



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Heath School Happenings

Photographs by Lorena Loubsky

Heath Herald

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Heath Union Church News

As Easter season is upon us these are the services that will be held in our Church. A regular worship service on Palm Sunday, April 1, a Maundy Thursday communion service on April 5, at 7:00 p.m., a sunrise service on Easter morning, followed by a breakfast at the Church, and our regular worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Easter. We hope to have a choir for Easter and welcome anyone in the community to join us at that time. Check with the Deacons as to practice times.

A potluck dinner was enjoyed on March 4, and an exuberant and knowledgeable Bible Jeopardy family night was great fun on February 26.

All the congregation and all friends in the town mourn the passing of Doug Stetson. He was a pillar of the Church, serving years as a Deacon, missionary coordinator, and on the Board of Finance, as well as filing the pulpit, if needed. He was a strong support for all of us in the Heath Church. He leaves an empty place most difficult to fill.

We welcome all to any of our services and activities.

Adult Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
Bible Study and Prayers	Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.
Pastor's Hours	Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Church phone: 337-5367; Pastor's phone: (413) 648-9077

The Deacons

Richard Gallup 337-5367

Ruth Johnson 337-4367

Walt Gleason 337-4479

Alli Thane-Stetson 337-4852

~ The Deacons

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND BAKE SALE**
Saturday, May 26, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Sawyer Hall Front Porch

Come and support your library,
have a cup of coffee with us, and
treat yourself to the best baked
goods in town and for non-sugar
eaters, delicious individual pizzas!

If you bake for the sale, please deliver on
Saturday morning.

Twelve Years on a Heath Farm

In September of 1999, Ted Watt and I bought a 38.1 acre low bush blueberry farm on Flagg Hill Road from June Guild Day. In December, 2011, we sold that farm to Meredith Wecker and Andrew Kurowski, who now live there with their two children, Satya and Juniper. I am moving to Greenfield to be near family and to find work. We are keeping 25 acres of ancestral Benson land to the south of the farm and intend to return to Heath.

Below are some reflections on twelve of the most important years of my life.

We leapt at the opportunity to live at the farm... It seemed the right thing to do based on our need for a place to care for Ted's mother, and the work of each of our lives, his in nature education and mine in agriculture... And perhaps, as Ed Calver wrote in his history of Heath, we felt the same romantic pull to this wind-swept ridge that had drawn people for generations.

But things were always in transition, since before we bought the place... We saw how daunting this move was for the two of us, given who we were, and we hoped to bring in others from the start... In time, Ted felt the need to move away, and for me the place came to feel, at times, less like a home than a boat on a high seascape taking a long journey of hard work and personal challenge.

With huge help from certain individuals, boosts from many others, and Ted's ongoing support, I eventually figured out how to run and build this business, making a decent living alongside my off-farm work... There were built-in advantages like the uniqueness of the crop, the beautiful location, and the sweeping tides of public awareness about nutrition, sustainability, and eating local... There were mistakes by the pound, some of which I will long regret... But I'm nonetheless pleased with what got done by working with rotating teams of loyal adults and youth... In time something we had stepped into became a dream to pass on to a next generation.

Managing this enterprise was the most consuming activity I can remember in my entire 63 years... There was always something needed – often instantly – and there was always an opportunity – or ten – to give of myself... Here was a unique kind of self-employment, which involved living where I worked and adapting to intense hilltop weather... I was part of a big web that centered on this one location... Farming was a business for me, and farming was also a way of life.

At times I would be weary and burdened to the point that I hardly noticed the long distance view... Then a customer or service person would come along and start raving... "What a piece of heaven this is!... Look, there's UMass, there's Greylock!... It feels like we're looking across the ocean!"... As I gazed with them, wouldn't you know, I realized again what was special about the place.

Woodcocks every spring for countless swoops and issuances of their plaintive "peent"... Brilliant orange wood lilies popping up each July all over the fields, forerunners to the ripening blueberry orbs... Patches of scarlet berry foliage in autumn, flanked by browns and grays... Immense snowdrifts crisscrossed by ani-

mal tracks, which spawned wonder at what drama might have unfolded in this very spot just hours before.

"My two teens are looking for work... No, they haven't held jobs before, but I worked down the road when I was their age"... Gang, we're aiming for 55 boxes this morning... Here's your personal quota, and when you pick that number you can come in... OK, we'll lay out strings if that's what you want... It is fairer, isn't it?... Mary has been pouring berries at the belt long enough... who will spell her? – silence -- I said, who will spell her?... Thank you, Nathan... Yes, this does feel like family."

It's Saturday morning, we open for business in fifteen minutes, and the broken belt we replaced yesterday won't fit back where it belongs on the machine... "I know you just dropped off your nephews to work, but would you help me out?... Here, you steady the belt, I'll pull it as hard as I can, and you there, tighten these bolts with this wrench... It didn't work?... Let's try again... FWOOSH... We got it just in time!"

"Look at all the berries we picked! I told my husband we don't have room for that many in the freezer, but he wouldn't stop... Oh well, I guess we can share them with friends... Last year we had better picking... Oh, it rained during pollination this spring?... Two years ago we preordered because I had had surgery... My daughter wants to get married here... We're the fifth generation of family members that have come to PYO on this ridge top!"

"So you might want to buy this farm?... For a cohousing community?... A meditation retreat?... A conference center?... Condos with an airstrip?... A summer place, but we can still raise blueberries here?... You want to build in the berry lot?... You have cash in hand?... Oh, you changed your mind... Well, we did too... But thanks for caring and for trying on a dream with us."

More dreams and schemes... Good ones, shared by many... Land preservation... Access for walking... Affordable land tenure... Cooperative business... Supported employment... But we still wanted to realize equity as sellers... Huge effort by an amazing team of volunteers and professionals... Community support... Events... E-mail appeals... Raffles... Individual solicitations... Meeting, meetings, and more meetings.

Too much... Scale back... Grieve... Let go... Recover and regroup... Aim for what is possible.

Covenants for the Agriculture Preservation Restriction... Covenants for the Franklin Land Trust trail easement and conservation restriction... CAPS? Forest management plan... Land was now preserved for farming plus wildlife, and access for walkers was assured!... Later there was a private offer to purchase... We hammered out agreements as a team... The Commonwealth waived its option to buy.

Natural connection... First they were PYO customers who came to love the place... Then Meredith asked for employment... Then Andrew did... In time they asked about purchasing the farm... We worked together for a transitional year and innovated in a number of ways, including reorganizing the work routine... But the crop was down due to heavy springtime rains, and

("Twelve Years on a Heath Farm" continued on page 17)

Wild Ramblings**A Time to Behold**

By Bill Lattrell

This time of year, the intersection of winter and spring, is a most opportune time to reflect on what was and what might be. The landscape on this day holds a blend of snow and stark bare ground. Northern slopes still hold full snow cover while south-facing slopes and flat land are a patchwork of white and brown. The landscape reveals a dovetail pattern of last winter and the upcoming spring. Melting snow has formed rivulets on bare ground. Finger-like patterns have created an undulating edge that has both coves and peninsulas. Faint hues of green can be seen blended in with the dry, dead grass. It is as if I am looking forward and backward simultaneously. As winter slowly retreats, the first signs of spring peek out from underneath layers of weathered duff.

This past winter was exceedingly mild and somewhat dry. There is no deep snow pack to melt and refill our streams, ponds, and groundwater supplies. If the water in these natural vessels are to reach normal spring capacity then we will have to rely on wet weather ahead. In order to achieve what was not given to our region this past winter season we will need to look forward to many gray, rainy days. And this might sound depressing to some but the idea of going into summer with insufficient groundwater is a much more daunting thought. Our forests need ample amounts of water in our soil to remain healthy and vibrant. Wildlife is inextricably linked to adequate water supplies, both on the surface and in the earth. And in rural areas where each of us has our own private well, clean and ample groundwater is paramount to our daily lives. No, an adequate number of rainy days this spring won't be a bad thing at all. What we need are slow, steady, and enduring rains, the kind that soak into our soil, replenish our surface water, and do not create havoc with flooding and erosion.

The mild winter was very favorable to larger mammals and most over-wintering birds. Vegetative forage was easier to access. Large mammals did not have to expend huge amounts of energy wading through deep snows and breaking through icy surface crusts. Birds were able to forage at ground level for much of the winter. At our homestead we noticed that our bird feeders were not well utilized except when winter storms were approaching or had just passed. Evidently the birds that normally dine at our feeders found natural food throughout our forests and fields. Some small mammals had a very tough winter! Native mice and voles that normally tunnel around underneath the snow in search of seeds and other vegetative forage, were left exposed to the elements and predators by our mild winter. This coupled with last year's nonexistent acorn crop will likely lead to a sharp decline in small rodent populations. This will have a domino effect on larger predators who rely on rodent populations for food. Foxes, coyotes, fishers, bobcats, owls, and hawks will all suffer in the long run if rodent populations experience a steep drop. Changes in predator populations, as the result of poor forage on rodent populations, would likely lag by about a year.

