



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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To Our Special Valentines

Teresa and Cleon Peters



Photograph by Art Schewenger

Sweet memories when our families were intact of those summer Sunday walks to welcoming Peters Store for our papers and a cold drinks and of afternoons on the way to Harriman stopping by to pick up our picnic suppers.

And now, pleasure in knowing you both and hearing those tales of the past from Heath's primo storyteller!

My Best, always,
Jane deLeeuw



For many years my association with you as pillars of "The Store" where my kids liked to stop for licorice. You, Cleon, were my favorite bus driver for the many field trips I set up for Rowe School Students, Now I look forward to your cheery greetings at Senior Lunch.

Teresa, it was at Ladies Aid meetings that our relationship really blossomed.. I am in awe of your ability in quilt making and crocheting and in producing other beautiful items. However, more than your sewing ability I treasure you as a friend for your cheerful outlook, winning smile, and your take-it-all-in-stride attitude toward life. Keep up the good work!

Ruth Johnson

In her own quiet, and unassuming way, Teresa is always there to lend a helping hand, offer a kind word of encouragement, and is completely dependable and totally unselfish. She gives freely, and from the heart.

We all know Teresa's pies are delectable and delicious and leave you yearning for the last piece waiting for consumption. Her sewing skills are top-notch as well; she is always fussing over the last bit of detail to finish the project perfectly. Teresa's skills in the kitchen are on the mark, and she always seems to know what to do and how to do it. We are so fortunate that she is a part of our Senior Meals Program team and treasure her participation.

Thank you, Teresa, for all you are and all you do. You are a special angel!

And then there's Cleon! Always ready with a quip or two of good humor or sassy comment, and is happy to tell a colorful and detailed story of days gone by.

You're a pretty special couple and it's a pleasure to know you both.

Eileen Tougas



Cleon and Teresa Peters epitomize what makes Heath such a wonderful community in which to live and raise a family. Their involvement in so many aspects of life in Heath from the Fair to Peters Store and beyond, are examples to all of us how our Town is what we make it be. One can always count on both a smile, and an opinion, from Cleon and Teresa.

The Selectboard always appreciates Cleon's work as substitute Transfer Station Attendant because he is meticulous in ensuring the compactor boxes are filled to maximum capacity – thus saving the Town money in transfer station tipping fees. Cleon's work has set a standard for that aspect of the job. In addition we know that any time a Transfer Station substitute is needed, Cleon responds to the call. This is not an easy job, but Cleon does it superbly! It is not easy turning someone away without a sticker or telling someone that they can't place a particular object in the compactor. However, Cleon has his ways of making sure the job is done well- and always with a smile.

Teresa's care and devotion to the Heath Community Hall and Senior Center is greatly appreciated as we in Heath struggle with never having quite enough money to do all the things we probably should do for our historic, aging buildings. The Heath Community Hall has survived because of the commitment on the part of people like Teresa.

The Heath Selectboard

("To Our Special Valentines" continued on page 3)

Heath Herald

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Heath Union Church News

A potluck dinner on January 6 was enjoyed with good food and conversation. We were at last able to enjoy the music from our nearly completely restored Johnson organ at our Christmas services. We are still looking for another part-time organist as Meredith Stewart can only come every other Sunday. Anyone interested please contact Ruth Johnson At our Annual meeting Mike Smith was added to the Board of Deacons.

Apologies to Mike Drant for omitting his name in the last issue as a pulpit supply while Pastor was on vacation.

As we begin another year we again welcome community members to join us at our worship services and other 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 Phill: (413) 648-9077

Deacons

Richard Gallup 337- 5367

Ruth Johnson 337- 4367

Walt Gleason 337-4379

Mike Smith 337-4429

Alli Thane-Stetson 337-4852

~ The Deacons



Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, commonly known as **Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, observed on February 14 around the world, is the second most celebrated holiday, New Year's Day, being the first.

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. The most popular martyrology associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. During his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer. Legend states that before his execution he wrote "from your Valentine" as a farewell to her.

The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of England's Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. By the 15th century, it had evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers and candy and by sending greeting cards, known as "valentines." Today, many also send valentine greetings as a general expression of love.

The Herald Staff uses this celebration to honor those long-lived Heathans who, over their years, have devoted generously of their time and energy to the betterment of the community, believing, as we do, how important it is to let them while they are still with us, know how much we value them while they are still with us.

(*"To Our Special Valentines"* continued from page 1)

What Richard and I recall of Cleon is, besides running the store, he also drove a school bus for many years. He was bus driver when Todd and Eric were in elementary school in Rowe. One day Cleon caught Eric doing something he wasn't supposed to be doing. Afterwards Eric wrote him a note and called him, "Eagle Eye," which has stuck.

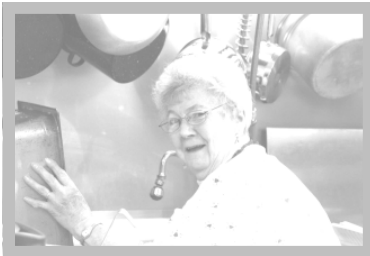
After the Plantes bought the store, Cleon would continue to go over every morning (for years) to sort the bottles and cans and do other odd tasks that needed to get done at the store.

For those of us "young people" he always has a smile, a friendly hello, and usually a teasing comment made with a twinkle in his eye. Charlene and I have always been "young girls" to him, and I imagine so are all the rest of the women from our generation of Heathans.

I don't remember Cleon every being 'condemning' or judgmental but rather would make a remark like, "I don't know as that is such a good idea," or, "I don't know if I would do that if I were you." His words were cause to pause and rethink one's actions rather than to dictate what one should do.



Richard and Hilma Sumner



Bud and I met Cleon and Teresa at their store right after we purchased our property. Our kids used to refer to Teresa as the "Pie Lady" and Cleon as the "Bus Man" as Bud and Cleon used to do the same route. Cleon drove

the morning runs and Bud drove the afternoon runs. After Teresa retired, I had the pleasure of serving with her on several committees. Teresa has been a tireless worker at the Senior Center, helping with our senior meals; she also is on our Council on Aging Committee. We can always count on Teresa to be there for us. Cleon comes to our senior meals on a regular basis. I don't think it is for the food, but rather for the social aspects or maybe it's for the candy. We wish you both a long and healthy life.



Bud and Val Kaempfer

Cleon and Teresa Peters have been our good friends for many years. They were always there for me when I needed help. They took such pride in Peters Store when they were proprietors and met all with smiling faces.

Teresa and I have spent many a day quilting, shopping, lunching, and even crying on each other's shoulders over the loss of our sons.

Cleon is a pal, a great storyteller, even though he will never let me forget that I am a couple of weeks older than he is and always calls me "Grandma."

Enjoy life and treasure your days together.

Happy Valentine's Day, you two!

