, and has been responsible for organizing all of the craft fairs held by the Community Hall Committee to raise money for the committee.

Dolly, you are a special lady and your dedication and devotion to the Town are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

Happy Valentine's Day,
~ Eileen Tougas

My relationship with Dolly does not go back as far as a lot of folk in Town or this area but nonetheless, she has made quite the impression on me. Dolly has been what I would call a mainstay or a steady-Eddy and living in the center of Town seems to suit the person I know. Dolly has a wealth of local knowledge through her life in Town and she can speak volumes about the who, when, and where of it. She is an active citizen in our beautiful town of Heath in more ways than I relate here.

I came to know Dolly through my involvement with the Heath Community Hall Committee for which she is the chairperson. Her involvement with the Community Hall goes well beyond the years of my knowing her. The thing that really stands out to me are the records she kept. I have seen some of her spiral notebooks and I personally would not be surprised if some of those notebooks contained records from the very first fair with which she was involved. Dolly not only kept track of the receipts and the various vendors that worked each craft fair, but also of the various Selectboard meetings at which she and the Committee proposed improvements to the Hall. For each craft fair, Dolly made it her responsibility to put up the signs in the Center, down on the Trail, and in Mohawk Estates to attract visitors. Because she knew the vendors, Dolly made calls lining them up, and arranged the space for the vendors in the Hall in her efforts to make each craft fair as successful as possible. Dolly not only worked for the Town on the Hall Committee, but she also was a vendor.

("Dolly Churchill Valentines" continued on page 4)

("Don Dekker Valentines" continued from page 1)

The Donald! When Mr. Dekker talked me into being an assessor 15 years ago, I got to know (and fear) "himself" in short order. We always looked to him as the oracle -- yet, often, we would have spirited discussions. Margo Newton, who shared the pleasure of serving on the Board during our common tenure -- came to refer to the two of us as "the Bickersons." Despite his lack of gray hair, Don is wise beyond his years: he was always open to hearing new ideas, but would, certainly, stick to his guns -- he even managed, once (before I was on the Board) to reduce a representative from the State Tax Department to tears!

Personally, I've often found myself in situations thinking "What would Don do?" He follows a higher calling! Our own Thoreau, Don's standards are almost superhuman. I strive, but can never seem to match his admirable approach. Viva Donald! We all love you!

~ Henry Leuchtman

My pal Don and I worked together in the Heath Library for many years, I as the director and Don as my assistant. We had happy times and, yes, many strong disputes about which books to purchase and how to catalogue them. These were good years. Now we are both retired and finally have time to read those books. Happy reading, Don, and a Happy Valentine's Day!

~ Alli Thane-Stetson

I don't remember the first time I met Don Dekker. For me he has always been there, quietly humorous, ready to laugh and never taking any tense situation too seriously; quietly energetic, doing what needs to be done at and for the library; quietly living by his ethical principles but never finding fault or a need to correct anyone who lives differently; and quietly being a good and dear friend.

For me Don lives the ideal Heath life, living simply, appreciating and caring for the natural world, caring for our community by caring for his neighbors, serving the Town and the Heath Library. He founded the Friends of the Heath Library many years ago, and served as its President and vice president for many years, making sure that the Friends stayed focused on our mission of supporting the library with labor and fundraising. In that role he has been most visible serving at the Heath Fair Book Sale and the holiday Bake Sales at the Library. With all this he enjoys a lively life of the mind through books and music. He's a good cook, an engaging conversationalist -- and, it has been noted, he has really great legs.

~ Pat Leuchtman
President, Friends of the Heath Public Library

Don and I worked together on the Conservation Commission for several years. Now he has retired. Why? Don't you miss walking in pastures and swamps and bushes?

Anyway, enjoy Valentine's Day!

~ David Thane

("Don Dekker Valentines" continued on page 4)

("Dolly Churchill Valentines" continued from page 3)

At the craft fairs, Dolly has had the same spot...just left of the stage where she sets out her wares for all to peruse and buy. She has a talent that few of us can boast of...she sews. Dolly whips off all types of handmade items, but she is most famous for her handmade dolls and doll clothes often using scraps of material that most of us would have tossed. What wonderful things she makes, and many of us have made the children in our lives thrilled with our purchases. ...And folks, Dolly can always fit in time to do the occasional sewing project so if you need something mended or have a project, why not give her call.

~ Dianne Cerone



When I think about Dolly, what comes to mind are warm hands and toes from her handy-work and dolls dressed to live in Heath. Dolly is a standard fixture in Town, and I mean that with the deepest respect. She has been relied upon to manage the calendar of goings-on at the Community Hall forever. She is the keeper of the keys and the loving caretaker of this beloved building in the heart of our Town. The Heath Community Hall has seen some wonderful renovations and enthusiastic use in recent years that will help to ensure Heath Center and commons are as vital to Heath as Dolly herself.

Happy Valentine's Day, Dolly!

~ Sheila Litchfield



Reprinted from *Heath Herald* of February/March 1986

Dolly's Dolls

Dolly Churchill has been sewing since long before she was married. Then, when her children were small, she made little toys with the scraps left from sewing their clothes. These toys were so attractive and the children got such pleasure from them that other mothers asked her to make more and sell them.

Sewing gives Dolly a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment. She usually sews in the evenings after supper and finds it is the only way to relax. She makes clothes to order. Eva Pazmino has been a customer for years and other friends have come with a length of fabric and gone home with a new skirt after the men have done visiting.

But her dolls have been a bigger and bigger part of her business for about the last ten years, or since the Heath Historical Society has been holding its summer Bazaar at the Town House Museum. She exhibits the soft fabric dolls that are complete with belly buttons, dimpled knees, elbows – and bottoms – and then finds one customer after another coming to ask her for a doll with specific characteristics, like red hair, green eyes and freckles.

When she works without these specifications Dolly says she begins with two yards of fabric and cuts out a large doll, 24",

("Dolly Churchill Valentines" continued on page 5)

("Don Dekker Valentines" continued from page 3)



Don was one of the first library patrons I met when I started working here in November, 2001. He welcomed me with a big smile, a friendly greeting, and an offer to help if I had any questions, since he had done my new job for many years. What a help he has been! Some of his volunteer activities at the library included choosing books from the Bookmobile, organizing our card catalog and keeping it up-to-date, and "weeding" unused or damaged books from the collection to make room for new books.

Four years ago he made a rare exception to his "No Computers" policy and learned how to use the library computer so he could help with the momentous task of barcoding every book, audiobook, and movie we own, a giant step forward in modernizing our library.

Don has earned a warm spot in the heart of our library community.

~ Don Purington, Library Director



When I began my tenure as Heath Town Clerk in 1999, Don was already a seasoned, experienced election worker. As we quickly went into the 2000 presidential elections, he was one of the faithful mainstays who alleviated my fears as a new clerk. Due to his dedication, Don is available to help before, during, and after every election. His calm, quiet demeanor and sense of humor help smooth the rough spots and anxieties during the polling hours.

Don, thank you for your diligence and dedication to our Town in all the tasks you undertake. You have a special place in my heart and in the heart of Heath.

My best to you,
~ Hilma Sumner



Don was the first "Heathan" I (Jean) met when I moved to town in 1974. With Laura in a backpack, I was unloading the car and moving belongings into Robinswood with a friend when we looked up to see a tall, handsome "hippie" with a ponytail walking by. He stopped to chat and has been a wonderful neighbor and dear friend ever since.

Over the past 36 years we have shared many holidays in front of Don's fire. No holiday seems complete without his yummy pies or stories such as the one that involves the Christmas ghost and "blood" dripping from the rafters.

Day-to-day, Bill and I feel blessed to have Don as a neighbor who is kind, thoughtful, and a fountain of information. When we have a musical, historical, or literary question we don't bother with Google, we just ask Don.

Don came into my (Bill's) life when I moved to Heath in 1990, and ever since he has become my very best friend. I can talk to him about serious stuff and not so serious stuff. Since Don and I enjoy the same movies (*Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Batman*, etc.) and food (burgers and fries), we frequently go to the Garden Cinema and sometimes grab a "cowboy burger" at the Wagon Wheel in Gill.

In sum, our life would be less rich, less fun, and less complete without Don.

~ Jean and Bill Gran

("Don Dekker Valentines" continued on page 5)

Finance Committee

Normally the winter months are a quiet time for the Finance Committee as we ready ourselves for the annual round of budget hearings and the Annual Town Meeting in May. Not this year. We learned in late November of a potentially serious pollution problem arising from the old Three-Town Landfill, and had to develop, in concert with Hawley and Charlemont, a plan for the three towns to collaborate on the purchase of a property that was being affected in order to eliminate any liability that might arise.

Heath's share of this venture, including closing and legal costs, was \$140,000, and at the Special Town Meeting in December the voters adopted a recommendation from the Finance Committee and the Selectboard to pay Heath's share partly out of Free Cash (\$12,874), partly out of Stabilization (\$12,000), and mostly with a 10-year loan of \$100,304. As a result of this action and some related special expenditures, the Town's Free Cash balance is now \$93,373; if we use \$50,000 of that at the Annual Town Meeting to "buy down" the tax rate (by about 53¢) as we have in the past, that will leave a balance of \$43,373. We still have about \$57,000 in Federal reimbursements coming for damage from the December 2008 ice storm, but it's anyone's guess as to whether this payment will come in time to restore our Free Cash balance to a comfortable level for FY2012. Our Stabilization balance is now \$87,404.