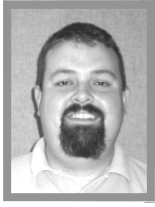
These connections between climate, wild animal and plant populations, and humans should remind us of the importance of each and every part of our natural ecosystem. Every element, both living and nonliving, are linked and interdependent. Alterations outside of the natural and expected scheme of our planet will likely have consequences, consequences that could prove to be more than inconvenient and, in fact, difficult to live with.

I will miss the solemn winter walks in the forest. There are tracks in the snow to be found. Trails to be followed. Trees and shrubs to be identified. But it is just the quiet woods that I enjoy the most. Perhaps it is during these winter walks when I am most reflective, most astute. A harsh winter day, with a frigid wind blowing into my face and the biting cold nipping at my fingertips, can be a bleak reminder of how fragile life is. It makes me appreciate not only the moment but what has been. On those days when I am alone in the woods my memories are clear; my childhood, my family, my adventures, and all those days in the wild come alive. It is somehow ironic that a white, quiet landscape can lead to such life in my thought. It is the reason that I generally exit the winter woods with a smile on my face.

I will look forward to spring and the first yellow coltsfoot pushing up through last year's leaves on the ground and revealing its beautiful flower, a vibrant contrast to all the nonliving around it. I will look forward to spring brook trout flirting with the sunlight along the edge of a dark, sparkling pool in a freshwater brook. I will look forward to soft rainy mornings and bright sunny afternoons. I will look forward to wearing just a T-shirt and feeling the warm sun on my skin. I will look forward to the feeling of hope, a feeling endemic to the spring season. I will look forward to deer fawns, baby rabbits, and spring peepers. And I will look forward to the first days in the vernal forest; the first delicate plants decorating the forest floor, leaf buds on branches about to burst open, and the singing of birds, in my mind the best music in the world.

This time of year has a rhythm, almost a heartbeat. I want to feel each thump. I want to hear the gentle cadence. I want to see the throb of life and I want to smell each pulse. With every cell of my body and through the pores in my skin, I want to absorb all that this time of year has to offer. I want to experience the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

This time of year, the alliance of the beginning and end, the union of death and life, the coupling of all that ever was and ever will be. It is a time that should be held gently in my arms while I take in the sweet breath of what is. It is a time to look beyond the obvious and search for the not so apparent. It is a time to behold.



By Eric Glazier, principal

Soon the snow will be gone and we will be playing baseball again! Where does the time go? On March 2 and 3, our community was treated to a Heath Elementary School performance of the drama *1776*. When I say "School Performance," I really mean it, as almost every one of our students participated in the production in some capacity. For those of you who were lucky enough to see the play, you will surely know that we have some of the most talented students in all of the West County. Not just talented actors and actresses, but musicians, dancers, and even comedians. I would like to thank the many, many volunteers who helped to make this production a success: Maeve Gallagher and Carin Burnes, just to name a couple. Jonathan Diamond has been the Drama Club's director for many years now and this will be Jon's last year as their director. Thank you so much, Jon, for your countless hours of dedication to our school...someone will have big shoes to fill in the years to come!

Our sixth grade class is looking forward to their class trip to Nature's Classroom in May. They are hard at work raising funds to pay for their trip. In February, they had a Chili Supper that was very well attended! Parent volunteers made homemade chili, cornbread, and chocolate cake, and, boy, was it delicious. Thank you to our many dedicated parent volunteers who made the fund-raising supper a huge success.

This spring our school was awarded a grant by the Massachusetts Agricultural Council to teach our students about maple sugaring. We were able to purchase some maple sugaring supplies to place on our school grounds, provide educational materials for the classrooms, and take the students on a field trip to a working sugar house in our community. Thank you to Camille Freeman for taking the time to write this amazing grant and for providing this wonderful opportunity for our students.

We are finishing up our residency with the Student Conservation Association. Dan O'Neil and Amy Fleming joined us several months ago as visiting teachers. They taught a variety of mini-lessons to our students, mostly in the science content area. We are happy to have welcomed the SCA into our school again this year. Our partnership is longstanding with the SCA and I look forward to continuing the tradition.

Our students took the English Language Arts MCAS assessment in March. Students from Grades 3-6 took the reading comprehension test, and students in grade 4 also took a reading composition test. Results from this State assessment are usually reported to the schools in the early fall. All of our 3-6 grade students will be taking the Mathematics MCAS in May.

This year we have a newly formed student council. The council consists of student representatives from all of the

grade levels. They have a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The President and Vice President spoke at the March school committee meeting where they outlined the work they've been doing this year. The Student Council is selling Heath Elementary School coffee mugs for \$6.00. If you would like to purchase a fund-raising mug, please call the school for more details.

I am pleased to announce that we will be offering a free CPR course for our 6th grade students later this school year. Our school nurse, Donna Weber, is a trained CPR instructor and will be providing our 6th graders with this lifesaving course in May. She will also be offering a community CPR course as well. If you live in the community and would be interested in attending a CPR course at the school, please contact Donna Weber at Heath Elementary.

The Heath community is looking for two Mohawk School Committee representatives for the upcoming school year. If you have any interest in becoming a representative or you have any questions, please call me at the school. The phone number for Heath Elementary School is 413-337-5307.

Heath Local Education Council (LEC) Update

Budget: We started this month's meeting looking at the budget which passed the School Committee vote March 14. Changes for Heath in the budget from last year include funding a 1/2 time reading teacher, increased hours for Kathy Sprague and the school nurse, Donna Weber. These changes have already occurred at the school but after the budget vote last year so are included in the budget for FY13. Also included was the addition of Veronica Smead on staff which has been wonderful for staff and students alike.

Enrollment: Also discussed was the enrollment projections for this coming fall and a first look at grade configurations. Ten students are graduating in June and we are currently waiting to confirm incoming Heath preschool and kindergarten numbers. If eligible families in town have any questions about the school or would like to come for a visit, don't hesitate to call Kathy and she can set up a visit or meeting with Principal Eric Glazier. We will be holding an open house in April for interested families from Heath and surrounding communities. We expect to have openings for choice in grades PK-2 with a possibility for a small number of seats in the upper grades to be determined. If you know of an interested family, choice applications may be found on the district Web site: http://mohawkschools.org/co_school_choice.php We encourage interested families to call Kathy to schedule a visit: 337-5307

School-Community Partnerships: LEC members shared their strong wish to develop deeper connections in the community at all levels of curriculum and a proposal was made to schedule a school and community meeting. We would love to have a member of the Heath Senior Center

("Heath LEC" continued on page 6)

("Heath LEC" continued from page 5)

and Historical Society attend and to reach out to those who have been connected to the school since its inception to help us as an evolving community-based school in reflecting on where we've been, where we are, and what we can become together! Revisiting our core values and original mission is central to this discussion and we would welcome all community members to attend. Anyone wishing to is always welcome to come to an all-school or share a meal with students. Just give Kathy a call in the office. Specific partnership ideas that came up at this month's LEC included community history projects, costumed reenactments (ala 1776) with community-member participation, all-school projects such as the work Deb Lively helped with on building an Algonquin longhouse, a community-service day in the community helping with outside painting and yard projects for elders needing support. There are myriad ways in which the school and community can partner and we look forward to a dialogue together. We will send out a notice once a meeting date is set. If you are interested in attending, feel free to e-mail Principal Eric Glazier <mailto:eglazier@mail.mohawkschools.org>.

Bullying: As with all schools, we are having an ongoing discussion about the nature of bullying and assessing what our needs are for bullying education in conjunction with the new policy at the District and State levels. We have invited Sarah Pirtle to come work with students this spring. She brings over 40 years of experience working in school and has published a new book centered around teaching skills needed to transform and prevent bullying behaviors. Her double-CD which accompanies the book is available at Heath Library. We plan on keeping this conversation a regular part of our meetings to stay attuned to school culture and continue supporting opportunities for staff, family, and student skills around creating a safe emotional and physical learning environment.

School Improvement Plan: Each year we revise and reflect on this working document and it guides our year in many ways. As part of last year's State evaluation of the District, we are adopting a new format using the *Conditions for School Effectiveness (CFSE)* that also ties in with the District improvement plan and their rubrics for staff and superintendent evaluation processes. As we get underway with amending our document and transferring it into the new format, we are adding a second LEC meeting for April 4 at 3:30 p.m. Feel free to attend our monthly meetings ~ we welcome community comments at the beginning of each meeting, or you may schedule time on the agenda by contacting the principal.