Alli Thane-Stetson

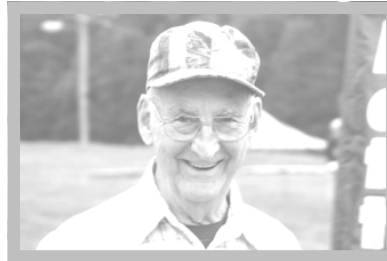
Cleon is a wonderful Transfer Station employee, always willing to fill in for Tom Flynn. He is courteous to the residents – well most of them anyway. Every time I ask him how he is doing, he says, "Good, and, at my age, I'm not going to change now."

Michael Smith

Highway Superintendent



Cleon and Teresa



My family and I have been wrapped around the Peters family for more than 40 years--literally! Huh? We bought what

had been a square 30-acre parcel from Howard Thompson in 1971; however, a 4-acre chunk had been taken out of the southwestern corner beforehand and sold first to Tink Warriner and later to the Peters. That left us a 26-acre piece which wrapped around the Peters' land on two sides, as in a big hug. Our lives have been intertwined ever since, which is fine because I can't think of a better family with whom we'd want to be in a permanent bear hug. Speaking of intertwined, I can't think of two more connected words than "Peters" and "Heath."

Our kids grew up together and, during the summer, the "secret" path between us was well worn by time and progressively larger feet. Which brings to mind Michael, who became an extra special friend to our entire family; indeed, so special that he often was on the back porch at the crack of what we considered dawn [usually we were on Pacific Coast time]. Michael and our son, Christopher, were inseparable during the summers, always doing things [read: getting into mischief] together. Many of those glorious Teresa pies passed from their house to ours and Red Norland potatoes [grown for us by the Dickinson "boys" went the other way every fall. After dinners of Heath corn and potatoes [the world's best], many evenings were passed in rocking chairs on the porch of *Quiet Forest*, our primitive cabin, taking in the latest news. Believe me, as the storekeeper, Cleon knew everyone and everything. But even better was when Howard Thompson, Howard Dickinson, and Cleon were together, out-yarning one another about the "old days." Now that was something to cherish!

As we watched our kids grow and mature, we also "matured," as it were, albeit in a different way. Today, as we look back on those years of friendship and mostly sweet memories [we do share one truly sad memory] we count the many wonderful blessings that have flowed to us from that bear hug. If Valentine's Day is about love and abiding friendship, you could not have chosen to honor two hearts more dear than these.

Big bear hugs from,

Don and Marilyn Conlan

Richard, Christopher, and Heidi Conlan
and all the denizens of *Quiet Forest*

Photographs by Art Schewenger

Wild Ramblings

By Bill Lattrell

In any ecosystem found on this beautiful planet there are plants that have evolved to be survivors. These plants define resilience. And they usually hold a place in their ecosystem that may be the missing puzzle piece to survival for not only themselves but others dependent on them when times get tough.

Perhaps the best example of this resilience, this ability to emerge when all hope may be lost, is those plants that are included in the genus *Rubus*. These members of the *Rosacea* family are the many thorny plants that include blackberries, raspberries, dewberries, and hundreds of other species all included within this subset of plants. In our region there are over 100 of these masters of survival, each using their own abilities to pass on the family genes. Throughout the world there are thousands.

The most common of these plants is the blackberry, not that this is one species. In fact there are dozens of different blackberries that call our region home. The most common is the Allegheny blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) which dominates the plant community in many old fields and meadows. Most of us are familiar with the fruit that is actually a cluster of drupelets that form around fertilized ovules. These clusters are rich in complex sugars, vitamin C and other vitamins, protein, and a host of minerals. They are particularly rich in antioxidants (anthocyanin ellagic acid and salicylic acid) which are particularly effective in preventing and combating cancerous cells.

And most people who pick blackberries are well aware that these plants are covered with stout, sharp thorns that can inflict pain on even those with the toughest skin. These prickles account for the common name “brambles” which for many creates a little message in the brain that says, “Stay Out!” These thorns are just one of many survival tools that blackberries employ. By preventing intrusion guarantees that at least some of the berries will survive to help start a new generation. The thorns also make the plant a valuable host in the realm of wildlife habitat. These dense layers of sharp, pointy prickles create hiding places for small prey. Cottontail rabbits can easily negotiate paths in the dense thickets while a marauding red fox would certainly be weighed down by the dense thorns attached to heavy stalks firmly rooted in dense soils.

And while mentioning reproduction it would be remiss to fail mentioning that this plant has other remarkable reproduction skills. The first of which is its amazing ability to take advantage of time. The blackberry plant seems to be aware that all old fields will eventually mature and turn into woodland. The blackberry will leave viable roots and seeds in the soil that can lay dormant for decades. If anyone has ever clear-cut an area of forest only to return in a year and see the entire area covered with blackberries you have experienced this plant’s ferocious will to survive. Forests that are 100-years-old have been cleared only to yield to complete cover by blackberries within a year’s time!

Blackberries are also capable of clonal reproduction by sending out roots to start new plants. The tall stalks also often arch over and root into the ground to spread the plant across the landscape. But brambles’ best form of reproduction is by apomixis. Through this process the plant forms new drupelets and seeds without fertilization. Of course, all offspring are identical to the parent. And so it is not uncommon for an entire field of blackberry to have one genetic signature.

Growth in blackberries is also unique. The first year stem is called a primocane. It is a single stem with thorns and primary buds that yield five to seven leaflets. This primocane can grow to 3 meters (almost 10 feet) in length in a given year. During the second year the stem does not grow any larger but puts its energy into growing lateral buds that hold flowers. The lateral buds have smaller compound leaves that hold three to five leaflets. This second-year growth is referred to as the florican. It is the fruit-producing cane. This growth pattern allows the plant to focus on size and strength the first year and reproduction the second year. It is an evolutionary development that has proved to be successful.

Not only is the fruit valued by many animals but the foliage is prized as well. Many different species of caterpillars are dependent on *Rubus* as a main source of food during development. And amongst larger beasts, the white-tail deer find the blackberry leaf to be perfect for their palette. Rabbits, voles, and field mice may all eat the thin bark on the blackberry cane particularly at levels beneath the snow where the small animals are slightly more safe from predation.

The *Rubus* genus also has an amazing aesthetic appeal. During the summer when the wind blows the white underneath of the leaves of some species of *Rubus* can expose themselves and create waves of color change over the landscape. In winter fields the red stems of the blackberry cane with a back-drop of white snow is breathtaking. And to my mind’s eye, a woven basket filled with the purple fruit is a symbol of a good harvest and nutritious and delicious food; a beautiful sight indeed. And the bluish purple color found on a raspberry stalk has no other rival. It is unique amongst the palette of colors.

(“ ” continued on page 5)

(“ ” continued from page 4)

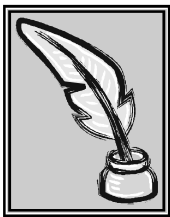
As a field ecologist I have been tangled in these wonderful plants many times. They can scratch your skin ferociously, tear cotton fabric with ease, and leave thorns behind in thick pants legs that will work their way through any thread count and give you pain later on when you aren't expecting it. But even given the difficulty that these plants may cause I am in awe of their resilience. Through the miracle of evolution they have found ways to carry on. Neither flood nor fire can defeat this plant. It is defiant of time and can carry on genetic codes after decades of dormancy. It does not need fertilization to create new generations; a single plant can create offspring. It defends its fruit from invaders. And it does all of this while serving as protector of some of our most precious small animals like the cottontail rabbit.