We've been significantly handicapped in our discussion of this and related issues and their long-term consequences because the Commonwealth is three months late (and counting) in certifying our FY2011 tax rate. Whatever that rate turns out to be, it is likely to reflect significant drops in assessed valuation and so be significantly higher, but people's tax bills aren't likely to change substantially because valuation and rate vary inversely. We are similarly handicapped in projecting the impact on our finances of Heath's Mohawk Trail Regional School District assessment because we have no information yet from the District about their FY2012 budget. Local aid from the Commonwealth, another factor in the tax rate, is likely to drop another 8% according to Governor Patrick's recent budget message.

Apart from that, we continue to discuss how to conduct solid waste disposal in an economical and environmentally sound manner. Townspeople's views on this subject have been very divergent over the past few years, but we still welcome everyone's input as we consider the alternatives. We will also give further consideration to Capital Planning, an arrangement under which the Town would create a special fund to be augmented in each year's budget so that we don't have to borrow to make major capital purchases, but that plan probably will have to await economic recovery.

~ Don Freeman, Chair
Jan Carr
Dave Gott
Jeff Simmons
Ned Wolf, Secretary

("Dolly Churchill Valentines" continued from page 4)

then cuts out a smaller 18" doll from the scraps, then still a smaller doll,. Usually the smallest doll she makes is 6" tall, but with New England thrift, she uses most of the scraps in her quilts.

After the dolls are assembled and their facial features painted on , Dolly says she just looks at the doll and can tell what color and kind of hair it should have. "It's like naming a child. The child - or doll - tells what you should do."

Dolly has refused opportunities to sell her dolls in stores. She feels the dolls would have to be more standardized and she wouldn't like the pressure of having to meet quotas and deadlines. She considers sewing her business and depends on it for part of her income, but she likes to be able to work at her own pace. In the evenings or when she knows she is going to have to spend some time waiting in doctors' offices and other places.

"I love my doll babies. I don't want them to be so expensive that parents won't let their children play with them. It is the children's pleasure I like to think about."

~ Pat Leuchtman

("Don Dekker Valentines" continued from page 4)



Happy Valentine's Day to a very special man!

~ Margo Newton



Don and I worked together on the Conservation Commission for several years. Now he has retired. Why? Don't you miss walking in pastures and swamps and bushes?

Anyway, enjoy Valentine's Day!

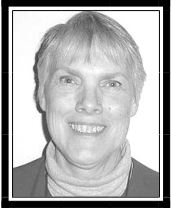
~ David Thane



Don is a dear friend of our family. We met him about 19 years ago when we moved to Heath. Don and Clark's mutual interest in spirituality and their love for Meher Baba brought them and our family together. Don has been an integral part of our family celebrations and a strong support through Clark's illness and death. We all share a love for nature, books, and gardens as well as a curiosity about humanity. He represents a true commitment to living simply and leaving the smallest impression of his "carbon footprint" upon the earth. We always look forward to our contacts with him through the Heath Free Public Library, through mutual friends in the Baba community, and in our mutual homes.

We all send a rousing "Avatar Meher Baba, Ki Jai" and our love to Don always.....

from the Johnson clan.....
~ Cynthia, Dylan, Lyra, Vega and Ed

Green Thoughts

Shrubs for the Border



By Pat Leuchtman

People react to the thought of shrubs in the garden border differently. Recently I was talking to a young woman with a full-time job and a young child. She also had large perennial beds, but said she just couldn't give them the care they deserved. She was thinking about adding shrubs, and eliminating some of the perennials because they always needed to be weeded and divided.

On the other hand, I was talking to a friend whose children had grown up and left home. She was feeling her garden was too crowded, and needed too much work, but she couldn't think what to do. I suggested shrubs and she looked at me in horror. Absolutely not! She was not old enough to think of shrubs!

For myself, I gave up a long border devoted to perennials many years ago and concentrated on our Rose Walk. When I decided to create two large beds to divide our lawn, I turned to shrubs, and even a few trees. Now the two Lawn Beds are what is called a 'mixed border' containing four slow-growing ginkgo trees, one weeping birch, a still very small sourwood tree, several low-spreading junipers, a large and beautiful 'Moth Light' hydrangea, a 'Blue Prince' and a 'Blue Princess' holly, and several kinds of perennials, delphinium, achillea, astilbe, allium, Shasta daisy, salvia, astrantia, dianthus, knautia, and boltonia.

Around the edges of the lawn I have more shrubs, several lilacs, 'Miss Ellen Willmott,' 'Miss Canada,' 'Beauty of Moscow,' and old white lilacs that were here when we arrived in 1979. I've planted rhododendrons, 'Boule de Neige,' 'Rangoon,' and some others who have lost their names. A nameless but native viburnum or highbush cranberry, gives me the lovely pale lacecap flowers that I love in the spring and scarlet berries for the birds in the fall. I planted a graceful mock orange at the corner of our Cottage Ornee to spread its sweet fragrance every spring.

A Sargent crabapple grows in the center of our Sunken Garden. It stands alone amid roughly cut grass with a spread of more than 15 feet and a height of no more than 10 feet. I never prune as aggressively as I should and in the spring it is a dense cloud of pale blossom. Some people, with more discipline than I, are able to prune Sargent crabs more strictly, turning them into a spare blooming sculpture.

When I catalog the garden like this, and I'm sure I have forgotten a few items, I realize that I have a good selection of shrubs. And yet many more are available to the gardener who is thinking of adding shrubs.

If there is light shade an obvious choice is the rhododendron which comes in literally hundreds of gorgeous colors, tender or bright. And for those who want native plants there are several varieties of mountain laurel, kalmia. No longer do we need to settle for the familiar pink-tinged white laurel. 'Olympic Fire' has brilliant dark pink buds that open to pale pink; or the dwarf

bright pink 'Tiddlywinks,' or 'Carousel' which has purple-russet and white flowers as well as new stems that are bright maroon.

Red twig dogwoods are familiar and desirable for the winter garden because the red color against the snow is striking. However, a friend of mine says it is a yellow twig dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera Flaviramea* that captures his eye through the winter and into early spring. Both of these need good pruning to keep the color vibrant.

I am planning to find a place to put two small winterberry trees. Like the evergreen hollies, these *Ilex verticillata* need male and female plants to produce the brilliant red berries that make them so appealing to gardeners and birds. These are native shrubs that don't mind a wet spot which makes them especially useful. Only one male is needed to make six females fruitful. Nurseries can help with choosing appropriate cultivars.

My 'Mothlight' hydrangea is in my mixed border, but I have also planted three other hydrangeas, a native oak-leaf hydrangea; 'Limelight,' and 'Pinky Winky.' I hope they will eventually form a hedge – and allow me to eliminate more lawn. Hydrangeas are certainly in fashion right now. They grow quickly into large blossom-covered shrubs, although there are also numerous new small varieties as well. I cannot grow the *macrophyllas* because they are too tender, but the *paniculatas* are very hardy.

A list of shrubs that can be used as part of a shade garden, in a mixed border, a shrub border, or as specimens, could continue on. I know there are people who will say, "What about spring blooming forsythia and weigelas? What about flowering quince and kolkwitzia, the 'Beautybush'? What about the deliciously fragrant summersweet, clethra?"

Neither have we begun to think about the conifers that can be useful in a border, but I hope I have made the point that there is nothing boring, or indicative of great age in the gardener if shrubs come to play an important part in your garden.

The Rose Walk and the Lawn Beds and etcetera will be on view this June 25-26 when End of the Road gardens are included in the Franklin Land Trust Tour. Hope to see you then.

An Open Letter to the Young Voters of Heath

In the past few years when we go to the polls to elect officers for the coming terms, I am concerned with the lack in some listings of the names of young Heath residents

I most certainly am not casting aspersions on the present boards and committees as I am sure that all are doing their jobs well, serving with the best interests of Heath residents in mind. My concern is with the lack of interest many seem to have in serving our Town on various boards.

Over the years I have fulfilled my obligation as well as observed the work of my father, husband, relatives, and friends who served the Town, often with little thanks. It is a duty and a privilege, as well as an education one should experience.

So, with the coming election, let us see new and youthful persons running for office.

Please note that I highly commend all those now serving in town positions as I know the tasks are time consuming. And we citizens give too little recognition and praise to you deserving people.

~ Ruth Johnson



Wild Ramblings

Cogs in the Wheel



By Bill Lattrell

We Americans tend to admire the superlative; the best team, the tallest building, the most powerful hurricane, the most intelligent human, or possibly the biggest tree. And while the best, the most, the brightest certainly may provoke some stoked human emotions, it somehow disrespects the ordinary. Most humans are ordinary. We may have exceptional qualities, we may even do wonderful things, but despite these unusual traits most of us do not qualify to others as magnificent. It is this trait, the attachment to excellence that helps us to overlook the real genius of the natural world: being a cog in the wheel of accomplishment.