Heath Horizons Fund: When former principal Susan Todd retired, a fund was created in her honor, originally titled the *Susan B. Todd Fund for Excellence in Community-Based Education*. Renamed with her support two years ago, the fund is now called *Heath Horizons Fund*. It is a way to help support fostering greater appreciation and love of the arts, culture, drama, and music and its first mission in supporting the work of esteemed naturalist Ted Watt. Early in the school's journey it obtained certification as an "EIC" School – one that anchored its curricula in the historical, physical, and cultural environment of which it is a part. While we no longer retain formal

certification, the commitment to this model is the core purpose of the Horizons Fund which provides ways for community members to support this mission and tenet. If you are interested in participating in our coming Horizon Fund meeting, please e-mail Lorena at <mailto:wildlor@gmail.com>.

District LEC Meeting: We plan on scheduling an all-district joint LEC meeting for late spring.

~ Lorena Loubsky

Opportunities for Employment (of the volunteer kind):

School Committee Members WANTED: We are looking for two intrepid volunteers to join our **Heath School Committee**. Both seats are open as of May. The committee meets once a month with an additional subcommittee meeting usually scheduled prior to the whole committee meeting. It is a great opportunity to represent Heath's students in our District and your help would be greatly appreciated!

A special thanks to outgoing members Rebecca Allen and Ann Pacino.

A **Community Representative** is needed for the **Heath Local Education Council**

PTP News

The Heath Elementary School Parent-Teacher-Partnership is looking forward to getting started in the school garden and hoping to add some local expertise. Do you have a green thumb or are willing to help maintain the school garden? If so, please contact Susan Draxler, skdrax@yahoo.com or call the school at 337-5307. Stay tuned for the spring cleanup date. We plan to have a meeting for any interested community members to brainstorm ways to integrate more local foods into students' school breakfasts and lunches. As a fund-raiser for the garden, we will be offering FEDCO seed catalogs- you can pick one up at the Library or school. The deadline for orders will be included with the catalogs.

The PTP is raffling two beautiful nature explorer baskets-one for adults and one for children- to help raise funds for Naturalist Ted Watt to work with the students. Please stop by the school or see Lyra at the Library for raffle tickets. The drawing is April 13.

We always welcome community members to join us for our Friday morning all-school meetings and breakfast/lunch. Call ahead to let us know if you'd like to stay for lunch. Heath School has a tradition of elders coming in and sharing with students some local history or reading a story. We'd love to keep this tradition going. Also, anyone who has other talents (such as writing/reading poetry) and who'd like to share these talents with children, feel free to contact us!

The PTP is offering two enrichments, a movie, and refreshments during the Parent-Teacher conferences in early April. Look for more information in the upcoming newsletters.

For the Lyrids Meteor Shower on Saturday, April 21, we plan to have an astronomy night at the school. The new moon that night will make for spectacular stargazing conditions. Local astronomers are encouraged to bring their telescopes.

Happy Spring from the Heath PTP!

- Lyra Johnson

Prime Red News

Making Connections with the Heath Community

Right before our February vacation, we had the Heath Fire Department Volunteers visit our school to share with the students the different important fire safety rules. We watched one of the firemen, Kenny Gilbert, put on his fireproof uniform. Another fireman talked to us about what we should do if our house was on fire. Two of the important parts that students need to do at home to be safe are to learn their house number and review with their family where the emergency meeting place is.

We went on a field trip recently and visited two of Heath's sugarhouses. First, we went to Charlotte Freeman's grandpa Dave Freeman's sugarhouse. He gave our class a tour and explained how he turned sap into syrup. Charlotte's grandma Christine O'Brien had put labels on all of the equipment for our class to read and even made a maple syrup word search to take home! We really enjoyed watching the thermometer go up to the correct temperature to make the syrup come gushing out of the evaporator. At the end of this part of the visit, we tried their syrup. It was yummy!

Second, we went to the McCutchen's sugarhouse. We watched the sap fill up in one of their huge storage containers outside. We went inside and saw their vacuum machine that pulls the sap to the sugarhouse and the reverse osmosis machine which takes a lot of the water out of the sap. They use a variety of glass bottles to put their syrup in. Gavin McCutchen showed some of our classmates how the sap was traveling fast down the tubes into the sap-storage containers. We learned a lot about making maple syrup on this trip and were amazed at all the math you need to do when maple sugaring!

~ Virginia Gary, Prime Reds Teacher

Middles Class

Heath School Middles Class (grades 3-4) has just finished studying astronomy and we are beginning a unit on Massachusetts history. One way we are thinking about both units that's similar is that we're using *timelines*. In our astronomy studies, we created timelines that included astronomers from ancient times to the present as well as a shorter span that traced the history of spaceflight.

We're just beginning our timeline for Massachusetts history. First, we set up a timeline with centuries and decades. Then, as we learn about individuals or events, we write them on index cards and add them to our timeline. If you stop by the school for any reason, check out our work-in-progress. It is on the windows outside our classroom.

This year, our study of history has been enhanced by the play *1776*. As we read about the people involved in making history in Massachusetts between 1700 and 1800, many of them seem much more real to us as we consider our schoolmates and classmates who played those parts in our drama production. That's just one more way our school benefited from the play this year!

~ Jorie MacLeod, 3-4 Teacher

Primary Blues

The Primary Blue classroom at Heath School (Preschool & Kindergarten) has been working hard on publishing their writing. Kindergarteners wrote their own stories, did revisions, and turned their stories into big books. Preschoolers are working on a class book, modeled after a mentor text: *What Mom-mies & Daddies Do Best*. Kindergarteners shared their published books at All School Meeting, and preschoolers will all have turns to take home their published book to share with their families.

Americorps volunteers, Amy Fleming and Dan O'Neil have been assisting Prime Blue with our science study of animals in winter. Through read-alouds, music, art, and drama, students have learned about the three major survival strategies of animals in winter: hibernation, adaptation, and migration. Students will demonstrate their learning through a picture/concept sorting activity.

~Sarah Bledsoe, Primary Blues Teacher

The Uppers

The fifth and sixth graders (affectionately referred to as the 'Uppers') have had a busy winter, with much to show for all of their hard work. One major accomplishment was finishing and publishing *Fractured Fairy Tales*. The goal of the assignment was to put a twist on a classic fairy tale. Some chose to alter the setting, perhaps sending characters into a modern-day city. Others chose to switch characters and traits; for example, several students chose to make traditionally evil characters good and vice versa. Adding humorous elements was a requirement, which made sharing with first and second grade Book Buddies a whole lot of fun! In addition to sharing the completed stories with other students in the building, the *Fractured Fairy Tales* are on display in the school library for the next month. We welcome folks to come check out these creative tales!

~ Lillian Whitsett, 5/6

Heath's Spellers



District Spelling Bee participants; Corinne Freeman, Timothy Burnes, Charles Dean, and Haley Rode.

Photographed by Eric Glazier

Paean to Jon



This doesn't fall under the aegis of Parent-Teacher Highlights or Council News, more under the auspices of a nod for a friend stepping out on the next leg of his journey. I've no doubt we will continue to be blessed with his commitment to Heath School and his love for this community, but I wanted to say a formal thank-you for his passionate work and play with Heath's students. Carin Burnes has created a beautiful keepsake scrapbook for Jonathan which will be available at the library for us to share thoughts, reflections, drawings, or pictures with him.

There are few people who've had the privilege of meeting Jonathan Diamond who come away without a strong opinion about his character and personality. He is someone who does nothing by halves and brings himself fully to anything he endeavors. It has been a stellar journey working with him over the last six years in many capacities from advocating for keeping the rural gem that is the Heath School open during the district push for consolidation to coaching baseball or, not least, the dramatic art of friendship – but for the moment, I would content us with a tribute to his work with Heath School's Drama Club.

A phrase he had taped to the dashboard of his old red jeep captures the essence of his philosophy: *Burning Focus, Honesty and Courage*. These three intentions in his able hands and heart have been transformative for Heath School, for family, friends, faculty, community members, and most importantly, for our kids who've known him as both a baseball and a drama coach. His customary approach to both has drawn on his therapeutic skills from sharing poignant moments of tenderness to full-scale confrontational intervention with his biggest brashest voice! Jon is not afraid and, more to the point, is incapable of not ruffling feathers along the way while simultaneously reaching us in the common ground of his intrepid heart ~ everyone comes out a better person for the exchange. I don't recall if humility was also up on the dashboard, nor would you suspect it at a cursory glance – but it is there too, along with an openness to receive and reflect on words that critique as well as praise. It is this balance that has helped him shape and facilitate the exceptional and wondrous theatre program at Heath. And above all this, of course, is his love.