These plants, that some call brambles and others call pucker-brush in disdain for their abilities to create pain, torture, and misery, might just be overlooked as not only being beneficial but a key and necessary part of our temperate ecosystem. Long after any of us are gone a plant will emerge that is genetically identical to one that your grandmother may have harvested a blackberry off some 70 years ago.

And that, my dear friends, is something that the human being just can't do.

If you like this please check out my Web site www.wildramblings.com. There are now 250+ stories and articles posted with over 900,000 page visits. A story or post is put up about once a week.

Letter to the Editors



Dear Heath Herald:

We are so appreciative of the many acts of kindness shown to us following the loss of Ann Nussbaum, our mother and grandmother. Through delicious meals, shared memories and stories, and words, thoughts, and prayers of comfort, we have been gently embraced by a loving and supportive community, to which we extend our heartfelt thanks.

*Mary & Eric Sumner
Lillian Boyd
Austin & Kaylin Sumner*

Editors Note: This homage was written on September 25, 2001, by granddaughter Carly Nartowicz, then age 17, about her grandfather Ken Stetson who died on May 27, 2012.

Bampa

My Bampa has been one of my friends forever. When I say Bampa I mean my grandfather; my brother could only say Bampa and it kind of stuck. When I was little, he was my best pal in the world. He is about 5'9" with a gray shaved head. He has looked the same way for as long as I can remember. He has never in his adult life lost or gained more than five pounds.

He got married in 1951, fifty years ago, to my Grandma. To this day he can still wear that wedding suit, and it fits like the day he first did.

He grew up a farmer about a mile from where he lives now. My grandparents were like my babysitters. I spent everyday with Bampa. I always remember he would wear a blue hat everyday. We would always play Candy Land, Shoots and Ladders, and marbles. I can still hear the clunk, clunk of them on the marble ladders he made me. He would take me for long walks to pick up cans, and I can remember how big his hands were when he would hold mine.

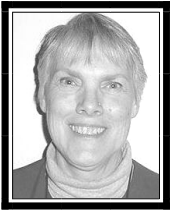
Bampa is a classic; his top speed is about twenty five, in his Volkswagen Gulf, of course. He is really into cars and gets a new one just about every year.

Summer after summer we would pick raspberries and blackberries together. He also has a garden in his backyard, which is no less than a work of art. Each row is pin-straight and there is not a weed in sight, not to mention a potato bug. One year we dug potatoes together, and he gave me two quarters which was not a lot for all the work I had done. Those summer days of work and sun ended for me in the pool at the back of his house, yet Bampa would just go inside. He grew up a farmer and, like many farmers, he never learned to swim. Only on the hottest days would one see him walking in the shallow end.

Of course, we grew apart as I grew up, but everything about him stayed the same, until this summer. He is now seventy-eight. In the beginning of the year he got prostate cancer. The doctors said he would be fine, but he had to have radiation treatment, forty sessions, to be exact. He began by telling only the family; he never ever wanted people do a thing for him so he told no one else. As the summer went on, the weekly and even daily treatments began to catch up with him. When my Grandma would come over with food for the dogs, like she always has, she began to come alone. My dad started to go over and mow their lawn, something my Bampa would never allow anyone else to do. I was really scared. Bampa was someone to me who would never die. Yes, he was old, but I just thought he would be around.

He has finished the treatments and is getting much better. The day he does die, I am sure my life will change greatly. He has taught me so much; I just hope he knows how great he is and that I love him.

~ Carly Nartowicz

Green Thoughts**Native Ornamentals**

By Pat Leuchtman

Heath is a rural area, with many wild fields where milkweed, goldenrod, asters, and other native wildflowers thrive and bloom. Our woodlands are comprised of native maples, ash, and oak under planted with native ferns. Of course, we have cultivated domestic landscapes and cultivated farmlands, but we don't have the same concerns about supporting the ecological web of life that might exist in cities and suburbs.

Because Heath is so rich in natives we can indulge in 'exotics' for our cultivated domestic landscape, if we wish, but there are many native plants that can shine very happily in our gardens.



River birch, *Betula nigra*, with its attractive exfoliating bark is appealing in the sunny landscape. It often comes with multiple trunks and, as you might expect, is tolerant of wet sites. The *Heritage* cultivar was named the 2002 Tree of the Year by the Society of Municipal Arborists, and besides being ice and wind resistant, it will actually tolerate some drought. *Dura-Heat* is another recommended cultivar.

Aronias, or chokeberries, which should not be confused with chokecherries, are also able to tolerate wet sites, but they can also tolerate drought once they are established. They have white flowers in spring and red foliage in fall. The berries are edible and attractive; and birds love them. People need to cook the highly nutritious but astringent juice but it makes good jam, wine, and tea.



Black chokeberries are even richer than the red variety in anthocyanins which are powerful antioxidants. *Aronia melanocarpa* *Viking* and *Nero* were bred to bear larger berries for jam-making. They are self-fertile so only one bush is needed for berry production. Miller Nurseries offer *Nero*.

Nowadays many people are more familiar with the witch hazel that comes in a bottle from the drugstore but *Hamamelis vernalis* is an attractive winter blooming shrub. The twirly yellow flowers appear way before forsythia. The first time I noticed a witch hazel in Heath I was really confused because it was way too early in the spring for any blooming tree that I knew of. Witch hazel astringent is made from a decoction or distillation of the twig of *Hamamelis virginiana* which blooms in late fall.

Another small tree or large shrub is the winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*, a deciduous native holly. This produces red berries in the fall that are attractive in the garden and to birds, but also much in demand for holiday decorations. If they are planted in a damp site they will form a thicket, but in a drier

spot they will retain the form of a small tree. There is a thicket of winterberry by the side of the road near the Fairgrounds. No berries this year, though.



Two native rhododendrons are the swamp azalea and the rose shell azalea, both are hardy and fragrant. Swamp azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*, produces white flowers with a clove fragrance in the early summer and is tolerant of a damp site. It can reach a height of eight feet. The rose shell azalea, *Rhododendron prinophyllum*, has a similar fragrance but the pink flowers bloom in May and June. Unfortunately, deer can find these plants quite delicious.

Two of the native groundcovers I am familiar with are *Tiarella cordifolia* or heartleaf foamflower and barren strawberry or *Waldsteinia*. Foamflower has creeping rhizomes and dense heart-shaped foliage. The flowers are spring-blooming, 12-inch white racemes that look 'foamy.' Nowadays you can also find heucherellas in the catalogs, a cross between tiarella and heucheras (coral bells) another native flower. I am not sure whether these would keep the same function of serving desirable wildlife.

I have some tiarella growing at the edge of the area of lawn I am trying to eradicate, near a larger planting of barren strawberry. This is not a real strawberry, but the foliage and flowers are strawberry-like, and the small spring blooming flowers are a bright yellow. This is a good dense spreader.