Victories over imposing obstacles are seldom won by individuals, but rather cooperative efforts held by individuals on behalf of the larger group. Each one of us, as individuals, are the concrete result of a collection of experiences, most of which were passed down to us either by other individuals or collective cultural meandering, even our DNA is a result of millions of years of trial and error. While it is true that one person can make a difference, and this should never be doubted, it is even truer that a concerted effort is the better formula for success. Natural law tells us that the survival of a species is many times more important than the survival of an individual. It also tells us that many different species acting in concert is the most secure way to a lasting environment.

On this day I am standing on a north-facing hillside. Bitter winds blow from the northwest. The biting cold is formidable. The snow around my boots is less than a half a foot deep. I stand here staring at the shaggy bark on a hop hornbeam tree, better known in these parts as ironwood. This tree is a member of a species that is somewhat nondescript. It blends into the deciduous forest. It is neither tall nor is it large. In fact, even at the age of 100 it is quite modest, perhaps ten inches in diameter and twenty-five-feet tall. This tree anchors the forest understory. A noble and noteworthy part of the forest environment.

This small tree evolved to fill a niche. While most trees grow tall reaching for the sun, this tree found an advantage in staying small. In fact, low light is a requirement for it to succeed. Old forests have big spaces available in their understory and this tree has learned to do best in this quiet environs. The hop hornbeam competes with hardwood saplings, the occasional striped maple, and the forest shrub community. By forest standards it is not a long-lived tree, typically a hop hornbeam lives from 100 to 150 years. It is a member of the birch family and provides valuable wildlife habitat for many species. The seeds are utilized by small rodents and by songbirds like the house finch and the evening grosbeak. The buds are eaten by white-tailed deer. The bark of saplings is enjoyed by hares. The shaggy bark is utilized by birds and small rodents as a nesting material that is easy to shape and provides some insulation. Like every single member of the forest community, both animal and vegetative, it works in concert to create a functional ecosystem. In short, it is doing its part as a member of its own unique community.

Ironwood, as the name implies, is very strong and incredibly heavy. Its seasoned weight is about 52 pounds per cubic foot as compared to 35 pounds per cubic foot for red maple and 44 pounds per cubic foot for sugar maple. The tight grain makes the wood incredibly resistant to shock, and is very difficult to break, although it is not particularly rot resistant.

Humans have long employed this lesser known tree for their own use. Native Americans used the inner wood as an ingredient in treating coughs and kidney ailments. They also used the strong wood as framing for lodges, and branch forks for pothooks to hang over an open fire. Early European pioneers in North America found good use for this exceptionally strong wood. It was used for wagon wheel spokes, planer soles, tool handles, wooden rollers in early machinery, and beams where extra strength was required in building homes and barns. This tree grows notoriously slowly and therefore was not managed as a forestry product. In fact some foresters consider it to be a nuisance as an understory tree because it may utilize nutrients well suited for fast tree growth in the larger tree species. Ecologists, and some foresters, debate this point of view recognizing the importance of the web of life in our deciduous plant communities where it is believed that each inhabitant plays a special role in an ecosystem's survival.

After the last glacial period the New England forest recovered slowly over thousands of years as trees and other plant species repopulated the area from areas not impacted by the glacial onslaught. The hop hornbeam was most likely a late arrival in the deciduous plant community. Its low light preference dictated that it wait until a mature canopy was present prior to its arrival. It may have lagged behind many of our modern forest species by several hundred years. Needless to say, its waiting game was a necessary part of its successful recovery. Huge areas of eastern North America have significant populations of this resilient tree. In fact, the hop hornbeam is found from Northern Florida to Cape Breton Island in Canada. It truly is a tree that has adapted to a wide variety of environments.

As the afternoon light slips towards the edge of the southern horizon and the cold north winds die down I realize that it is time to begin my walk home. Along the way I will see more ironwood, and I will remember its subtle but important role in the forest community. As I think about this I am comforted by some similarities that I have with this wonderful tree. We both are contributing members to a larger community that is important to the planet. We are both unique. Neither one of us would be described as a superlative, but we are important cogs in the wheel, and we contribute to the web of life. And what's wrong with that?

Visit me at: www.wildramblings.com.



The Way It Is In The Country

By Carroll Stowe

(Long-time Heath chronicler and valued columnist for the *Herald* who sadly left us in 2005.)

We asked the old-timers about this month's snow and they replied, "We are having a real old-fashioned New England winter. Why I remember..."

Winter Snows

Recently I had the pleasure of receiving some snowplowing pictures from former Heath resident Allen Churchill. These pictures have been seen by some folk in years past. They were taken during the winter of 1942. This was not a good year for all concerned, with the war and a hard winter to think about. These photos are of a large caterpillar tractor with vee plow and wings, and an International truck with vee plow

Most roads here in Heath were still paths between stone walls that compounded the snow problem. After the first few storms there was very little place to put the snow. When the plowing was completed, and it snowed again, and the wind blew, all was lost as those trenches just filled in. Men were then needed to shovel and break the tops of the drifts so the big iron could struggle to get through..

As a youngster the men in plow trucks were my heroes, and today, still are. These rugged individuals were so resourceful with their abilities, worked unbelievable hours, and kept on functioning. I recently heard of one tractor operator putting in 96 hours during a severe storm.

In the time frame of these pictures, the road out of town by way of Burrington Hill was impassable for six weeks. Milk had to be hauled with horses and a sled to a point to make contact with the milk truck. In the present era, when a storm hits, it is bad news if the traveled ways are not instantly ready.

When plowing snow with a truck and vee plow the track cleared was a little wider than the truck wheel tracks, so it was most difficult to meet another vehicle. To try to widen the road on the return pass the snow would come around the point of the plow and make a mess of the first cleared path. There are a lot of people not with us any longer who knew well the problems of severe winter weather.

Again, I would suggest if one were able to ride for a trip around our roads in the cab of a plow truck, one would be allowed to get a bit of understanding of our modern snow fighting force. To take such a ride would give the rider a much different appreciation of how roads are kept open in the 1990s, soon to be 2000. This I have written to create a greater compassion for our guardian angels of the Heath Highway Department.

We echo Carroll's sentiment with regard to our current Highway Department team. See paragraph #3.



Jerry Ferguson

Insured - Honest - Reliable - Fully Licensed
"Spark your imagination"



ELECTRICIAN &



HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR

Phone: 413-337-4317 Fax: 413-339-4839

MA Lic. #21493E MA Reg.#142164 MA Lic. Const.#96880

PLANTS FOR PLEASURE "Your Full Service Florist"

15 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-6066
Carolyn Armstrong & Family



Osterman
Propane

339 Amherst Rd.
Sunderland, MA 01375
800-287-2492
www.ostermangas.com



BIRCH GLEN STABLES

WESTERN OR ENGLISH
RIDING LESSONS

\$25.00 Half hour private
\$40.00 Hour private
Save with a package
(Buy 5 get 1 free)

Joe Kovach
Joan Schoenhals
Annie Skillings



25 Groll Road, Rowe, MA 01367
Phone: 413-337-4044
E-mail: birchglenstables@verizon.net
Web site: www.birchglenstables.com

Matt's Trucking

Matt Lively
Excavating-Loam-Sand-Fill 337-4331
- Screened Loam A Specialty -

Post & Beam Timbers • 14 Patterns Pine Lumber



www.cowls.com • 413-549-1403 x318 • cell: 413-563-7557

A.L. AVERY & SON

GENERAL STORE

Charlemont • 339-4915

Blackmer
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC
SINCE 1934

Protection • Selection
Great Service • Competitive Pricing

(413) 625-6527

1147 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne MA

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

Support Heath Agriculture



Benson Place

Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread



- Made from our own sustainably grown low bush blueberries and organic cranberries. Lightly sweetened with honey.
- Available at the farm, Peter's Store, Avery's Store, the Big Indian Shop, Shelburne Falls Market, McCusker's Market, Rte 91 Visitors' Center, Green Fields Market, and other area stores (see website for those locations).
- Contact us about the spread, this year's fresh blueberry harvest, walking this beautiful land, or to see how you can assist in the community effort to preserve the farm.
- Box 89, 182 Flagg Hill Road, Heath, MA 01346
(413) 337-5340, www.bensonplace.org or benplace@gis.net



Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm Heath, MA

Single-Batch, Single-Crop maple syrups in Italian glass from our family farm. Our small-batch methods produce varied and distinctive maple flavors in every bottle. Come taste something new drawn from maple's long history. Our recipe brochure includes meat, fish, vegetable, and salad dishes. Available at our farm stand on Route 8A, by order, and at fine arts & crafts shows. Farm visits are welcome.

(888) 576-2753 or BerkshireSweetGold.com

Freeman Farm

Grass-fed beef for your freezer.
Reserve a beefer in the spring.
Maple syrup, field brush hog mowing,
and hay also available.