Our children's lives have been altered in profound ways by the experiences shared during Heath productions. An intimate family forms and no person goes without recognition and appreciation whether they work the lights backstage or have a leading role in the play, nor do they go without being challenged to bring their best self

forward at every step, for every act, and this carries cross current to how they approach their life. Each child is gifted with, or rather granted their *inalienable right* to the support they need in finding *and using* their voice, claiming their sense of place, and having a safe physical and emotional space, to put down roots *and* spread their wings. Each year's cast trials and tribulations are faced together whether a problem is material or metaphoric, individual or collective, precious and tangible opportunity for our children and for the extended community of which they are a part to claim and reclaim the sacred relationship with self, place, and community. This is Jonathan's legacy and we will hold it well and be sure it prospers in his stead.

With Love and Fond Regards,
~ Lorena Loubsky



Photographs by Lorena Loubsky

Jerry Ferguson

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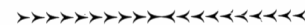
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Heath Fair News

Take Notice.

The Heath Agricultural Society is seeking to expand its Membership.
You are cordially invited to participate in the Heath Agricultural Society!!!
Please consider becoming a Member.

The Heath Agricultural Society, on the 1st of February, held a Special Meeting for the revision of the Bylaws previously drafted in 1969 at the incorporation of the Heath Agricultural Society. After two weeks of deliberation and adjustment through e-mails and phone calls, and two hours of deliberation and final revision at the Special Meeting, the revised Bylaws have been accepted unanimously by those members in attendance (approximately 20 attended). One of the most difficult subjects that we debated upon - and perhaps one of the most pertinent changes to the Bylaws - concerned Society membership. It was important that we design some structure without discouraging new membership. Written below are two of the six sub-articles as they appear in the revised Bylaws:

- 6.1 Any person is eligible to become a member of the Heath Agricultural Society provided they have demonstrated regular attendance at meetings and actively contribute to the betterment of the Society. A candidate may be accepted into membership by vote of the membership at any meeting, to become effective at the next regular meeting.
- 6.2 The member must sign acknowledgment that they have read, understand, and accept the Bylaws of the Heath Agricultural Society.

One of the effects of these, and other changes, has been that the Heath Agricultural Society is beginning its Membership List from scratch. It was not our desire to end the membership of anyone - this is merely the result of the changes that we have made. All former members of the Society are encouraged to renew their membership.

Amidst the many other revisions to the Bylaws, we chose to reduce the number of officers for legal purposes. This had the effect of displacing our Vice-Presidents (Pam Porter, and Shirley and Bradley Tombs) each of whom has been a stalwart supporter and contributor to the Society and to the Fair. On behalf of the Heath Agricultural Society I'd like to express my gratitude for the gracious support that Pam, Shirley, and Brad have offered as the Heath Agricultural Society makes such sharp revisions to the Bylaws. At the end of our meeting, Shirley Tombs accepted her nomination to Vice President. Pam and Bradley will continue to support the Heath Agricultural Society as members. There were many other changes to the Bylaws - far too many to describe here. If you are interested in reading the revised Bylaws please visit the Web site at: www.heathfair.org

With the Bylaws revised, the Heath Agricultural Society will set itself to several other tasks. We have decided upon the theme of this year's Fair, **Right to Farm**. We are exploring also the implications, and benefits of nonprofit status; finalizing a schedule for the approaching 95th Heath Fair, and continuing to assemble a plan for the celebration of our 100th anniversary. Indeed, concerning our 100th anniversary, we are interested in beginning a collection of historical materials pertaining to the Heath Fair (photographs, posters, etc.) to showcase at the 100th anniversary. If you have any materials that you would be willing to donate, or to have copied, please contact Jan Carr at: jan.carr1@verizon.net or you may call her at 337-5747.

If you are interested in Society membership please take note that we meet regularly on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath School. This is subject to change, however, so please contact me to be sure of the meeting times: justin@thelivelyheath.com, or 413-834-0168.

In the meantime, we are looking for some brave souls to fill various volunteer positions. One of these would be the Superintendent of Parking, the position that I filled prior to becoming president. This is not a glorious job but it is important and it would be nothing short of wonderful if someone would step forward to learn the responsibilities of Car Parking Czar.

Another of these positions depends entirely on our evolving weather patterns. Right now, as I write this in February, it appears that spring has landed. If this is true, then we need to consider the implications of nor'easters during the Fair. In this case, we are tentatively considering a Superintendent of Sledding. Please give this some thought and be prepared to step forward when need arises. We always need to be thinking ahead....

Thank you,
Justin Lively, President

In Memoriam

The Staff of the *Heath Herald* celebrate the lives of Doug Stetson and Terry Pettengill not only for their contributions to Heath life and for the sterling persons they were, but with gratitude for their contributions to the paper.

Doug, after his return to Heath in 1999, contributed his wisdom to the paper in a series of articles which told of Heath's early history and its values as well as his fierce commitment to the proper use of the land.

Terry was one of the founders of the paper in 1979, serving as Circulation and Business Manager until her retirement in 1994.

Douglas Stetson

April 2, 1924 - February 2, 2012

My earliest memories of brother Doug are vague- one of the older folks sometimes at the table but not really important to me, the "baby" of the family.

I do remember his wedding to Nada Corey in that distant (to me, at least) Rosemont, New Jersey, setting, the first of the siblings to marry and when their children came along I was the babysitter.

Doug worked at Peachblow Farm in Charlestown, N.H. in charge of the hens and I visited there as a babysitter one summer. Perhaps at that point I began to know Doug as more than "just a brother," but as someone with that work ethic of our forebears, someone whose love of family was always evident and who could tell a joke and laugh about things I could relate to.

When Doug and Nada moved back to Heath, having purchased land on Branch Hill Road and built, or rather rebuilt their house which was taken down as a demonstration "pre-fab," each component labeled and trucked down, from New Hampshire. Doug and I became partners in a cucumber patch one summer and, as I recall, that venture wasn't a real moneymaker and I earned less than \$100, but that's agriculture as Doug knew and I learned... weather is not always a farmer's friend. Doug, however, was now a friend and remained so the rest of his life.

After our mother died in 1953, I spent time at Doug's house; later, after our house burned a few weeks before my wedding, I pretty much lived there- a haven in my shaky world.

When Doug took a job as milk tester, traveling all over Franklin County at all hours in (oh, heavens!) his little Fiat, brother Ken dubbed a "pregnant roller skate," he sometimes stopped to visit me in Conway, for now I was married with my own family. It was at that point that Doug and I, along with my farmer husband, really had a lot in common. I was now an adult, and Doug and Merrill, a poultry farmer, hit it off, sharing tales of farm life even as we shared a cup of coffee-that Stetson "elixir."

When Doug and his family moved to New York State as

folk do with my young family growing and demands of the farm, both his in New York and ours, we didn't see much of each other. When Doug came back to Heath and married Alli, I found my brother again, and now, with my own family grown up, Merrill and I spent more time with my brother/friend, and sister-in-law/friend. Over the several years we four, plus sister Lois, rented cottages on the Cape, in Maine, and Vermont, we were privileged to know Doug as the philosopher he was, always true to his religious beliefs, vehement in his belief of separation of church and state, willing to entertain ideas of others while standing firm in his convictions. I often think of the Norman Rockwell painting in which a grandmother and grandson, dining in a restaurant, bow their heads in grace, while other diners look on. That was Doug... always giving thanks wherever and whenever a meal was before

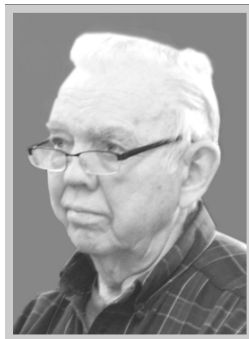
us, true to his religion, always thankful for what we were about to receive. On a lighter note, perhaps what Doug, Lois, and I were about to receive in that restaurant, was tripe! Ah, that glorious, golden, sautéed entrée- neither Alli's nor Merrill's choice, but we loved them in spite of this "failing."

I am so glad I got to know my brother and we did enjoy our family stories, observations of a changing world, the day trips, weeklong vacations, discussions about our chicken flocks and farming in general. I miss Doug, but will treasure my memories of him, thankful that my children got to know him a little bit and appreciate his wit and wisdom.

~ Muriel Stetson Antess

"Well done, good and faithful servant" What better way to characterize our brother, Doug Stetson? Much has been said and written since his death on February 2, but we who grew up with him knew him in his growing up years and can share stories and anecdotes from then.