Perennial gardeners will already be familiar with boltonia, bee balm, joe-pye weed, and columbine, *Aquilegia Canadensis*. Boltonia is a very tall fall bloomer with fine starry aster-like blossoms. It is available in white or pale pink. A big clump is a glory in the fall when little else is in bloom.

Bee balm comes in a variety of shades from white, lavender, pink, and shades of red. Bee balm is very attractive to hummingbirds, especially the red shades. I have a red bee balm growing in my herb garden right in front of the house, and we love to watch the hummingbirds that spend a lot of time there.



There are now several cultivars of joe-pye weed. The species can get to be six-feet-tall or more and the rosy purple flower heads attract butterflies, bee, and birds. There are now shorter hybrids, but, tall or short, they make a great late summer/fall show.



Finally I want to mention the dainty spring bloomer columbine. A wide selection of colors and bi-colors are available in garden centers and catalogs. We are fortunate to live near Nasami Farm in Whately. Nasami Farm is the propagation arm of the New England Wildflower Society with about ten large greenhouses where they propagate all manner of native shrubs and perennials. There are open weekends in the spring and fall. They also sponsor some informative talks in their beautiful new building. Nasami is a great resource for those who want to include attractive, garden-worthy plants in our own domestic landscapes.

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Heath Fair News

Happy New Year and welcome to the year in which the Heath Agricultural Society will be celebrating its **96th Annual Heath Fair**. After breaking for the month of December to enjoy the holidays and the New Year the Heath Agricultural Society has begun preparations for the upcoming Fair. Our January meeting was used to lay some of the groundwork for these preparations and having done so we can begin focusing our attention on some of our goals for this year: an increase in premiums for those exhibiting at the Fairgrounds; improvements to our Web site, including the online exhibitor registration program, and improvements to the function-ability and accessibility of the Fairgrounds. These are but a few of the tasks that we are setting ourselves to this year. The list of potential projects and ideas is always long and - despite our sincerest efforts - never seems to grow shorter. Such is life...

The Heath Agricultural Society is still keenly interested in expanding its membership. Membership in the HAS requires that you either attend meetings regularly, and/or actively contribute to its betterment. It may sound daunting to make such a commitment as membership implies duty. However, once a member you will have the privilege of working alongside a group of remarkably charming individuals, each of whom have accepted a level of membership that they are comfortable with. For some, such as myself, that means acting as President....for others, perhaps such as yourself, that may mean that you attend meetings and throw in your two cents whenever you feel like it. As a member you can vote on issues ranging from the design of the annual T-shirt to proposed events and a variety of other issues. Or it may mean you accept the responsibility of booking reservations for the Fairgrounds throughout the year. Or, in really special cases, it may mean that you bestow upon yourself the honor of being the Superintendent of Parking - the Par-King as it were.

Yes, we are still looking for a new Superintendent of Parking (this is year three) and currently I am continuing to perform these duties. Please know that this is not a responsibility that needs to fall on a single person's shoulders. If it makes the task more attractive it can be shared between two people. The Heath Agricultural Society is also seeking an Assistant to the Superintendent of Admissions Emily Cross. Membership is not required to perform either of these responsibilities (though your membership would almost certainly be invited) and your volunteerism would be profoundly appreciated.

And regarding volunteerism: As with membership, the Heath Agricultural Society is always looking for volunteers to offer a couple of hours here or there. This can mean helping to paint, plant, and clean the grounds in the spring and summer; it can mean making carpentry and electrical repairs and improvements; and it can mean working in the Food Booths, parking cars, assisting with recycling and composting, selling admission tickets...all of these are opportunities to participate in this fun and valuable annual event. Please contact us to add your name to our list of volunteers!!

Many of you may have noticed that the skating rink still hasn't manifested itself (as of mid-January). The PTP and the Heath Agricultural Society have been working together to find a weekend to set it up but between the above-freezing temperatures, the holidays, and other 'normal' scheduling complications we have not managed to organize ourselves. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, there'll be ice to skate on...

If you are reading this then please accept it as our cordial invitation for you to participate in the Heath Agricultural Society and/or the Heath Fair. Both would most undoubtedly benefit from your participation. And if you are not interested in membership or volunteering, then please keep the upcoming 96th Annual Heath Fair on your calendars: **AUGUST 16, 17, & 18.**

Thank you and Happy New Year.

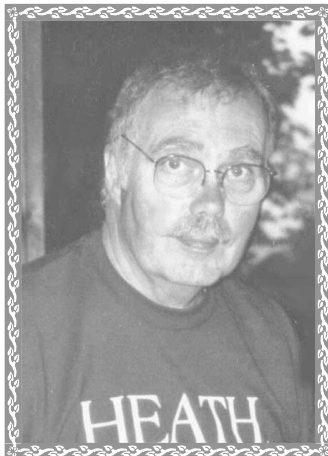
~ *Justin Lively*, President

In Memoriam

A void has been left in our Community with the passing of Eric Grinnell at age 73 on Christmas Day 2012. He demonstrated early on his affection for matters of antiquity with his studies of the Classics at Princeton University for three years and then working with professional dealers in ancient works of art in New York City for ten years. It is quite understandable that at this time he joined the historic militia organization, The New York City Seventh Regiment, where he served as a First Lieutenant. He transferred this affection for things past to Heath in 1966 when he purchased the Tucker Farm, a classic early American house with its gas lighting fixtures (still in use) and old fireplaces. He completed his education at North Adams State College, began his teaching career at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, and, perhaps most importantly, married Dianne Dewhurst in January 1982.

Eric joined the Heath Historical Society (HHS) in August 1973 and served as Vice President from August 1975 to August 1977. During this period he led work on cataloging the Society's holdings and establishing museum policies and practices. He also engaged a group of students in an archaeological dig on what was known as the Tucker Store on the corner of Brunelle and Sadoga Roads across from the North Cemetery. As the Heath Fair provided an outlet for his interest in crafts he, along with Beverly and Leon Peters, conducted demonstrations of such on the midway on behalf of the HHS. In addition to the foregoing Eric participated in the Sawyer Hall Renovation Committee of 1974-1975 and years later donated many relevant documents to the HHS that included photographs, floor plans, proposals, minutes, fact sheets, and reports.

Massachusetts passed legislation known as Proposition 2½ in 1980 limiting local annual tax increases, that, among other things, reduced support for public education. Eric and five supporters were very concerned about that trend and envisioned The Academy at Charlemont in 1981 in the belief there was a need for classical secondary education in Western Franklin County. He maintained his membership in the HHS, but being headmaster of a private school is by itself a 24/7 job and starting a school is an unbelievable uphill challenge. However, he and his associates were remarkably dedicated to their goal as were faculty, staff, students, parents, and contributors, all of whom can take pride in the fact that 30 years later The Academy is a fine,



Eric A. Grinnell
1939 ~ 2012

accredited institution. Over the years, however, Eric was the "glue" that held the school together through many periods of difficult financial and administrative uncertainties. I had the pleasure of serving The Academy for ten years in the 1990s as Business Manager, Treasurer, and Board of Trustees member and am keenly aware of the selfless contributions made by Eric and Dianne to that institution. Its educational culture is unique, I believe, in the private secondary education field.