20 Town Farm Road
337-4766



Wild Native Blueberries Burnt Hill Farm

Pre-picked 10 lb & 20 lb boxes
Available late July to mid-August
Call to order

Blueberry Hotline: 413-337-4454

118 Flagg Hill Rd, Heath, MA



Raw Milk For Sale Hager Bros. Farm

Farm Fresh High Quality Available by
order at 413 624-3200 or hagersmp@mtdata.com.

*Order by Sunday p.m. for Monday pickup or Thursday
p.m. for Friday pickup at:*

11 Merrifield Lane
Colrain, MA 01340

Also available, a full line of maple products and Cabot
cheese at farm prices.

Tripp's Blueberries 64 Taylor Brook Road Heath, MA

Sweet, Wild, Lowbush
picked, cleaned freezer ready
10 lb or 20 lb boxes



Call to reserve
413-337-4964



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



The Heath Agricultural Society held its annual meeting at the Heath School on December 2, 2010. Elections of this year's officers are as follows:

Co-Presidents: Pam Porter and Justin Lively

First Vice President: Shirley Tombs

Second Vice President: Bradley Tombs

Secretary: Christine O'Brien

Treasurer: Jan Carr

Members of the Board: David Freeman, Heidi Griswold, Conrad Halberg, Robin Jenkins, Tom Lively, and Carol Sartz.

We are pleased to announce that Bob and Cara Bourke have agreed to serve as Fair Secretaries.

There's not much mowing needed at the Fairgrounds this time of year. Nonetheless, there is plenty to do and it's great to have people stepping up to help with organizing. The dates for the 94th annual Heath Fair are August 19, 20, and 21. At the January 20, 2011, meeting Eric Sumner volunteered to coordinate the updating of the Premium Book. An Attractions Committee was established to coordinate events and entertainment. So far the Committee includes Pam Porter, Carol Sartz, Robin Jenkins, and Justin Lively. If you would like to participate in this committee or have ideas for speakers and other attractions, please e-mail me at pam_porter@verizon.net.

We are just seven years away from the Fair's centennial and there are many other issues to consider in terms of the Fair's future. To help us think and plan beyond the next fair, we have established a Long-Term Planning Committee that includes Jan Carr, Eric Sumner, Emily Cross, and Justin Lively. Again, your ideas and participation are welcome. Contact Justin Lively at justinofhealth@gmail.com.

The next meeting will take place at the Heath Elementary School on Wednesday, February 16. Among other things we will be considering a theme for this year's parade. Send your suggestions to me at pam_porter@verizon.net.

As I write this the temperature outside is -12F. The good news is that so far it's a perfect winter for ice. As in years past, Bob Delisle will be working on turning the Sheep Barn into an ice rink. Stay tuned.

~ Pam Porter
Co-President

Household Batteries Should Be Disposed of Properly

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District runs special battery recycling and disposal programs. Most household batteries should not be put in the trash. Free recycling and disposal are available at all Franklin County Solid Waste District transfer stations. Give batteries to the transfer station attendant. There are many different types of batteries and some contain mercury and other heavy metals. Batteries can release mercury, cadmium, or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment. Please read below for disposal instructions for specific battery types.

Rechargeable batteries are found in those electronics and appliances that can be recharged, such as cell phones; ipods; cordless phones; laptop computers; power tools; some toys; some digital cameras; and rechargeable toothbrushes, razors, flashlights, and handheld vacuum cleaners. In addition, rechargeable batteries that can be recharged with a battery recharger should also be recycled. Cell phones should also be recycled in this manner. Rechargeable batteries and cell phones contain heavy metals and should never be thrown away; they should always be recycled. District transfer stations have a special "Call 2 Recycle" box for rechargeable batteries and cell phones. The specific batteries accepted in these boxes are: Nickel-cadmium (Ni-cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), Lithium Ion batteries (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb). These abbreviations are printed on rechargeable batteries. The boxes for free rechargeable battery recycling are also available at Home Depot, Lowe's, and Radio Shack.

Alkaline batteries are the most common household batteries. They are available in many sizes and shapes such as AA, C, D and 9 volt. Alkaline batteries manufactured since 1994 do not contain mercury or other hazardous materials. District residents should bring alkaline batteries to their town's transfer station and give them to the attendant. All batteries should be checked carefully before disposal, as some non-alkaline batteries resemble alkalines.

If you would like to reduce the number of alkaline batteries you are using, you could purchase an inexpensive battery charger and some compatible rechargeable batteries. These batteries can be used and recharged over and over again, but remember to recycle them in a rechargeable battery box when they cannot be charged anymore.

Carbon Zinc and Zinc Chloride batteries may be disposed of in the same manner as alkaline batteries; see above.

Lithium batteries are used in many applications but most often in cameras. The word "lithium" is printed on the battery. Be sure to check all batteries; some lithium batteries, such as the AA size or short and fat lithium batteries used in cameras, resemble alkaline batteries, but should be recycled properly with button batteries. See below.

Button batteries are the small round silver batteries found in watches, clocks, calculators, hearing aids, toys, remote car locks, flameless "flicker candles," electric fence dog collars, singing greeting card, and singing balloons. Many button batteries contain mercury; therefore, button batteries must be disposed of properly.

Give button and lithium batteries to your town's transfer station attendant.

Lead Acid batteries from cars, trucks, golf carts, etc. must be recycled by law. Recycling programs, some for cash or credit back,

are available at auto supply stores, local scrap metal recyclers, and at some transfer stations. Lead acid batteries are also accepted at household hazardous waste collections.

For a handout with pictures of the various batteries and disposal instructions, please ask your town's transfer station attendant or e-mail info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

For further information specific to your town, or for more information on recycling, composting, hazardous waste, and more, please see: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438, or e-mail . MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

~ Amy Donovan

Press Release

Do you need an office (or even just a desk) in Shelburne Falls?

The Bridge of Flowers Business Center is a unique coworking space located on the third floor of the Historical Register Odd Fellows' Hall at 5 State Street, Shelburne Falls, MA (upstairs from McCusker's Market on the Buckland side). The Center boasts excellent communications facilities including rock-solid, fast Wi-Fi, comfortable work areas, and gorgeous views out over the Deerfield River and Salmon Falls. Conceived as a business incubator as well as a coworking space, several dozen diverse businesses now call the BOFBC home.

Some of the great **local businesses** at the Bridge of Flowers Business Center:

- Veris Wealth Partners LLC
- New England Farmers Union
- Daniel Lieberman Interactive, Internet Strategy and Coaching
- David Guild Equaterra, Inc.
- Dave King Editorial Services
- Cooperative Fund of New England
- Gerry LeBlanc, online technology, creativity strategy
- Jeff Rutherford, Press & Media Relations
- Jill Connolly, Voiceovers, Vocals, On Camera
- Justin Lively, Artist and Builder
- Michael McCusker, Race Director
- Petra Schweitzer, Environmental Translator
- Thomas Reynolds, Reynolds Equities LLC

Why not join these folks in enjoying these benefits of the Business Center:

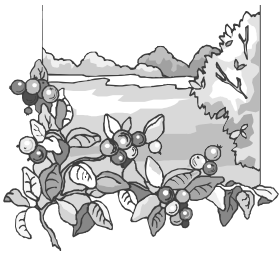
- Wifi
- Networked Multifunction Printer/Copier/Scanner
- Landline for Conference calls
- Conference room, fax
- Kitchen
- Shower
- All utilities and maintenance included
- Serious** security.

Tenants have access to the facilities Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Contact Mike McCusker at mtmccusker@comcast.net or (413) 834-3477 to arrange to see the Center.

~ Mike McCusker

Winter Nature Walk at the Benson Place



Guided Nature Walk with Ted Watt, Naturalist at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst -- Come join us on a winter walk at the Benson Place blueberry farm on Saturday, February 12, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. All are welcome and there is no charge. Dress for the

wind and cold and bring snowshoes if snow conditions require. Snow date is February 19. Call 413-337-5340 if the weather is questionable. For directions visit www.bensonplace.org.

If there's any wind blowing you'll know it at the Benson Place. The low bush blueberries hug the ground leaving the land open to the wind. You can understand why the berries lie low, the way those winter winds sometimes howl across the hilltop. It's a rare day or night in winter when the air is still. The strongest winds come out of the northwest and, with our blueberry fields lying all around the house, we're wide open to the northwest. Much of the snow that falls on the blueberry fields is lifted off and blown toward the house. When the winds reach the trees around the house they slow and drop the snow in huge drifts. One winter we had fun digging long snow tunnels in the drifts. Where the winds blow up over the house by the end of the winter we sometimes have a 10-foot-or-more drift outside the kitchen window. It is beautiful and great evidence of the powers of the natural world. For me the snowdrifts are reminders that we need to understand the natural systems around us and live with careful regard to them.

Skiing on the farm roads can be challenging since there are both patches blown clear of snow and huge drifts. One winter we tracked a red fox across the fields. It could run right over the drifts but WE trackers sank deep into the powder.