("In Memoriam" continued on page 18)





We Danced

I first met my mother in a delivery room. She was my whole world. A kind, loving, caring and giving person who I depended on for everything. She cleaned me, dressed me, fed me, and did my hair up pretty.

As I grew, she taught me how to be clean, dress myself, feed myself, and do my hair. She taught me to cook, sew and mend, and do the laundry. I learned how to knit a scarf, play cards, do puzzles and how to dance. We played Scrabble to learn words, and cribbage to do math. She shared her passion of reading with me and a love of music.

I grew up and left home, as all children do, saying goodbye and maybe I'll see ya soon! Marriage, children, moving around, working throughout the years with the holiday visits and monthly phone calls to see what was new, Mom always giving me advice when asked and answers to my questions, no matter how many.

The time came that my mother asked me a question and I gladly came home to do what she needed me to do.

I cleaned her, dressed her, fed her, and did her hair up pretty. We played cards, did puzzles, cribbage and scrabble till she couldn't. We even danced across the floor every night from her chair to the bed saying we were shuffling off to Buffalo up to the time her legs wouldn't function anymore. We would read the same books to discuss together and shared our thoughts on everything.

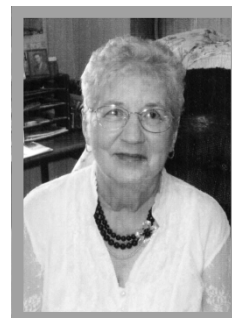
I will always be grateful for the things she taught me and the time I've had with her for the past few years that suddenly became too few. How many can say they got to dance with their mom. She passed away, holding my hand, and I can't help but feel that I not only lost my mother but my best friend too.

Her name was Teresa Christine Kelley Pettengill and I will miss her.

In loving memory of

Teresa C. Pettengill

August 13, 1932-February 22, 2012



*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.*

*I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
of happy times and laughing
times and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those
who grieve, to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I leave
when life is done.*

~ Le-Ellen Pettengill Weis



Library Lines

New at the Library



By Donald Purington

A Few of the New Items in the Library

Adult Fiction Books: *Beastly Things* by Donna Leon, *Elegy for Eddie* by Jacqueline Winspear, *Helsinki White* by James Thompson, *Expats* by Chris Pavone, *The Limpopo Academy* by Alexander McCall Smith, *Sail of Stone* by Ake Edwardson

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Imagine: How Creativity Works* by Jonah Lehrer, *How to Cook Everything: the Basics* by Mark Bittman, *Digital Photography* by Henry Horenstein, *Epistles to the Heathens* by Alastair Maitland

Young/Teen Reader Books: *Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen, *Same Sun Here* by Silas House, *Curveball: the Year I Lost My Grip* by Jordan Sonnenblick, *Toys Come Home* by Emily Jenkins

Children's Picture Books: *Hug Time* by Patrick McDonnell, *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, *One Weighs a Ton* by Salina Yoon, *Little Treasures: Endearments from around the World* by Jacqueline Ogburn

DVDs: *Hugo*, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, *Puss in Boots*, *Tower Heist*, *Robert Strong Woodward: the Life and Work of a New England Painter* (produced by the Buckland Historical Society and Shelburne Falls Cable)

Audio Books on CD: *Mind's Eye* by Hakan Nesser, *The Odds* by Stewart O'Nan, *Believing the Lie* by Elizabeth George

Photos on CD-ROM: Photographs taken by Art Schwenger at Suzanne Crawford's and Wanda Musacchio's retirement party at the Heath School on March 23, 2012

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Heath Community Hall
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Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Our great thanks and appreciation go to the entire Heath community for the most wonderful retirement send-off ever! Thank you to everyone who made a page for our memory books or wrote a card or shared special words with us. We will cherish these forever. We cannot begin to express how moved we are to have the library and music garden named in our honor. And we so appreciated the presentation, complete with blindfolds and ribbons to cut, music and wonderful words from dear friends of all ages, proclamations and mugs and the beautiful signs.

The Heath School community sure knows how to express love and appreciation and you all made us feel so very special. And the Heath community sure knows how to cook, too! The potluck dinner was a feast for the eyes as well as the mouth, and the student-decorated cake was beautiful and delicious. The decorations were lovely and transformed the dining room and gym.

It has been a great joy to share in all of your lives over the years and to watch all our students grow and blossom. We trust that we will continue to stay connected in the years to come.

With much gratitude,
Wanda Musacchio and Sue Crawford

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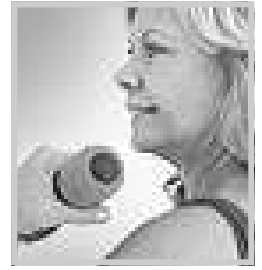
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Town Nurse News**Exercise is Very Important**

By Claire Rabbitt, RN

In the last issue I wrote about foods for heart health. Along with diet, exercise is very important for not only heart health, but also brain function, bone health, and keeping joints working well. Some of the ladies attending the osteoporosis prevention exercise class have noticed improved range of motion in arthritic fingers from the finger exercises we do.

Weight-bearing exercise helps slow progression or prevent bone loss, which is the rationale for using weights in the class. In the leader training I learned basic exercises using weights and how to tell when the amount of weight should be increased. I was also taught that ankle weights should not be worn when walking or jogging, as it could result in knee injury. Carrying weight in a back pack is the recommended way to add weight when walking or jogging. Exercising with weights should be done about three times a week for maximum benefit, as the bones and muscles should be rested for a day from the weight training for maximum benefit.

Now that spring is here it will be a lot nicer to get out and walk, which is a most beneficial exercise. If anyone is interested in our osteoporosis exercise class, it is held on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Senior Center. It is free because it is a federally funded program, and is for people 55 and over. Many of the exercises are done while sitting in a chair.

Eileen Tougas asked me to remind you of the *Hands Across Heath* fund that is available for Heath residents to use for medical equipment not covered by insurance or other means. You may call me with a request for assistance. Also, donations to the fund are gratefully accepted.

Services that are available through the Town Nurse for Heath residents:

- Sharps collection and sharps boxes
- INR checks (test for therapeutic effect of coumadin)
- Blood pressure checks
- Injections of prescribed medications such as B12
- Assistance with questions about medications and other health-related issues
- Assistance with dressing changes
- Home visits for people unable to come to the office

My office hours are on Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If those times don't work for you, please call me for an appointment and we'll work out a time. Office, 337-4847, Home, 337-8309

("Twelve Years on a Heath Farm" continued from page 3)

we had to give tough news to some customers... So we bought in fruit for them from Maine, and we made Wonderfully Wild products... I was able to teach how things have been done and to learn about myself... How we are alike and how we are different... When to stand firm and when to let go... What may continue and what may change... Now they are ready to sail and they are sailing... I am helping out as needed...

After closing I felt like I had completed a long row in the rapids and was catching my breath on the shore... Where were the visitors?... Why didn't the phone ring?... What about the stores and the accounts?... Where would I live?... How would I earn money?... Would I become less busy?... What other passions and skills did I have?... Oh yeah, those that had lain dormant while I took this trip... I am now beginning to glimpse some next slices of life.

Once the decision was made to move – for now - to Greenfield, then how to take with me the Heath I have come to

love?... The piece of earth that is the farm, my immediate neighborhood, and the larger territory had imperceptibly grown on me... The making of friends, including my local Benson cousins, had added to my sense of belonging... When I was finally ready to take on a serious volunteer role, my connection to this small yet immense world grew in leaps and bounds... I saw close up how many, many hands hold up this fine community... This I will carry with me.

I keep learning of the families who made their ways in this rural community across the generations.... While there are far fewer farms in Heath than there once were, there seem to be plenty of sturdy and kind folks who embody self-reliance, community service, and reverence for the mighty and enduring land.

~ Dave Gott

(*"In Memoriam"* continued from page 12)

He and I were only 18 months apart in age and so we were playmates, making "snake soup" in the sandpile next to the garage, making May baskets to place on neighborhood doorsteps (neighborhood meaning homes within a mile of our house), and listening to Grandpa Stetson's stories about the "olden days." We attended the one-room Branch School a mile from our home, walking, of course, brother Ken in the lead, followed by Doug, then me, the "mare's tail" according to someone at the Gleason home who phoned my mother to report our progress. Doug was probably in first grade when he broke his leg in a "double-rip" accident during noon recess at school as several kids piled on to the sled, racing down the hill from what is now Carroll Stowe's place, ending up halfway up the hill to what is now Ken Stetson's place. One summer when he was probably seven or eight, dressed only in cut-off overalls, he was seriously scalded as he sat down on the cover of the copper caldron filled with very hot water mother had left to cool in the woodshed, preparing to use it for floor mopping. I can still remember his screams as the doctor was sent for. It was during our Branch School days that Doug and Jimmy Mahar, a State-ward student, got into some kind of trouble with our teacher, Jessie Flanders. At the noon hour recess, she took them both into the woods behind the school where she switched Jimmy's sunburned legs, leaving them bleeding as they returned to the classroom. Doug seemed to be unscathed, but reported the incident to my mother who reported to a member of the School Committee.