Fast forward to July 22, 2000, the 100th Anniversary of the HHS, Eric was the featured speaker at the HHS Annual Meeting in the Community Hall. Two years later he retired from The Academy and in 2003 returned to the HHS as a member of the Board of Directors. He served again as

Vice President from August 2007 to June 16, 2012 when he resigned for health reasons. His counsel was always a positive factor in the work of the Board and he especially worked towards getting the Fort Shirley site (1744-1754) on Hosmer Road to the stage of historic authenticity and decent availability to the public. On a rainy Sunday afternoon, August 27, 2006, Eric, dressed in full British military attire appropriate for the French-Indian War period, raised the Union Jack at Fort Shirley in front of a crowd of school children and public well-wishers in one of his last public appearances on behalf of the Heath Historical Society. He will be sorely missed.

David F. Howland
Heath Historical Society

Eric,

We will miss that quick wit of yours laced with Latin, twinkling eyes, and zest for life (not to mention martinis). Who else can wear a straw hat, carry a musket, and attend the opera, with such aplomb, but you? Who else has a convertible named Lana?? Our memories of you will live on, as will the many stories. One of our favorites concerns your first attempt at making syrup, ending with the line, delivered by your neighbor, "Looks good, but we usually only tap the *maples* around here."

We hold you in our hearts, as do your legion of friends and students, and, most of all, Dianne.

Cal and Jan Carr

("In Memoriam" continued on page 11)

("In Memoriam" continued from page 10)

When we arrived in Heath twenty one years ago, Eric, was one of the first people we met. He was then President of Mohawk Trail Concerts and after he invited Bob to join the Board we became good friends.

How to describe Eric? Words such as gentle, thoughtful, curious, adventuresome, and knowledgeable come to mind. He loved learning, teaching, people, and Heath. His humor was dry, quick, and droll. He knew and collected antiques. His 1965 Cadillac De Ville was a feature of the antique car parade at the Heath Fair.

Eric valued preservation. Years ago he purchased a beautiful but dilapidated 1798 Federal style house in Heath, Tucker Hill Farm. Together with Dianne they carefully restored the house, retaining its original features, including the colonial fireplace. He learned open-hearth cooking, and reveled in finding old cooking implements such as a mechanical spit turner and used it to slowly roast duck and other meats over the open fire.

Dinner at the Grinnells was always an elegant affair. The rooms were bathed in soft light from gas lamps and candles. Delicious dishes were prepared by both Eric and Dianne. We were often introduced to some of their wide-ranging groups of interesting friends. Eric dressed formally for Heath, wearing his ubiquitous bow tie. His martinis were absolutely the best imaginable.

It was at one of those evenings attended by Michael Coe that we planned a trip to Southeast Asia. Mike, a longtime resident of Heath and former head of Yale's archeology department, had been studying Cambodia's Khmer civilization, and invited us to return with him to that part of the world. We agreed instantly! On the trip, Eric, a student and teacher of both the Roman and Greek civilizations, was a wonderful companion adding interesting insights to everything we saw. It was also a pleasure to watch him teach every bartender from Angkor to Luang Prabang how to make a perfect martini. A treasured memory of that remains with us both: Eric taking his ease in a mahogany chaise longue on the upper deck of a beautiful house boat as we motored up the Mekong River.

For many years Eric was Chairperson of the Heath Historical Commission and remained an active member until his illness forced his retirement. When Del served as Chair for over nine years, she found it a pleasure to work with Eric. He was dependable and always contributed an intelligent approach to the preservation of Heath's heritage.

Together with Dianne and four others, the vision of founding The Academy at Charlemont became a reality. Two of our grandchildren attended school there and were enriched by their experiences. They both said, "It was a close family – you knew all of the teachers and everyone you passed in the hall." Their

Latin Alma Mater, *Vivat Academia*, says, in part – *Vivat Academia; vivat professors!* The school is a large part of his lasting legacy.

His passing makes us sad, for we will miss him – the special person who was Eric.

Del and Bob Viarengo



Photograph by Art Schewenger

I came late to knowing Eric, first through the Heath Historical Society Board and the Heath Historical Commission as fellow members, and then as a valued friend. Attracted by his erudition and incomparable sense of humor, I treasured our lively talks on a variety of subjects but most especially on art and Dianne's and his many travels which gave me a widening world view.

Always with tea and ginger.

His incapacitating illness these past years, which he endured with uncommon grace and with Dianne's unending support and care, has been a source of

great sadness. His departure leaves a great void.

We will not soon see his like again and those of us who had the honor of his friendship were privileged indeed.

Jane deLeeuw

Margaret's and my experience of Eric Grinnell as neighbor and friend dates from the earliest weeks of our 10 years here and has enriched that time beyond measure. Eric and Dianne immediately took us into their circle of friends; we became beneficiaries of their seemingly bottomless reserves of generosity and kindness. But because Eric retired as founding head of The Academy at Charlemont just after we moved to Heath, our experience of his professional life is somewhat more retrospective. What we saw was what Eric leaves behind him, perhaps the best and most salient estimate of someone's professional accomplishments.

Those accomplishments were substantial by any measure, as what was by design an avowedly local undertaking The Academy that Eric founded became an educational institution that is, in every way I know, advanced far beyond its time. Its curriculum is rigorous and classical. Its students are lively and in the best sense curious. Its faculty members – those I know, at any rate – are intellectually accomplished and highly creative.

I recall attending a performance years ago by the Academy's student theater group of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, which I have taught to university students many times. That play is classified as a comedy, but it has many dark undercurrents that leave a discerning audience, by the end, with very conflicted feelings. A multimegabuck movie version starring, and directed by, Kenneth Branagh got the complexities of *Much Ado* entirely wrong. The tweens and teens of The Academy, extraordinarily, got them right. Eric Grinnell did

("In Memoriam" continued on page 12)

("In Memoriam" continued from page 11)

not direct or perform in that play. But he brought to The Academy and mentored the faculty and students who did.

I confidently predict that in the decades to come, The Academy at Charlemont, if it sticks to its present course, will be recognized as one of the leading preparatory schools in a region that is somewhat oversupplied with them. That trajectory was established, nurtured, and sustained by Eric Grinnell. To have accomplished an end like that in these times is simply prodigious.

But to focus on Eric's professional accomplishments alone is to miss his many endearing and admirable traits of personality and character – his innumerable acts of kindness large and small, his strong civic and community commitment, his gently self-deprecating irony. Eric's work on many governmental and cultural bodies here and throughout the hilltowns greatly enriched our lives. He was fond of showing dinner guests the framed letter he received 40-odd years ago from a local banker denying the Grinnells a mortgage on their house, now one of the most faithfully and beautifully restored antique houses in town, because it supposedly wasn't worth much. We all knew it was spring in Heath when Eric would start driving around in Lana, his 1965 Cadillac convertible, the Dream Machine of his (and my) generation. Eric had, above all else, a full measure of panache.