Bird life is limited in winter. If the winds aren't too strong you can often hear a raven or two croaking out their hoarse calls as they traverse their huge winter territories. One year, before the deep snows came, we had a small flock of snow buntings that drifted over the fields and farm roads for a couple of days, feeding on the grass and weed seeds. Their surprising white and brown plumage contrasted beautifully with the browns and reds of the dormant blueberries. When we hike off the hilltop into the surrounding woods we occasionally find a small hollow in the snow where a ruffed grouse has spent the night. On those bitter cold nights grouse will fly down into the snow and make a little snow cave for their overnight motel room. The air trapped by the snow acts as insulation and helps retain their body heat during the long cold night. In the morning the bird wiggles clear of the snow, leaving the small hollow and a handful of the night's droppings. Their main food during the heavy snows of winter is tree buds – all those little embryonic leaves waiting for the first rains of spring make good winter nutrition if you're a grouse!

The snowmobile trails near the farm make great skiing. Thank you to the local clubs for sharing their trails with us skiers! One afternoon we ended up tracking a pair of coyotes down the hill from the farm toward the Deerfield Valley. The tracks followed the packed trail and so did we. As the afternoon waned

we were starting to think about turning back when we came to a small ravine with rock outcrops on both sides. Here a new track entered the trail from the west. The print was similar in size to the coyotes, a little smaller and showing no claw marks. A bobcat had been prowling around, maybe searching for a grouse under the snow! It was an exciting find!

We invite all to come enjoy the farm on your own in winter or any season. We have donated a permanent trail easement to the Franklin Land Trust on most of the farm roads so that you can come to enjoy the views and the hilltop heath-lands. Please call ahead or leave a note on your car so we know there will be people around. Please leash dogs and look for trail instructions on the door of the blueberry barn. We welcome all to enjoy this very special piece of our county.

~ Ted Watt

Benefit Raffle for Farm Preservation and Access

In the course of our work with the Franklin Land Trust and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to preserve land and provide access here at the farm, various people have contributed handmade art and craft pieces of beauty to benefit the project. These include:

Handblown Glass Blueberry Bud Vase

by Bob Dane and crew of Heath Brook Studio, Heath
A shimmering and useful item.

Original Pen & Ink Drawing of a Heath Barn

by Frederick M. Burrington of Charlemont.
Museum quality acid free Bristol paper with artist-made barnboard frame from a local barn.

Sushi Plate and Colander/Serving Bowl

by Jay Pope of Good Dirt Pottery, Montague
Deep blue hue plus artist's characteristic dragonfly pattern.
(www.gooddirtpottery.com)

The drawing for these items will happen around 12:00 p.m. on **February 12** 2011, at the Benson Place, following the nature walk with Ted (see separate article). Snow date will be February 19. Items are currently on display in the Franklin Land Trust office window at 36 State Street in Buckland and will be brought to the farm the day of the drawing. To purchase \$5 tickets and choose which item you want, stop by the FLT office, call Linda Alvord at 413-625-9151, or e-mail her at lalvord@verizon.net. You may also contact Dave Gott at 413-337-5340 or at benplace@gis.net or come to the farm the day of the walk. There is no charge for the walk, and you do not need to buy a raffle ticket to go on the walk.

Proceeds from the raffle will be put towards costs associated with appraisals, surveys, and closing, baseline reporting on conserved land conditions, trail signage plus maintenance, monitoring of conserved land and the trail easement, and legal defense.

~ Dave Gott



By Jeanine Heil, Principal

WE DID IT! Heath School's kindergarten and preschool programs have once again achieved NAEYC accreditation for meeting the Academy's early childhood program standards!

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has an accreditation process that is quite rigorous. On November 2, our kindergarten and preschool programs participated in the last step of this process – a site visit from a NAEYC assessor who spends the day observing the programs in action and reviewing classroom and school portfolios that were compiled by staff last year. The programs must demonstrate proficiency on specific criteria that include the physical environment, certified and trained staff, curriculum, community relationships, family involvement, health, teaching, and assessments. Our results indicated that we met 6 out of the 10 criteria with a score of 100%. On the additional four areas Heath scored 91% or more.

The accreditation term is valid from January 3, 2011, through February 1, 2016. A special thank-you should go to Suzanne Crawford, Sarah Bledsoe, and Deb Porter for the countless hours they have spent preparing for this program.

Another highlight was on January 28. Heath School had its first Energy Day. This day was planned by two guests we have from the Student Conservation Association, Amy Ryan and Elizabeth Packer. This residential corps program focuses on environmental and conservation service through the State. In collaboration with Ted Watt from The Hitchcock Center, Amy and Elizabeth planned activities for our Heath students that provided opportunities for them to explore energy concepts, such as consumption and conservation. You can certainly say that Heath School is energized!

PTP

Thanks to everyone in the community for supporting our local artisan catalog (and fair) this past December. A special shout out to Doug Mason who put many hours of labor (and more than a few pots of lapsang souchong) into the beautiful design! Nearly \$1500 was raised in support of cultural enrichment at the school.

Some great ideas have come out of recent meetings and we look forward to implementing them during the remainder of the school year and beyond. At the district level, we are pleased that the building-use policy has been changed to reflect the community-based spirit our school was founded on. It is always worthwhile to reflect on those tenets and to build upon those principles and explore partnerships with community members and groups.

Heath School's environmental education theme this year, working with Ted Watt of Amherst's Hitchcock Center, is

Energy. Last year the Heath Sustainability Coffeehouse series was a wonderful opening to envisioning a renewable future for Heath. We would welcome the opportunity to continue that dialogue with community members and to discuss ways of bringing community expertise into the lives of our students to facilitate their discovery and empowerment around the complex ecological challenges facing us. One suggestion that came up was to work with community members to map out a plan for Heath that would move both the school and town toward greater energy independence and to look at and implement *green* solutions.

Other more immediate ideas shared included greater partnership with the Senior Center and Heath Historical Society as well as with individuals who might share their stories and expertise. Service is also a central tenet of Heath School culture and we welcome the chance to support the community in new ways whether it is assisting with projects for the Historical Society or working with the Agricultural Society at the Fairgrounds, et al.

If you have ideas to share, please drop a note to the school. attn: Lyra Johnson or Lorena Loubsky, School-Community Liaisons, 18 Jacobs Road, Charlemont, Ma 01339, or e-mail Lorena at wildlor@gmail.com.

~ Lorena Loubsky

School Committee Update

It's that time of year, when we all start scratching our heads and crunching numbers. The Mohawk Budget Subcommittee is already hard at work to develop the budget for the 2012-2013 school year. They have already stepped up the meeting schedule, meeting almost every Wednesday evening. Rebecca has attended one so far this season and is hoping to attend more. It is a very demanding subcommittee schedule and it is hard for people to attend every meeting when they have other commitments.

Rebecca has attended her first Financial Subcommittee for the CES (Collaborative for Educational Services). It should have been an hour meeting but since it was her first meeting it went almost two hours. She needed to have more information presented to her since she is new to the committee and was representing all Franklin County School Committee members. With the extra information she was able to make an informed decision.

The Building Use Rental Agreement has been modified. Superintendent Buoniconti has listened to everything that was brought to him from the entire community. He has changed the wording in two sections that should make it easier for all groups to use the building. He has done away with the line that states the buildings need to be closed by 12:00 p.m. This will open it up for school groups to do some lock-in functions. He has also changed the form to state that if you are using the building with "Nominal Use of Utilities" there will be no charge. The other change is instead of saying "town official business" he has cleared it to state: "community based organizations". We hope that this will be an improvement for the community.

(*"School Committee Update"* continued on page 15)

("School Committee Update" continued from page 14)

The Education Subcommittee has reviewed all the schools' Improvement Plans. We are now trying to see if the schools can work with one another to better improve their schools. Each school is doing different programs that seem to be working within their community but it would be great to see these things carried throughout the district. We will continue to encourage collaboration within our district.

The Three-District Transportation Subcommittee approved the Protocols from the principals of each of the elementary schools regarding procedures in the event a parent/guardian is not available to pick up students from the bus stop. This has not been an issue at Heath Elementary. The Superintendent suggested using volunteers from the community, who once trained, could ride the bus to help insure that the new Anti-Bullying laws are upheld. More work needs to be done on this, and we'll keep you informed going forward.

Heath Elementary School is looking for some interest from the Heath community. They need a community member for their LEC (Local Education Council). This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved with the local school. It involves attending one LEC meeting a month as well as volunteering to represent the Heath LEC at some of the School Committee meetings. If you are interested, please contact Jeanine Heil at 337-5307.

We will keep you updated on what is going on with School Committee. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments. We are here to voice your opinions and concerns.

Town of Heath
Mohawk Trail School Committee Reps.
~ Ann Pacino and Rebeca L. Allen

The Jewish Mark Twain

This year The Heath Elementary School Drama Club presents *The Fiddlers of Anatevka*, an original adaptation of the popular award winning musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Based on "Tevye and his Daughters" (or "Tevye the Milkman") and other tales by author and Yiddish author and playwright, Sholem Aleichem (March 2, 1859 - May 13, 1916), the play is set in the fictional Russian shtetl of Anatevka in 1905, where life is as precarious as the perch of a fiddler on a roof.