One April Fool's Day when he and Ken were in their early teens and I was no longer a "partner-in crime" they filled the sugar bowl with salt and the salt shakers with sugar. Very expensive joke, which was punishable by- well, I don't remember- but it sobered them up in any case!

Until recently the remains of a log cabin were still visible in the pine woods on our farm- a structure that he and Ken had built as their hideaway, forbidden to their pesky sister. It sat on the brow of the steep slope leading down to the Branch Brook and our "swimming hole," made by damming up the stream every spring to create a pool deep enough to reach our hips, a great cooling-off place after working in the hay fields.

Our high school years were spent at Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls in the late 1930s and early 1940s. There were no buses to transport us from Heath so Ken and then Doug drove us in our Dad's Model A Ford, stooping along the way to pick up the older Stowe boys (Carroll's brothers). We had full load when we left Colrain! During the fall and summer months we were all involved in the Youth Group at the Heath Church- Friday night parties and Sunday afternoon hikes in the hills around Heath and Rowe, followed by a Christian Endeavor religious service in the evening. Perhaps this is where Doug developed his interest and devotion to things religious and getting to know the Bible. In the years that followed he became a far better Biblical scholar than I, who had Seminary training.

As the years followed I went off to college and careers that took me away from the area, and I saw Doug less and less, except for holidays and family reunions. But we reconnected when I retired and returned to Heath in 2004. Yes, "Well

done, good and faithful servant." We miss you, in the words of one of my sympathy card writers "He was a fabulous human being."

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane

Growing Up in the Depression Years

(Reprinted from *Heath Herald* April/May 2005)

Not many today have much idea of the harsh realities of life in the middle to late 1930s.

Government was a smaller entity then. It was not so intrusive and not as liberal as it is today. I say this as a good and not-so-good reality of life.

As we went about our daily life, we were not aware of being in poverty, as no one told us that we were disadvantaged or under-privileged. Everybody was in the same state; therefore we did not know that there was another way of life. We had happy family situations. Perhaps our clothes weren't the latest style or fit. Hand-me-downs were expected, when we could wear our older siblings' clothes, be it shoes or overalls, or whatever.

Our meals were plentiful, if not always a great variety. There was always plenty to go around. I remember the potatoes and homemade milk gravy with fried sliced salt pork. Of course, there were always the baked beans and homemade bread and butter. Large gardens made for plenty of fresh and canned vegetables (No freezers or microwaves then either).

I remember my mother slaving over a hot wood range in the summer processing canned vegetables in a hot water bath for many hours. Of course, the woodstove meant that the wood box had to be filled winter and summer. As we didn't have central heat, two other woodstoves were needed as well as the kitchen stove. So guess what we had to do in the wintertime? My brother and I had the job of pulling a crosscut saw while Dad split and loaded a sled-load of wood to be pulled home by a pair of horses that were our only "horsepower."

In the summer months there was the planting of cornfields and the many loads of hay to be forked by hand. When we were big enough, we were given the honor of driving the horses and loading the wagon while the taller ones pitched the bundles of hay onto the wagon.

It was not all work, however. When the hay was in the barn in the afternoon, we hightailed it to the Branch Brook to get hayseed washed off. It was a fun time to dam up the swimming hole with burlap bags of sand. I'm sure Dad wondered sometimes where all his burlap bags went.

We had fun, no one told us we were poor, and the close family ties we had were a plus that is not easily obtainable today. Perhaps we need a little less government intervention in our private lives. Self-initiative and making your own way were a lot easier and more satisfying then than they are in our complex society today.

~ Douglas Stetson

Finance Committee

Since January of this year the Finance Committee has been chairing joint hearings with the Selectboard to assess the budgetary requests of Town departments. The procedures for submission were revised for this year's round, and departments responded promptly with their requests.

From our standpoint the time of both the Finance Committee and the Selectboard has been better utilized, with the Selectboard focusing on policy questions and management issues like performance reviews, and the Finance Committee concerning itself with strictly financial matters.

We are near the end of the hearings process. Shortly, when we have received the Town assessments for the school district and other joint endeavors like the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, we will begin considering the Town budget taken as a whole. As we develop draft budgets through the next weeks we will be posting them on the Finance Committee Web site.

Fiscal 2013 is likely to be another challenging financial year. Heath's assessment for the Franklin County Technical School has risen substantially, and we have received several requests for increased stipends for Town boards and officers. Aspects of the Highway Department's budget request are likely to rise substantially. It isn't yet clear whether or how the Town can afford these increases and still stay under the Proposition 2½ levy limit. Over the next few weeks we will be addressing these knotty questions.

But there may be a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. In Fiscal 2013 we will make the last payment on the elementary school mortgage. On the other hand, costs and obligations will continue to rise. There may be a recommendation at some point for a new public safety complex; highway trucks continue to wear out; the Town's many dirt roads need resurfacing; and other needs will doubtless surface. And townspeople will continue to scrutinize skeptically, as they should, recommendations from us and the Selectboard for the expenditure of Town funds.

Finally, we note with sadness the passing of Doug Stetson, whose many services to the Town included membership of the Finance Committee. We extend our condolences to Doug's family, along with assurances that in our work we will keep Doug's example before us.

~ Don Freeman, Chair

Ned Wolf, Secretary, Janis Carr, Dave Gott, Jeff Simmons

Sincere apologies to Alli Thane-Stetson for inadvertently omitting the following from last issue.

To the person or persons who kindly placed a red envelope on my car windshield last weekend.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. The gift is most kind, generous, and much appreciated.

Please let me know who you are so I can thank you in person. God Bless You!

Alli Thane-Stetson

Code Red

There is now a Town-wide **emergency** notification system called CodeRed. **All residents with a 01346 zip code are automatically registered on this system.** If you have a different zip code, please click the link on the Heath Web site to sign up for this system. Or, please call the Town Coordinator and provide name, phone number, and residential street address so that you will be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. Examples include: evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, and missing child reports. This information will remain the property of ECN and will not be disclosed unless compelled to do so by a court of sufficient jurisdiction.

Also, if you are a Heath resident and would like to be added to the Town e-mail list to receive **non-emergency** related Town notices, please call the Town Coordinator.

If you would like to be added to one or both lists, you may reach the Town Coordinator at 337-4934, x 0.

Honored at Potluck Supper



At a potluck supper on March 23 at Heath School, school staff and friends gathered to honor Suzanne Crawford and Wanda Musacchio, former staff members, for their incomparable contributions to the life of the school over many years. The Musical Instrument Garden on the play-

ground will henceforth be known as the Suzanne Crawford Music Garden and the library, as the Musacchio Library, with fitting plaques for each.

Solomon Temple Barn Museum



Jeff Hillock of Andy Royer Contracting of Heath repairing leaks in the cedar shingle roof of the Heath Historical Society's "Solomon Temple Barn Museum" at the Heath Fairgrounds.

Photographs by Art Schwenger

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board has resumed its regular meeting schedule of every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall unless posted otherwise.

Current Business

The Board has been working with the Finance Committee on the budget for FY2013. Most of the budgets have been submitted and reviewed for inclusion on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting that is scheduled for May 12 of this year. Employee reviews are nearly complete.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 12, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at the Heath Elementary School and will be preceded, as usual, by a Special Town Meeting at 8:30 a.m. to take care of deficits in the past year's budget. Among items of special interest this year are the moratoriums on commercial wind and solar development. The budget and warrant articles have not been finalized as of the date of publication of this report.

Online Building Permits

The FCCIP online permitting system for building, electrical, and plumbing permits is fully operational and very convenient. Paul Lemelin has been hired by the FRCOG to assist with technical issues with the software and provide assistance to users. Go to www.frcog.w and select Franklin County Cooperative Inspectional Services and "NEW USERS" to view the program. Sign offs on permits by Town officials and boards can also be done online with the new program, speeding up the approval process.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments -County Animal Control Program

The Town of Heath has joined the FRCOG animal control program. This will help to solve the problem of having longer-term kennel facilities and a full-time dog officer to assist member towns with managing their animal control problems. Funding was obtained for this program by a grant written by the FRCOG.