Eric Grinnell was one of what I like to call the quiet giants of Heath, people who don't say much but do a lot over the years to enrich the culture and life of our town and of the larger world that we inhabit. Our history is full of them; so is our present. Perhaps we can temper our sorrow *that* Eric has left us – and left us too soon – if we think a moment about *what* Eric has left us.

~ Don Freeman

Like many of his neighbors and friends in Heath, I feel the loss of my mentor and friend, Eric Grinnell, most acutely. But mostly what I feel is deeply grateful for the opportunity to have spent as much time with him and Dianne as I have over the past thirty-five years.

Eric was first and foremost my teacher—I first studied with him as a freshman at MTRHS—and he was truly skillful in the classroom, employing his ready wit and numerous anecdotes liberally as he made the classical world or American history come alive. Later on, when we became colleagues at The Academy, I came to admire Eric's ability to articulate the ideas that animated his teaching practice: developing critical thinking skills, honing one's ability to present and persuade, fostering a commitment to the common good, and delighting in the play of ideas for their own sakes. These are, of course, the cornerstones of the liberal arts tradition and throughout his career as an educator Eric saw himself both as a champion of that tradition and as an innovator within it.

The Academy at Charlemont was, of course, his signature innovation, a school born of the good ideas of its founders and their ability—collectively and individually—to motivate others in pursuit of those good ideas. I think it would be hard to understand Eric's motives in founding The Academy without first understanding how deeply his experience of

Heath shaped his view of schools and schooling. Dave Howland and others have in these pages accounted for the ways Eric contributed to and helped to shape the town he loved, but it's also true that Eric learned a lot from his neighbors, from the routines and rhythms and rituals of rural life, and from the disciplines of democratic governance in a town meeting polity. Social tolerance, entrepreneurial initiative, generosity in the face of need, hard work, and sustained effort—all of these were valued in the Heath Eric encountered in the '70s, but few institutions captured his imagination as an educator quite as much as town meeting: he loved to tell stories about exchanges he'd witnessed, debates he'd participated in, tactical moves he admired and detested. Eric's commitment to citizen self-government and his admiration for the New England town meeting were foundational to The Academy, its program, and its mores.

Even though he had traveled the world, Eric made Heath his home and embraced stewardship of the Tucker Hill homestead when he bought the house and land from Arthur Cook. There are few left in Heath who could do a before-and-after comparison without photos, but let's just say there was a lot of work to be done around the place when Eric came to town. Mr. Cook taught him to sugar, how to mix the gas for the gaslights, how to build and tend the fires. Eric enlisted the help and expertise of friends and neighbors over many years in the work of renovation, restoration, and rejuvenation. Dianne became his most important collaborator in the work of transforming the house and grounds into the comfortably elegant home they enjoyed together, where they cooked and baked and socialized with their friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Restoring a historic property in Heath was part of Eric's lifework and a part of his legacy that might not be as visible to folks who don't know Heath, but it's worthy of celebration.

And Eric liked to celebrate. He had a great capacity for connection, for wonder, and for fun; he was compassionate, curious about the world, and deeply thoughtful. He helped those around him see what was possible—how their own gifts might be developed, how a community might be sustained, how a wrong could be righted—and motivated them to act, to move toward the possible. Knowing him and experiencing the friendship he offered are among the great blessings of my life so far, and, as I said at the outset, I am grateful for them.

Todd Sumner

Heath has lost an important community member with the passing of Eric Grinnell.

I met Eric while in my early 20s when he hired me to teach music at the newly formed Academy at Charlemont. I was part of the faculty for fourteen years and our friendship spanned thirty. He was the one who encouraged us to settle in Heath and we're so glad that we did!

Eric was a cultured man of great intelligence, integrity, and wit. His many influences helped me to become the person that I am today.

Requiescat in Pace, Eric,
Jayne Dane

Heath Historical Society Presents: “Dining with History” January 26, 2013

The upstairs of the Community Hall was abuzz with recollections of Heath from long ago as better than 50 people attended the first in the Historical Society’s new series celebrating the lives of some of our town’s forebears. Attendees were treated to a dish-to-pass “dinner theatre” style meal featuring readings from journals, letters, personal stories, and poetry. This show was produced and directed by Kara Leistyna and Nancy Thane, in conjunction with all members of the Historical Society.

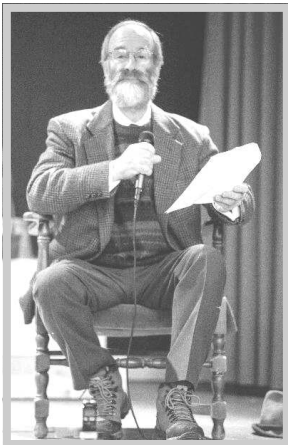
The evening began with a gossipy letter including news of prison sentences for some persons of interest from W.L. Sumner to cousins Edmund and Lucinda Gleason, dated January 30, 1882, read by Art Schwenger. What followed was Grace Gleason Landstrom’s sweet and amusing “journal” recollections of her teaching career and courting by Oscar Landstrom, 1912-1921, read by Rebecca Dorr-Sampson. Hilma Churchill Sumner brought to us a story about some childhood sledding adventures (circa the late 1800s) from her great-great uncle Merritt Churchill’s autobiography, *A Yankee Churchill*, and Bob Gruen presented some recollections from the family papers of James Hobart Childs, describing his experiences as pastor of Heath Church between 1912 and 1925. It was during Childs’ tenure that the Johnson organ in place today was installed.

A letter from Horatio Brown to John Spooner and his wife Phoebe Chapin dated November, 1875 recalled with fondness the wedding of the Spooners in Heath, fifty years prior. This letter was read by Pegge Howland to spouse Dave Howland. An Excerpt from *History of Heath*, by Anna Maxwell, read by Kara Leistyna, highlighted a contentious parish meeting of 1839 during which some ladies spoke out “in a manner not becoming of ladies.” These ladies did succeed in their quest to keep on a *charming* pastor against the prevailing opinion of the gentlemen of the parish. The program closed with Nancy Thane’s recitation of a poem - *Autumn* - as inscribed in Anna Maxwell’s *History of Heath*, 1845.

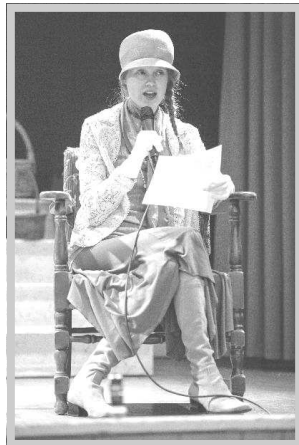
The Historical Society was pleased with the success of this evening and promises more to come. We are now collecting material for subsequent “Dining with History” events. If you have anything gossipy, funny, serious, or even what you might consider mundane, from, by, or about our ancestors, please submit them for consideration to any member of the Historical Society anytime. We welcome your news!