Sholem Aleichem was the pen name of Salomon Naumovich Rabinovich. He was often referred to as the "Jewish Mark Twain" because of the two authors' similar writing styles and use of pen names. Both authors wrote for both adults and children, and lectured extensively in Europe and the United States. When the two finally met late in life, however, Twain retorted that he was considered the "American Sholem Aleichem." Sholem Aleichem died in New York in 1916 at the age of 57. His funeral was one of the largest in New York City history, with an estimated 100,000 mourners. The next day, his will was printed in the *New York Times* and was read into the Congressional Record of the United States

About The Play

The story centers on Tevye, the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his family and religious traditions while

outside influences encroach upon their lives. He must cope with both the strong-willed actions of his three older daughters - each one's choice of husband moves further away from the customs of her faith - and with the edict of the Tsar that evicts the Jews from their village. One reviewer wrote, "Fiddler on The Roof is like your grandmother's house: a place to renew old values and get your soul scrubbed out. If you're lucky enough to have it still, be wise enough to visit it often."

It Takes a Village

This year's production involves a cast of 50 with the entire school joining us for the opening number and a full house of guest artists and consultants including: Double Edge Theatre artist-in-residence Scott Halligan and company member Hannah Jarrell; silk trainer Caryl Klein; Chrysalis Theater music director and Smith College voice instructor Pan Morigan; Five College Dance Department teaching fellows, Cynthia McLaughlin and Felice Wolfzahn; Heath Elementary School music, art and string teachers, Sandy Carter, Rachel Silverman, and David Tasgal; The Wholesale Klezmer Band, led by Colrain school committee representative Joe Kurland; and choreographer Martha Lively (Lively Dance). Crowd favorites, Superintendent Michael Buoniconti and Heath School Cafeteria Manager Loralyn Boyd return in cameo roles.

Performances are Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. with a Friday matinee at 10:00 a.m. All shows are free and open to the public.

~ Jonathan Diamond



You can support this wonderful cultural odyssey by purchasing an Anatevka bar - available in dark or milk Belgian chocolate and on sale now at Mo's Fudge Factor and Mocha Maya's in Shelburne Falls, Elmer's Store in Ashfield, or the Heath Public Library!



"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

~ Abraham Lincoln
(From the March 4, 1861 Inaugural Address)



Library Lines

Free Museum Passes



By Donald Purington

Use the library's free admission pass at two nearby museums to break up this long stretch of snow and cold. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst currently has an exhibit titled *Partners in Wonder: Selections from the Collection of Jane Yolen*, featuring artwork from some of the more than 300 books written by Massachusetts author Jane Yolen. We also have a pass for the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in North Adams, which is currently featuring *Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective*, as well as works of several other artists. The museum passes have been provided by the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Red Garden* by Alice Hoffman, *Caribou Island* by David Vann, *The Inner Circle* by Brad Meltzer, *Silencer* by James M. Hall, *Rescue* by Anita Shreve, *Murder on the Eiffel Tower* by Claude Izner

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Double Delicious: Good, Simple Food for Busy, Complicated Lives* by Jessica Seinfeld, *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, *The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook* by Richard Wiswell

Young Adult Fiction Books: *The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass, *A Crazy Day for Cobras* by Mary Pope Osborne, *The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown, *Trash* by Andy Mulligan

Children's Books: *Twosomes: Love Poems From the Animal Kingdom* by Marilyn Singer, *The Rabbit Problem* by Emily Gravett, *Once Upon a Starry Night: A Book of Constellations* by Jacqueline Mitton, *Olivia Goes to Venice* by Ian Falconer

DVDs: *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, *Eat Pray Love*, *Toy Story 3*, *Temple Grandin* (winner of seven Emmy awards, including one for best made-for-television movie), *Life* (4 discs, narrated by David Attenborough)

March is Women's History Month

2011 Theme -

Our History is Our Strength

Our shared history unites families, communities, and nations. Although women's history is intertwined with the history shared with men, several factors - social, religious, economic, and biological - have worked to create a unique sphere of women's history.

The stories of women's achievements are integral to the fabric of our history. Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength. Until relatively recently, this sphere of women's history was overlooked and undervalued. Women's achievements were often distorted, disdained, and denied. But, knowing women's stories provides essential role models for everyone. And role models are genuinely needed to face the extraordinary changes and unrelenting challenges of the 21st century.

~ National Women's History Project



FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE! HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is administering deferred payment loans on behalf of the town of Heath. Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$30,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property. The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance. Examples of eligible work include: Roof replacement, foundation repairs, electrical and plumbing, windows, wells, septic replacement and much more!

Homeowners must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

<u># In Household</u>	<u>Gross Annual Income</u>
1	\$43,800.00
2	\$50,050.00
3	\$56,300.00
4	\$62,550.00
5	\$67,600.00
6	\$72,600.00
7	\$77,600.00
8	\$82,600.00

If you are interested in receiving an information and application packet please contact: Charity @ (413) 863-9781 ext. 132 or cday@fchra.org

Heath Business Directory

The Benson Place
Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
339-0030

Robert Delisle
Electrician
337-5716

Russell E. Donelson
Design/Construction/Cabinetry
337-4460

Jerry Ferguson
Home Improvement
Lic. Electrician
337-4317

Earl M. Gleason
Fire Equipment
337-4948

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin
Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

John Mooney
Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Heath Brook Studio
Glass and Baskets
337-5736

Support Your Local Businesses

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

413-625-6623

HAIR BY HANA

102 Bridge Street - Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Please Support
our
Advertisers

**LIVELY
CARE TAKING**

Tom Lively

Phone 413-337-4061

Cell 413-325-1065

Email: Lively1@crocker.com

Carpentry - Repairs, Remodeling,

Mowing, Snow Removal, Painting



PO Box 55 Heath MA 01346

**Do you need an office, or even just a desk,
In Shelburne Falls?**

The Bridge of Flowers Business Center boasts

Wifi; Networked Multifunction printer/copier/scanner;
Land Line for Conference calls; Conference room, fax;
Kitchen; Shower; All utilities and maintenance included;
and Serious security.

Contact Mike McCusker at
mtmccusker@comcast.net or 413.834.3477

Support Local Agriculture

Free 1 inch advertising space for local farmers.

Send copy to: *The Heath Herald*
P.O. Box 54
Heath, MA 01346

*Supported by a special grant made available
through the Dickinson Fund*

Dave Farrington
Jacksonville, VT
802-368-7456

38 Years of Experience

J.W. AUTO

Auto and Light Truck Repair

Elvis Presley Blvd., Rt. 100 S., 1/2 mile from center

ASE Certified Master Mechanic
Air Conditioning, Service Engine Lights, Auto Transmission

Maple House



The house on the hill with the view of yesteryear
Reward your friends and relatives with a restful night's sleep high in the hills of Rowe. They'll awake to a hearty homegrown breakfast in a 200-year old inn and family farm. See the stars, breathe clear fresh air, relax in the quiet beauty of spectacular views of the Berkshire Hills.

Lodging and Breakfast from \$60. Call for Reservations.

Middletown Hill Road (413) 339-0107 Rowe, MA 01367

A College Preparatory Day School for
Grades 7-12 and Postgraduate



1359 MOHAWK TRAIL, CHARLEMONT, MA 01339
tel: 413.339.4912 - www.charlemont.org

SMITH HARDWOOD FLOOR COMPANY

Installation, Sanding, Refinishing

Oak, ash, maple, birch, etc.—strip or plank

P.O. Box 117, Buckland, MA 01338 (413) 489-3024

Free estimates—insured Joshua Smith

RUSSELL E. DONELSON

61 Sumner Stetson Road
Heath, MA

Design/Construction/Cabinetry
To New and Existing Buildings

413-337-4460

Licensed/Insured

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License #E22622

30 Royer Rd., Heath, MA 01346

(413) 339-8357



Rowe Camp & Conference Center

PO Box 273 Rowe, MA 01367

413-339-4954

www.rowecenter.org

A magical place to explore new horizons, heal, make new friends, have fun, be a part of community or find your place in the world. We offer weekend conferences on a wide variety of topics as well as space for private retreats.

Retreat • Relax • Reflect • Relate • Revitalize



DAVE COTE BUILDERS

Custom Homes - Remodeling
Licensed - Insured - Free Estimates

David Cote
413-337-4705

Wanda Mooney, CRS GRI, SRES

413 337-8344 x 1

413 625-6366 x 13



Wanda
MOONEY

COLDWELL
BANKER

UPTON-MASSAMONT
REALTORS®

WWW.WandaMooney.com

Franklin Community Cooperative

Serving Your Community with *at the Bridge of Flowers!*
Deliciously Healthy Foods
with two co-op stores...

Green Fields Market

144 Main St., Greenfield

M-F 8-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5

(413) 773-9567



McCusker's Market

3 State St., Shelburne Falls
Open Daily 7-7 (413) 625-9411



The Baker
Pharmacy

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

Town Nurse News

Health Care Proxy



By Claire Rabbitt, RN

If you or a relative have been hospitalized in recent years, you most likely have been asked if you have a Health Care Proxy. In some states people have living wills, but Massachusetts has a Health Care Proxy Law. Under this law, any competent adult may appoint an agent to make their health care decisions, in the event they become incapacitated and unable to make decisions for themselves. On admission to the hospital, if you have not done so, forms are available to appoint someone as your Health Care Agent, as well as an alternate agent, if the first one is unavailable. Your signature on the form would be witnessed by two people and a copy of the form kept on file at the hospital. You will keep the original and you may have copies for your doctor and your Agent.