Green Communities

A presentation was made to the Selectboard by Western MA Regional Director Jim Barry on the Massachusetts Green Communities Program. Communities that qualify are eligible for significant grants to be used for green energy development or conservation projects. A number of goals must be achieved to qualify for the program. Among these are:

1. Zoning for green industry
2. An expedited permitting process for green industry (12 months or less)
3. A 20% reduction of energy use in the town within 5 years.
4. Purchase of energy-efficient vehicles
5. The requirement that new building construction be more energy-efficient through the adoption of the "Stretch Code"

About 1/3 of all municipalities in the State have qualified as "Green Communities." The Board will be looking into the appropriateness and benefits to the Town of Heath for participating in this program.

Conservation Commission

The ConCom has three vacancies to be filled. Anyone who might be interested in serving on the Commission is encouraged to contact the Town Coordinator or any of the selectmen. The Selectboard is also looking for a clerk to assist the Conservation Commission with scheduling, mail, correspondence, public notices, and application forms and filings. Please contact the Town Coordinator at 413-337-4934 if you are interested in serving on the ConCom or as clerk to the Commission.

School Committee

Ann Pacino's School Committee term is up and she does not plan to run again as her daughter has graduated. If anyone is interested in representing Heath by serving on the School Committee or could suggest good candidates, please contact the Selectboard.

Board of Health

The Board of Health is down one member. A volunteer is needed. Please contact either the Board of Health or the Selectboard.

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

Town Elections

Annual Town Elections will be held on Friday, May 11, in the Senior Center. Polls will be open from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. The following is a list of positions up for election, the term length for each office, and candidates who have submitted nomination papers.

Selectman, 3 years: Sheila Litchfield (incumbent), Rebecca Allen

Assessor, 3 years: Richard Gallup

Town Clerk, 3 years: Hilma Sumner

Finance Committee, 3 seats, each with 3- year term: Edwin Wolf (incumbent), Gloria Fisher, Kathryn Inman

Library Trustee, 3 years: Deborah Porter

Dog Officer, 1 year: Robert Tanner, Jr.

Constable, 2 seats, each with 1-year term: Robert Tanner, Jr., Jeffrey Simmons

There are three positions in which no candidates have been declared:

Planning Board, 5 years

School Committee, 3 years

School Committee, 1 year

Anyone wishing to run for any of the above offices may do so by declaring themselves to be a write-in candidate. Any office not filled by election will have a volunteer appointed by the Selectboard. That volunteer will serve until the following town election.

~ Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk

Milestones

Darwin H. Clark Jr. of Hawley died on March 13, 2012, at home.

Born in Hawley, he was the son of Darwin H. Sr. and Dorothy M. Taylor Clark.

He attended the Arms Academy of Shelburne Falls. For 43 years he had a dairy farm and also worked at Kendall Mills and for the towns of Hawley, Heath, and Charlemont.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Juanita A. Gray Clark; his six children, Ralph Clark, Wayne Clark, Patrick Clark, Sarah Sessions, Kevin Clark, and Angela Sinistore; nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and his seven brothers and sisters including **Roger and William Clark** of Heath.

Funeral services were held on March 17 at the Charlemont Federated Church followed by burial in the Bozrah Cemetery in Hawley.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Association of New England Teamsters Inc., 1245 Battle Street, Webster, NH 03303.

Dorothy M. Taylor Clark of Hawley died on March 5, 2012, in Greenfield.

Born on March 10, 1923, she was the daughter of Harry and Pearl Streeter Taylor.

She attended Charlemont High School and worked as a waitress at several Charlemont coffee shops and restaurants including the former Gar-Chris and Oxbow restaurants.

A member of the Charlemont Senior Center, she was honored recently for over 40 years of volunteer service, and for many years she was a registrar for the Town of Hawley.

She is survived by three sons, Timothy of Hawley and **Roger and William** of Heath; four daughters, Joanne of Hawley, Judith Johnson and Linda Reynolds of Charlemont, and Doreen Gagner of Greenfield; 20 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Her son, Darwin H. Clark Jr. died on March 13, 2012.

Funeral services were held on March 8 at the Charlemont Federated Church with burial in the Leavitt Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Charlemont Ambulance Association, c/o Dana Johnson, Director, P.O. Box 139, Charlemont, MA 01339.

Martha Maclin Clausen of Conway died in Greenfield on February 21, 2012. Born in Stanton, TN, on October 10, 1913, she was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Bonner Watson Maclin.

Graduating from high school at 16, she began teaching school to assist her family who had lost their farm in the Great Depression. She continued teaching to pay her way through college and was also the first Fuller Brush salesperson in Tennessee. She earned a fellowship from the University of Chicago where she met her future husband, Johannes (Johs) Clausen. They were married in 1949, moved to his native Norway in 1950 but returned to the United States in 1952, living both in New York and New Jersey before retiring to Conway in 1985. Johs Clausen died in 2011.

Mrs. Clausen held teaching posts at Oswego (NY), State Teachers College, Queens (NY) College, and Livingston (AL) State Teachers College and on a Zuni reservation in New Mexico.

She is survived by her daughters, **Elizabeth C. Nichols and**

Kathryn A. Inman, both of Heath; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Burial was in the Heath South Cemetery.

Teresa Christine Kelley Pettengill of Heath died on February 22, 2012, at home. Born on August 13, 1932, in Limestone, ME, she was the daughter of Linwood and Ellen Kelley.

She graduated from nursing school in 1953 and married Raymond Pettengill in 1954. They lived in Georgetown, ME, until moving to Heath in 1969.

Teresa was very active in the community, on the *Heath Herald* as a founding member, in the Community Hall, and the Heath Free Public Library to which she was devoted.

In addition, she worked as a nurse for three years at the Bear Swamp Project in Rowe, as a part-time nurse at Mohawk Regional School and at a local rest home, and as a private duty nurse when and where she was needed.

Known as Terry, she was a great wife, mother, teacher, nurse, caregiver, cook (she was renowned for her baked goods that she liberally contributed to local bake sales), and a friend to all. And all of her life, she had a passion for reading.

Ray Pettengill died on October 13, 2006.

Terry is survived by their four children, Michael Pettengill of Colchester, CT; **Le-Ellen Weis** of Heath, Kevin Pettengill and Kirk Pettengill, both of Winter Haven, FL; ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; her brothers, John Kelley of Mexico, ME, and William Kelley of Hancock, ME, and her sisters, Maureen Russell of Manassas, VA, and Doreen Kelley of Warrenton, VA.

At her request, there was no service. Memorial donations may be made to the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library "so that more children may benefit from their efforts to bring a love of books into their lives."

Daniel J. Smith of Canton, ME, died on February 19, 2012, in Canton. Born in North Heath on December 30, 1922, he was the eighth of nine children to K. Paul and Edith Gilbert Smith. He received his education in the one-room Branch School in Heath and worked on the family farm until 1946, when he moved to a large dairy farm in Williamstown.

After several years, he went to work on a milk delivery route for eight years. and 1965, he moved to Maine where he worked at Berry Hill Orchard Co. and later for the Maine School Administrative District as a bus driver/custodian of the Canton School, retiring in 1984.

He is survived by a sister, Lucy Burnett of The Arbors in Greenfield; two brothers; Floyd of Petersburg, NY, and Donald of Port St Lucie, FL; a stepdaughter, Jackie Conant; several step-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces including **James Hazlett and Claire Rabbitt**, both of Heath, and Peter Smith of Colrain.

He was predeceased by his wife Helen; one sister, Vivian, and four brothers, Louis, Frederick, Marshall, and Gilbert.

Douglas H. Stetson of Heath died on February 2, 2012, at home.

Born in Heath on April 2, 1924, he was the son of Herbert and Beulah Hager Stetson.

A graduate of the Arms Academy of Shelburne Falls, he was a self-employed dairy farmer and a dedicated and faithful steward of the land.

("Milestones" continued on page 22)

(“Milestones” continued from page 21)

He was a member of the National Organic Farmers Association and in 1966 was the recipient of the Massachusetts Farmer of the Year Award. A past president of the Heath Agricultural Fair he was also a member of the Heath Historical Society and the Heath Grange. In addition he served as a town assessor and as a Finance Committee member and was on the original building committee for the Mohawk Trail Regional School.

A member of Gideon International, he was a founding member of the former East Charlemont Bible Church. He later rejoined the Heath Union Evangelical Church, serving as deacon for several years.