~ Nancy Thane

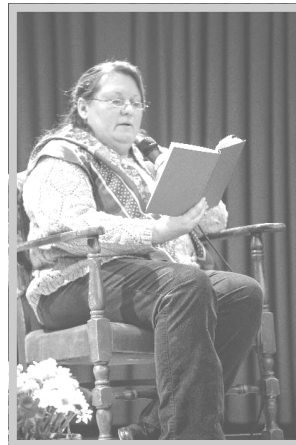
Photographs by Douglas Mason



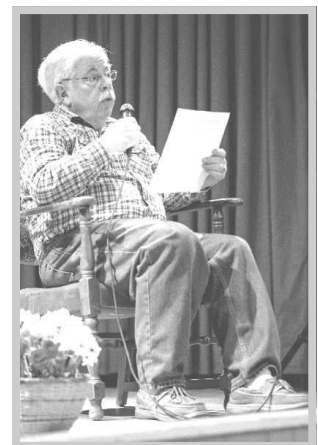
Art Schwenger



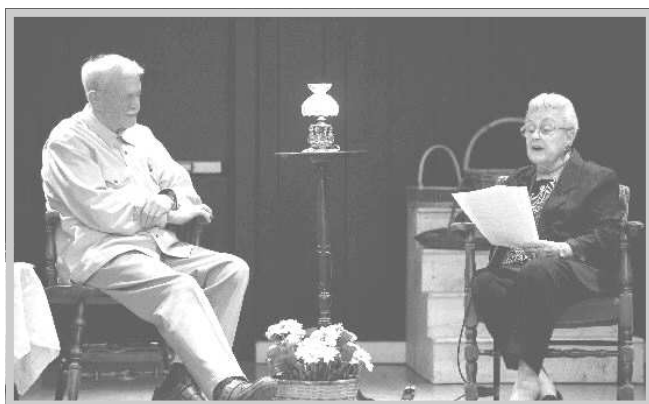
Rebecca Dorr-Sampson



Hilma Churchill Sumner



Bob Gruen



Dave and Pegge Howland



Kara Leistyna



Nancy Thane



By Eric Glazier, Principal

This is always such a busy time of year. The students, teachers, and parents have been up to so much over these past few months. We had a lovely visit from our friends at the Senior Center. They came to our 5th and 6th grade class, told stories about growing up in Heath, and then joined the students for lunch in our dining room. I hope that we have started a tradition of visits from our senior citizens that can continue into the future.

The Heath School put on their drama production in January this year. The students performed *Down the Rabbit Hole*, an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*. Maeve Gallagher directed this year's production. She did a wonderful job working with the student cast. We had two evening performances and both were sold out! Many strong and dedicated parent volunteers supported our student cast, and without their tireless efforts this production would not have been possible.

Our 6th grade class is hard at work fund-raising for their trip to Nature's Classroom. They will be traveling to Yarmouth in May for a weeklong science-based classroom experience. They have held several successful fund-raisers this fall and winter and have a few more planned for spring. Several of our 6th grade students held a concert at Mocha Maya in Shelburne Falls. They are planning a pancake breakfast on March 23. Please call the school for more details or to purchase tickets for the pancake breakfast.

Heath Elementary School was awarded a \$5,000 STARS Residency Grant for the 2012-2013 school year. The grant will allow us to have Hitchcock Center Naturalist Ted Watt visit our school every month this spring. With Ted's help we are creating a multi-disciplinary unit called *Our Place in the World*. Classroom teachers are creating lesson plans that draw upon the English, mathematics, science, and Social Studies State standards. We are hoping to develop partnerships with many of our local clubs and organizations, such as the Heath Historical Society, while developing these units of study. We will be having an open house in June to celebrate the work that has been created by our students and staff.

Our students will be taking the English Language Arts MCAS in March. Teachers have been hard at work preparing grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 for the upcoming State assessment. Our students will be assessed in many areas including reading, writing, and long compositions. The students will take the mathematics MCAS later in the spring.

Do You Shop at Big Y?

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, neighbor, or businessperson, there's an exciting way to help your school community. The Big Y Education Express Program is designed to benefit our schools – and you! Every time you shop, just look for items marked with the Education Express school bus logo. You'll save money on those items while you earn points for the Heath Elementary School – it's that easy.

The next time you are shopping at Big Y, simply notify the cashier that you would like to designate your Education Express Points to Heath Elementary School (our school's code is 6647). The Heath School can then redeem points for FREE educational supplies like computers, books, sports equipment, and more! Thank you very much for your support!

Heath School PTP

We are looking forward to enrichments that celebrate winter, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras! At our January meeting we set up dates for after school enrichments in A) spring seed/paper making tied to a Valentine theme and B) a Mardi Gras fimo clay bead-making craft afternoon (which may also include mask-making). Thanks to Kelly Flaherty, Carin Burnes, Sue Draxler, Kate Bailey, and other parents for offering to run these on the 6th & 12th, respectively. We are hoping to pull together a festive evening of celebration in the spirit of Mardi Gras sometime in February. Also in the works is a Full Moon Walk and an environmentally-centered literacy evening.

A date is being set for Winter Field Day. Call Kathy in the office if you would like to come help or have skills or activities to share. We hope to continue the great partnership with local elders, the Senior Center, and our students in appreciating the important oral histories of our community. Please feel free to join us for a breakfast or lunch any time.

The school staff have also indicated their support to have a speaker come to work in a professional development capacity on the subject of boy's literacy and learning styles and recently spent an exciting afternoon with local naturalist Ted Watt discussing creative ways of implementing environmental and place-based education with the State standards.

~ Lorena Loubsky

Down the Rabbit Hole

Heath Drama Club alumna and current director, Maeve Gallagher led an ensemble cast in a rich adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Gallagher and Jonathan Diamond's script was refreshing, reflecting the creative input of a cast that was adept and cohesive. They offered a phenomenally inviting, layered, and intimate portrait of whimsy, adventure, and mystery which transported the audience into the landscape of their inner childhoods. Mo's Fudge Factor once again helped the program raise funds with delectable chocolate bars, but the show itself was a mouthwatering, sensory experience! A hearty thanks to the many community members who helped make the show a dramatic success:

~ Lorena Loubsky



Down the Rabbit Hole



Photographs by Lorena Loubsky



Library Lines

Library Programs



By Donald Purington

The Library is seeking suggestions for programs to offer to our patrons. What would be fun to do with a group or what skill would you like to learn? Some of the programs that have been suggested include a class to learn how to sell things on eBay, how to work with photos on your computer, story telling, or oral histories, and a nature walk with an expert. There is a poster on the Library reading table where you can write your suggestions. Please share your ideas.