In general, we don't like to think about the possibility of a life threatening illness or injury, but it is something that can happen unexpectedly at any age. It's a good idea to have the conversation with family and/or friends about what your wishes would be in the event of being severely injured or incapacitated. In what situations would you want to be on a respirator, have a feeding tube, surgeries, and other medical interventions? You would choose, as a Health Care Agent, someone you would trust to make these decisions for you if you are not able. Your doctor will determine, in writing, that you are unable to make decisions and your Agent would make decisions based on knowing your wishes and talking with the doctor about diagnosis, prognosis, and options of treatment. The Agent would make the decisions according to his or her assessment of your wishes, religious and moral beliefs. Your Agent would have the legal right to your medical information in order to make decisions.

Your Health Care Proxy may be revoked if you sign another Health Care Proxy later, you legally separate from or divorce your spouse, who is named as your Agent, you notify your Agent, your doctor, or healthcare provider that you want to revoke your Health Care Proxy, or do anything that shows you want to revoke the Proxy, such as tearing it up.

Having a Health Care Proxy in place can help to avoid delays, arguments and problems in already difficult situations.

I continue to have office hours on Tuesdays, from 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or call me at 337-8309 for an appointment.

Winter Weather Preparedness Suggestions

Without knowing (until at least April) what kind of weather we are going to have, here are some winter weather suggestions from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to be prepared for whatever comes.

Items to Keep Around the House in Case of Emergency

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable radio or weather radio with extra batteries
- First aid supplies
- Essential prescription medicines
- Non-perishable food
- Non-electric can opener
- Drinkable water (one gallon per person per day)
- Baby supplies (if applicable)
- Extra blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Fire extinguisher

Family Emergency Communication Plan

Develop a "Family Communication Plan" in case family members are separated from each other during a storm. Have a relative or a friend serve as the family contact person. In the event of a **big disaster**, have an out-of-state relative or friend serve as the contact person. In some cases, after a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone knows the name, phone number, and address of the contact person.

Winter Emergency Car Kit

- Flashlight with extra batteries (remember when the flashlight is cold it may not shine as brightly)
- First aid kit
- Necessary medications
- Pocket knife
- Blankets
- Extra clothes (rain gear, mittens, socks, hat)
- High calorie non-perishable snack foods (nut or dried fruit bars)
- Container of drinkable water
- Shovel
- Container of sand for generating traction
- Tire chains or traction mats
- Basic tool kit
- Tow rope
- Jumper cables
- Brightly colored cloth to be used as a flag

Make sure that you have an ice scraper/snow brush in your vehicle and enough windshield washer fluid. Try to keep your gas tank at least one half full.

~ Timothy Lively
Heath Emergency Management Director

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board meets every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall, unless posted otherwise.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held on December 14, 2010, at the Heath Elementary School. There were 10 articles on the warrant. The first four were housekeeping articles transferring funds from one account to another to make up for anticipated shortfalls in the FRCOG assessment, veteran's benefits, unemployment compensation, and health insurance accounts. The first four articles passed. Article number 5 requested \$5,000 for the Whittemore Spring restoration account. The article failed. Article 6 seeking \$8,000 for the purchase of a storage shed was passed over at the request of the Selectboard. The Board was looking into a number of options for storage for the Town. Article 7 requesting a transfer of \$1,300 for the purchase of two new tower computers passed. Article 8 sought permission to establish a municipal light company. This vote was necessary for Heath to join a cooperative effort that is attempting to make available high-speed broadband service to every household in Heath. The article passed. Article 9 asked the Town to appropriate money to cover Heath's share of the cost of acquiring the McCloud property in Charlemont as part of an agreement between the towns of Charlemont, Hawley, and Heath to comply with an order of the Department of Environmental Protection to mitigate pollution of well water on the site determined to be emanating from the former landfill. The article passed unanimously.

All Boards Meeting

The Annual "All Boards Meeting" was held by the Selectboard on Tuesday, January 11, at the Community Hall. All Town Boards appointed or elected were invited to share information about their activities over the past year and talk about future plans and projects. Some of the activities are as follows:

- ◆ The Planning Board has a particularly interesting project called "Smart Growth Zoning." It is a proposed bylaw that is under development. Maps were presented showing land development under current zoning and under the proposed zoning. Future public forums on the new zoning proposal will be forthcoming.
- ◆ The Historical Commission is working on heritage landscapes and oral histories. Work continues on documentation of historic buildings.
- ◆ The Hall Committee has undertaken getting a new stage curtain and new window curtains. Plans for improvements to the flooring and lighting are in the works.
- ◆ The Board of Assessors is about to run through a full-year cycle using the new Patriot software.
- ◆ The Agriculture Commission has gotten new "Heath is a Right to Farm Town" signs done by local artists and will have them erected when the weather permits. A composting project for the Town is in the works.
- ◆ The Finance Committee is working with the Selectboard to develop the budget for the coming year. A cost of living and salary review for all Town employees will be underway soon.
- ◆ The Town Nurse has distributed 100 doses of flu vaccine and is looking to receive a \$20 per dose reimbursement.
- ◆ Wired West is moving ahead with plans to form a cooperative to bring high-speed broadband service to communities in Western Massachusetts.
- ◆ Time did not allow for the webpage training presentation that Jenna had prepared. The new software makes updating each department's page much easier. Please make an appointment with Jenna to acquire training needed.

Those in attendance were informed of important dates in the Town calendar and reminded of procedures for taking out papers if they intend to seek re-election.

IMPORTANT DATES 2011

January-March	Annual Employee Performance Reviews
January 31, 2011	FY '12 Budgets Due
January 18, 2011	Start of Budget Review Hearings
February 15, 2011	Annual Reports Due
February 22, 2011	Last Budget Review Hearing
March 16, 2011	Last Day to Obtain Nomination Papers from Town Clerk
March 18, 2011	Last Day to File Nomination Papers with Town Clerk
March 22, 2011	Articles Due for ATM Warrant
April 15, 2011	Last Day to Register to Vote for Annual Election and Annual Town Meeting
April 27, 2011	Last Day to Register to Vote for Special Town Meeting on May 7
April 29, 2011	Posting for ATM-by noon
May 6, 2011	Elections
May 7, 2011	Annual Town Meeting
June 30, 2011	Last Day to Expend Money from FY '11 Funds
July 15, 2011	Last Day to Submit FY '11 Invoices

Snacks were prepared by Camille's Kitchen of North Heath. It was very good to hear from everyone and learn about the great things that are going on. We intend to repeat this event next year.

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. 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. The new Web page is up and running. Please have a look and let us know what you think.

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

Weis Acres**I Am Now A Terrorist!!!**

By Lee-Ellen Weis

My Dad would be proud! I have obviously inherited his genes for disasters. As you know, I have been busy telling you all about Dad's "projects" that always turned out with lousy endings or major consequences. I've told you about a couple of my experiences that turned out well...not how I expected them to, let's say, like the time I got arrested for the library book and got "lost" in Heath. Did I tell you about the dog ticket yet? No? That's another story for another time then. Anyways, seems like all MY "projects" end up with policemen involved! I can just see Dad shaking his head with his lips pursed right about now, but even HE can't say policemen weren't involved with some of his little fiascoes !! So I'll tell you what happened.

As usual, my day started out with the usual chaos and me trying to be organized with my "to do" list. You know, making a new list because you don't want to do what's on the first list? I do it all the time. Makes you feel like you've accomplished SOMETHING in the day! Try it! I did make some calls that needed to be made and one was to set up a stress test that my doctor wanted me to have. For insurance coverage, I have to go into New York for this, so I called a cardiologist office in Port Jefferson, Long Island, to set up an appointment and they said the next day would be good so "come on down!"

My husband Peter and I left at four in the morning to catch the ferry in Connecticut as it takes you straight into Port Jefferson. We got there on time for my eight-thirty appointment. All was well. They said hello to me, goodbye to Peter, slapped a number on a plastic bracelet to my wrist, stuck a needle into my arm, attached to a tube, so long I kept tripping over it, to a bag hanging over my head in a waiting room with seven other patrons who all happened to be in their late eighties and on oxygen. YES, All of them! The topic of conversation was which O2 machine works better and how many hips and shoulders have been replaced! I was proud to say at one point that I had a pin put in my shoulder and did that count?! They oohed and aahed saying how young I was to have that done already! I puffed out my chest and said they didn't know the HALF of it!!

Anyway...one by one we got called in to do our thing of huffing and puffing on a treadmill. My GOD! I am out of shape!

When the 94-year-old amputee who had two bypasses, three stints, and half a lung matched me on the treadmill, well I'll tell you this, I made my New Year's resolution right then and there that I'll beat her next year!! I realize I can be a bit competitive, but her smirking at me really got to me! It was either that or she was trying to keep her teeth in her mouth...I guess I'll never know...Moving on...several hours later, several injections later, waiting with my new friends, I was STARVING! Peter called to check on me and told me he was enjoying a pizza pie and bagels. A pause and a half later I told him he had better have some for me when he picked me up or he would be on an IV for days after I got through with HIM! LOL!