Finding the need for additional farmland, he and his first wife, the former Beatrice Nada Corey, moved to New York State. Mrs. Stetson died in 1998, and he returned to Heath in 1999.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years, the former **Alli Syvanen Thane** of Heath; his sons, the Rev. Neil Stetson of Dummerston, VT, Brian Stetson of Warren, NY, and Bruce Stetson of Shelburne; his daughter, Deborah L. Coye of Syracuse, NY; his brother, **Kenneth Stetson** and his sister, **Lois Stetson Buchiane**, both of Heath, and his sister Muriel Antes of Conway; ten grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, ten step-grandchildren, and nine step-great-grandchildren..

He was predeceased by his brother Stewart Stetson of Thailand, his granddaughter Hannah Coye of Syracuse, NY, in 2005, and his stepson William Thane of Shelburne in 2010.

Funeral services attended by an overflow crowd were held on February 5 at the Heath Union Evangelical Church, with Pastor Phill Grant officiating, with burial in the Center Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Heath Union Evangelical Church, c/o Richard Gallup, Heath, MA..

Heath People in the News

I graduated from MCLA (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts) in December 2011, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. I also made the Dean's List. I plan on attending the formal graduation ceremony in May. I have received teacher certification in Middle School Mathematics (grades 5-8), with a certification in general science for middle school pending. While looking for a job I am substitute teaching for the Mohawk School District and Hampshire Regional High School. I enjoy the time I spend at the Heath School.

~ Judy Thrasher

Heath Cultural Council News

The Heath Cultural Council has two-three seats open for the coming grant cycle. We welcome Kara Leistyna and Susan Draxler as our newest members. Current chair Lorena Loubsky's term is up in September as is Summer Barkoskie's. Thanks to Summer, Lorena, and Lisa Wexler whose term ended last fall.

Feel free to e-mail any questions about the Council to Lorena at Mailto:wildlor@gmail.com.

It is a fun and creative committee to be a part of and it meets one to two times a year.

39.3 Miles of Unstoppable Hope



Did you know that every 13 minutes a life is lost to breast cancer: This is one of the reasons I'll be walking 39.3 miles on May 19 and 20 in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Boston. I lost my mother to breast cancer when I was nine years old. She was only 37. I'm walking in memory of my mother and everyone else who has been touched by this disease. I want to help change the world for you and your children. I'm walking because I can't walk away.

MY "GO PINK" GOAL

This will be my 4th consecutive year participating in this amazing journey to save lives. Over the past three years I've raised over \$10,000 towards the fight against breast cancer! Although I'm required to raise at least \$1800, I've set a personal goal this year of \$5000! I know I can do it, because I'm a fighter just like my mom was and I won't stop walking until the battle has been won! Approximately 230,480 women and 2,140 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. You can help change those statistics!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Ready to make a powerful difference? Now that you know all my walking has a purpose, I will need your support in order to reach my goal. No donation is too small and every dollar counts! You CAN help eradicate breast cancer! All you have to do is make a donation either on my Web site or by sending me a check in the mail, and I'll do ALL the walking! What a deal! Check my Web site often for new incentives to date.

Preparation for this event requires lots of training. If you see me and my dog Pete out on our long training walks in Heath, honk to show your support! Even good old Pete has Paws for a Cause!

Many thanks,

Jodi Walsh
102 Branch Hill Rd.
Heath, MA 01340
(413)339-0151
Jgayle33@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Web site <http://info.avonfoundation.org/goto/jodismom>



*Friends of the
Heath School Library*

**Please Join Us for Breakfast
Before and during the
Special Town and
Annual Town Meetings
On Saturday, May 12,
beginning at 8:00 a.m.
at the Heath School**

*On Offer: quiche, deviled eggs, beverages,
and a variety of breakfast breads.*

~ By Donation ~

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From January 11, 2012	1/4"	17"
February	2/10"	4"
		(see below)
To March 10		8"

In this reporting period:

Winter started to re-enter the picture around January 12, which caused a school cancellation day. Since that point we had several small storms of 2-4 inches per storm. The cold made an appearance as well, with the coldest morning of 4 below zero on Martin Luther King Jr. day, but warming up just enough to give us a small ice storm (compared to 2008) on the 27th. February 1 ushered in a temperature reading of 47 degrees and ended on Leap year/day with the start of a snowstorm which ended on March 1 with 9 inches of snow and then an additional 3 inches late on March 2. This reporting ends with a high temperature reading of 58 degrees on March 8.

~ Tim Lively

Community Calendar

APRIL 2012

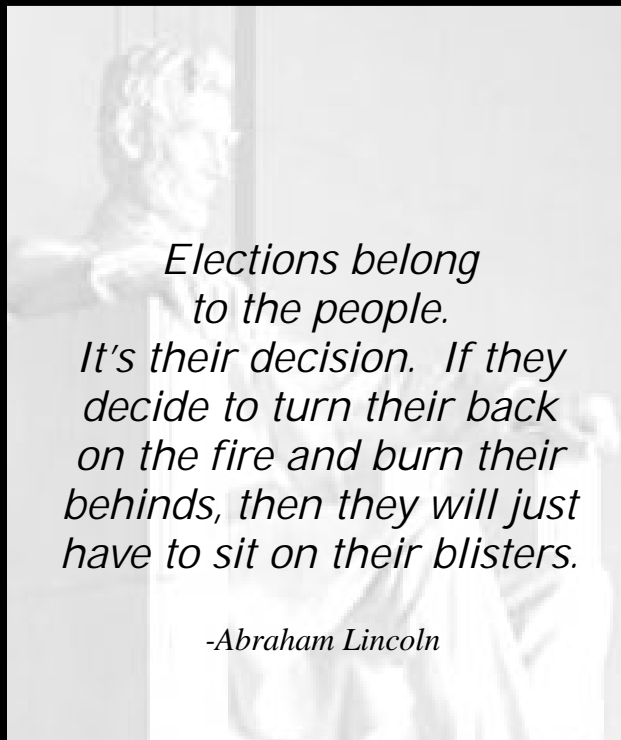
- April 02** - MCAS Grade
April 04 - LEC Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
April 05 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
April 05 & 06 - Early Release, High School 11:30 a.m.; Heath School, 12:30 p.m., Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 06 - **Preschool Easter Egg Hunt, Town Common, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**
 (RSVP to Library by April 02.)
April 06 - **PASSOVER BEGINS**
April 08 - **HAPPY EASTER!**
April 09 - Heath School Grades 3 and 4 to Good Neighbors
April 11 - **Heath School PTP-Sponsored Performance of *The Hobbit Marionette Show*, 1:30 p.m.**
April 18 -20 - **APRIL SCHOOL VACATION**
April 19 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
April 20 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
April 22 - **EARTH DAY**
April 27 - Heath School, No school for Kindergarten; Registration of New Students
April 28 - **Firefighters Pancake Breakfast, Senior Center, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

MAY 2012

- May 03** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
 Singer, Tommy Rull performance, Community Hall
 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., **NO CHARGE**
May 04 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
May 07-12 - MCAS Grades 3-10
May 11 - **TOWN ELECTION, SENIOR CENTER, NOON TO 7:00 P.M.**
May 12 - **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, HEATH SCHOOL, 9:00 A.M., STM, 8:30 a.m.**
FHSL ANNUAL BREAKFAST, HEATH SCHOOL, 8:30 –
May 17 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
 Senior Prom
May 18 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
May 21 - Heath School Grades 1 and 2 to Good Neighbors
May 21 - 25 – Heath School 6th Grade to Nature's Classroom
May 25 - Heath School Early Release, 12:30 p.m.
May 26 - **Friends of the Heath Library Memorial Weekend Bake Sale, Sawyer Hall Front Porch, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.**
May 28 - **MEMORIAL DAY – No School**
May 30 - **Heath School 5th Grade, Colonial Fair, Mary Lyon Homestead,**
May 31 - **Senior Awards Night, MTRHS, 6:30 p.m.**

JUNE 2012

- June 03** - **GRADUATION, MTRHS, 1:00 P.M.**



*Elections belong
to the people.
It's their decision. If they
decide to turn their back
on the fire and burn their
behinds, then they will just
have to sit on their blisters.*

-Abraham Lincoln



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



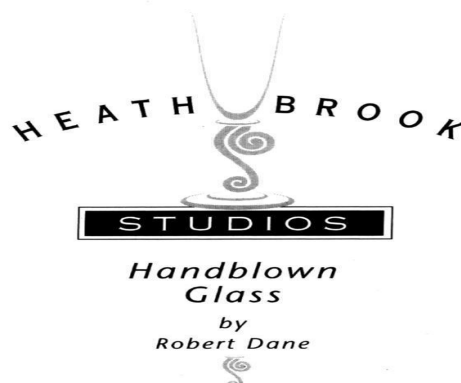
STORE HOURS

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

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