I finally got released from the torture room with a business card handed to me as a memento and realized that if we hurried, we could catch the next ferry out and get home at a decent hour!

Chewing on a bagel, cheeks bulging, I told Peter to do his duty as a police officer and get us on that ferry!! He knows all the back roads to avoid the heavy traffic and I knew, if it could be done, he'd do it! So off we went, zigzagging through cars and back roads and we were almost there when I said we probably missed it. But my heroic husband said hang on and we'll see! We went flying into the parking lot to see that it was empty and the last car to be loaded up was already in! My bubble of hope started to pop when the policeman near the ramp waved us on to go up the ramp! Peter didn't miss a beat and went flying up the ramp, was directed to the right side of the ferry to park where he promptly made it hard to squeeze out of my side of the car (I know he loves me). So I was struggling to get out of the car when all of a sudden, with Peter out of the car, there were three policemen, hands on gun holsters and one with a black box in his hand, yelling to get out of the car! As I was straightening up I looked across the roof of the car to see my loving husband pointing at me and saying, "She did!" Now after thirty-five years of marriage you'd think you'd know your spouse, right? WRONG! My first thought was that he gave me up without even blinking. I'll kill him! Then I started paying attention to what all the hulla-baloo was all about. Their radiation meter was bleeping and screaming at them with such a high level that they thought we were terrorists with a bomb in the car to blow up the ferry! One policeman had asked Peter if either one of us had a nuclear stress test today and THAT'S why my husband was saying, "She did!" So I forgave him, this time.

They came over to me with the meter and it went nuts! The nice policeman said, "Oh, yeah, she's hot." Now truthfully, I knew what he meant but I just couldn't resist giving Dad's saucy grin and saying, "Thank you" as Peter was rolling his eyes at me!

They had to take my name, address, date of birth, and SS# for their record of why the meter went off, and, as I am writing this, it occurs to me that SOMETHING will get screwed up with their paperwork and I will be on a "no fly" list or named as a "watched terrorist" or something will show up five, ten years down the road to ruin a future "project" of mine. As I've said...I have Dad's genes for luck.

By the way, you know the business card that I mentioned? If I had only looked at the thing, read the thing, acknowledged the demmed thing...it did state I was radioactive and to avoid public transportation! Makes me wonder if all the disasters Dad and I've had... COULD they have turned out differently if we had only done one different thing?!? Tune in to the next saga....

Life sure is interesting, don't ya think?!!

Elected Officials/Terms Expiring 2011

Selectman	Brian DeVriese	3 year
Assessor	Alice Wozniak	3 year
Moderator	Doug Wilkins	3 year
Finance Com.	Donald Freeman	3 year
Planning Board	Calvin Carr	5 year
Library Trustee	Kate Bailey	3 year
Dog Officer	Robert Tanner Jr.	1 year
Constable	Jeffrey Simmons	1 year
Constable	Robert Tanner Jr.	1 year

Milestones

Smead Arthur Hillman of Heath died on January 20, 2011. Born in Colrain on June 10, 1923, he was the son of John and Florence Newton Hillman.

He was a lifelong resident of Heath before moving to the Quabbin HealthCare facility two years ago.

Smead attended a one room school in Heath and graduated from Charlemont High School. Prior to retirement in 1986, he was employed by the former Parts Manufacturing Company of Greenfield, later know as Bete Fog Nozzle, for over 45 years.

His wife, Evelyn Spencer Smead, whom he married in 1949, died in 2004. He is survived by his daughters Linda A. Chapin of Northfield and Sandra L. McCloud of Charlemont; a brother Russell Smead of Charlemont; four sisters, Bessie Sessions of Agawam, Eunice Terrill of Shelburne Falls, Hazel Wilson of Charlemont, and Flora Spencer of Florida; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

His son Alvin Smead died on July 16, 2006.

Funeral services were held on January 24 at the Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home in Shelburne Falls with the Reverend Cara Hochhalter, pastor of the Charlemont Federated Church, officiating. Burial will be in the North Heath Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to the Resident's Counsel Activities Fund or to the Quabbin Valley HealthCare Resident's Counsel Activities Fund, both at 821 Daniel Shays Highway, Athol, MA 01331.

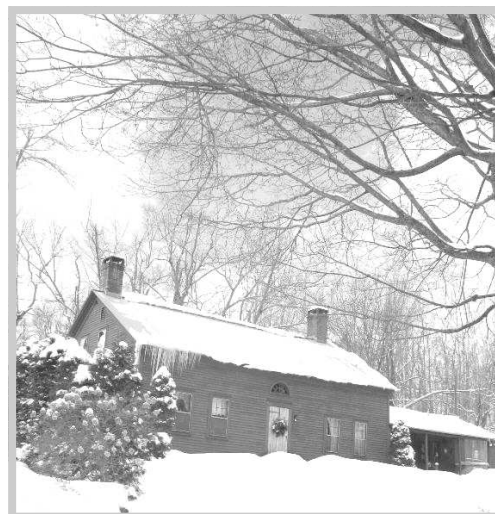
Requiescat in pace

Colin N. Gruen and **Thalia N.C. Gonzalez** of Los Angeles have announced their engagement.

Colin is the son of **Bob** and **Susan Gruen of Heath**. A 1997 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School and of the University of Vermont in 2001 with dual degrees in outdoor recreational management, he is employed by REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) and is an outdoor education guide for Crossroads School in Santa Monica.

Thalia is the daughter of Patty Tolson-Gonzalez of Tempe, AZ, and Edwin Gonzalez-Santin of Phoenix. She graduated from Arizona State University in 1999 with a degree in anthropology and from the Northwestern School of Law with a JD in 2004. She is a law professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

No date has been set for the wedding.



**Winter
in
Heath
2011**



Light within Darkness

**Drawings by
Elinor Roberts Hart**

January 28 – February 28, 2011

Artist's Talk: Monday, February 7, 2011
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Reception: Sunday, February 20, 2011
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Greenfield Community College
South Gallery**

1 College Drive,
Greenfield, MA 01301
413- 775-1241

Visit the GCC Art Department on
the Web at art@GCC.Mass.edu

Funding for this affair provided by
the GCC Student Senate.

*(The Artist and her family spent many
summers in Heath.)*



Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 2011

- February 03** - PTP Meeting, Heath School, 8:45 a.m.
Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- February 04** - 6th Grade Lasagna Dinner, Heath School,
5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (snow date – 2/11)
- February 07** - 8th Grade Field Trip to Franklin County
Technical School
- February 09** - Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
- February 10, 11** - The Academy at Charlemont, *Twelfth Night*,
7:00 p.m.
12 - 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- February 12** - Ted Watt's Nature Walk, Benson Place,
10:00 a.m. to noon.
- February 14** - **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!**
- February 15** - LEC, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
- February 16** - Heath Agricultural Society Meeting,
Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- February 17** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center,
11:45 a.m.
- February 21-25** - **February School Vacation**

MARCH

- March 02 - 08** - MTRHS, MCAS High School Math and ELA Retests
- March 03** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center,
11:45 a.m.
MTRHS 2nd Semester Open House, 7:00 p.m.
- March 04** - Heath School Drama Club Production of *Fiddlers of Anatevka*, 10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- March 11,12** - MTRHS Annual Musical, *Fiorella*, 7:00 p.m.
13 - 1:00 p.m.
- March 13** - **Daylight Saving Begins**
- March 15** - 6th Grade Parents Night, MTRHS, 6:30 p.m.
- March 16** - Last Day to take out Nomination Papers
- March 17** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- March 18** - Last Day to Submit Nomination Papers
- March 19** - Heath School 6th Grade Annual Pancake Breakfast
- March 20** - **Welcome Spring!**
- March 22 - April 4** - MCAS ELA Grades 3-10, MTRHS
- March 31** - MCAS Long Composition, MTRHS.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation

(inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From November 11, 2010	1 ½"	1"
December	3 ½"	15"
To January 10, 2011	0"	5"

In this reporting period:

December was a cool month with a low of
zero on the 10th.

~ Tim Lively



“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be.

This is the interrelated structure of reality.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.



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."

PETER'S GENERAL STORE

Debbie and Paul Plante, Proprietors
Number Nine Road, Heath
337-5501

- ◆ Fresh Produce
- ◆ Freshly-baked pies
- ◆ Blue Seal products
- ◆ Family Videos
- ◆ Penny Candy
- ◆ Soda, Grinders, Ice Cream
- ◆ Beer, wine, liquor
- ◆ All food essentials



STORE HOURS

Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

HEATH HERALD

Box 54

Heath, MA 01346-0054

FORWARDING & ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 11
Charlemont, MA 01339



24 West Main Street, Heath, MA 01346 p/f 413.337.

**Our Customers are
our greatest asset.**

*Serving the financial needs of Western Massachusetts
for over 20 years.*



413.781. BANK- bankwmass.com - Member FDIC