A Few of the New Items at the Library

Adult Fiction Books: *1356* by Bernard Cornwell, *The Husband List* by Janet Evanovich, *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier, *Watching the Dark* by Peter Robinson, *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini, *Suspect* by Robert Crais, *Cover of Snow* by Jenny Milchman

Adult Nonfiction Books: *A Grandmother's Essays on Education* by Marguerite Morris Willis, *Good Prose: the Art of Nonfiction* by Richard Todd and Tracy Kidder, *The Backyard Parables: Lessons on Gardening and Life* by Margaret Roach, *365 Winter Warmer Slow Cooker Recipes* by Carol Hildebrand, *Knitting Clothes Kids Love* by Kate Oates

Young/Teen Readers Books: *The Candy Smash* by Jacqueline Davies, *Hokey Pokey* by Jerry Spinelli, *True Colors* by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, *Dodger* by Terry Pratchett, *Under the Bridge* by Michael B. Harmon

Children's Picture/Board Books: *Grumpy Goat* by Brett Helquist, *Chu's Day* by Neil Gaiman, *Twelve Kinds of Ice* by Ellen Bryan Obed, *The Perfect Hug* by Joanna Walsh

DVDs: *Downton Abbey – Season 3*, *Doc Martin – Series 5*, *Moonrise Kingdom*, the first three movies in the Twilight Saga: *Twilight*, *New Moon*, and *Eclipse*, and a Mark Twain double feature: *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*

Audiobooks on CD: *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter, *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich



Egg Hunt

Heath Free Public Library would like to invite children of all ages to our annual Story Hour Egg Hunt on Friday, March 29, at 10:30 a.m. The hunt will be held on the Town Common or inside the library, depending on the weather.

Please RSVP to library assistant Lyra Johnson-Fuller if you and your family plan to attend at: 337-4934, ext. 7 or lyrajohnson@yahoo.com

~Lyra Johnson-Fuller

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Fred Burrington
Artist
339-0030

Robert Delisle
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337-5716

Russell E. Donelson
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337-4460

Jerry Ferguson
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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
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337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries
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337-4964

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337-5736

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Town Nurse News

Exercise and Brain Health



Claire Rabbitt, RN

The January issue of the *Mayo Clinic Health Letter* has an interesting article on the effect of exercise on brain health. It states that "Researchers, doctors, drug and biotech companies, and medical institutions worldwide are urgently seeking to better understand the intricacies of brain function and particularly to develop therapies to prevent or treat diseases such as Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia."

A review of several studies of adults with mild cognitive impairment, or Alzheimer's, shows "significant cognitive benefits" in those who exercised compared with those who didn't. The effect of exercise on people with memory problems was about the same as treatment with the drug, *donepezil* (Aricept), that is used to treat symptoms of cognitive decline. MRI scans of older adults, who are physically fit, show enhanced brain activation while performing mental tasks in comparison to those who are not fit.

In the aging brain arteries tend to narrow with a result of developing white patches, (leukoaraiosis), and blockages of small brain arteries, causing damage to tiny areas that contribute to cognitive impairment. Moderately intense exercise aids in improved blood vessel health, and in preserving gray matter, which makes up the bulk of brain tissue, and tends to decrease with age. One study of older adults who did moderately intense exercise showed significant enlargement of the hippocampus, an area of gray matter crucial for memory.

The studies referred to in the article define "moderate, regular exercise" as exercise that "increases the heart rate and is roughly equivalent in intensity to brisk walking" 30 minutes a day, five days a week. The type of exercise can vary according to interests and ability. Weight lifting did not appear to benefit in brain function improvement, although it is beneficial in other areas of health, such as osteoporosis prevention. Anyone who has not exercised for a while should ask their health care provider before starting an exercise program, and gradually increase the intensity.

I continue to have office hours at the Community Hall Nurse's Office on Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or call for an appointment if you need to see me at another time at 337-8309



From *A Winter's Walk* by Henry David Thoreau

We sleep, and at length awake to the still reality of a winter morning. The snow lies warm as cotton or down upon the window-sill; the broadened sash and frosted panes admit a dim and private light, which enhances the snug cheer within. The stillness of the morning is impressive. The floor creaks under our feet as we move toward the window to look abroad through some clear space over the fields. We see the roofs stand under their snow burden. From the eaves and fences hang stalactites of snow, and in the yard stand stalagmites covering some concealed core. The trees and shrubs rear white arms to

the sky on every side; and where were walls and fences, we see fantastic forms stretching in frolic gambols across the dusky landscape, as if nature had strewn her fresh designs over the fields by night as models for man's art.

Silently we unlatch the door, letting the drift fall in, and step abroad to face the cutting air. Already the stars have lost some of their sparkle, and a dull, leaden mist skirts the horizon. A lurid brazen light in the east proclaims the approach of day, while the western landscape is dim and spectral still, and clothed in a sombre Tartarian light, like the shadowy realms. They are Infernal sounds only that you hear,—the crowing of cocks, the barking of dogs, the chopping of wood, the lowing of kine, all seem to come from Pluto's barn-yard and beyond the Styx;—not for any melancholy they suggest, but their twilight bustle is too solemn and mysterious for earth. The recent tracks of the fox or otter, in the yard, remind us that each hour of the night is crowded with events, and the primeval nature is still working and making tracks in the snow. Opening the gate, we tread briskly along the lone country road, crunching the dry and crisped snow under our feet, or aroused by the sharp clear creak of the wood-sled, just starting for the distant market, from the early farmer's door, where it has lain the summer long, dreaming amid the chips and stubble; while far through the drifts and powdered windows we see the farmer's early candle, like a paled star, emitting a lonely beam, as if some severe virtue were at its matins there. And one by one the smokes begin to ascend from the chimneys amidst the trees and snows.

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

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

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting will be held February 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. The main purpose of the meeting will be to consider a zoning bylaw amendment to prohibit "Industrial Scale Wind Turbine Installations." The Planning Board will offer the amendment for consideration based on the research and recommendations provided to them by the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee.

Another article will ask the Town to consider appropriating additional funds for a shortfall on the garage door project at the Highway Department garage. Bids came in over the initial estimate. The remaining articles will seek approval of transfers mainly from free cash to purchase additional gravel for spring road maintenance, pay interest on a Verizon tax abatement case, and provide additional hours for the Police Department.

Electricity Aggregation

Ken Elstein, Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG), Municipal Aggregation Specialist, presented an overview of the HCOG program to the Board. Ken is in charge of the aggregation project through HCOG/Hampshire Power. He gave an overview of the history of the HCOG in creating a large customer base by gathering participants from different communities. This large customer base will allow the HCOG to bargain for lower-cost electricity. The HCOG has been a licensed supplier of electricity since 2006. This lower cost is reflected in the lower portion, the supply portion of the electrical bill. This proposal is free and anyone can opt out with no cost. 28 towns signed on initially from Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester counties. Great Barrington, Berkshire County, and Northampton have recently joined for a total of 33 counties or 140,000 people. By law, participation in municipal aggregation has to go before the Annual Town Meeting. Once voted, then a contract is signed and then a filing is made. Bulk purchasing saves money. Heath passed an article by Town Meeting Vote in 1999 to participate in the electricity aggregation for the electricity used by the Town. Residential customers will be able to participate also. Ken was uncertain about the specific financial impact of the program has had on the Town of Heath. He stated that prices are likely to change from year to year but ranges in savings are between 1 and 8%. Ken mentioned that HCOG is also working on some exciting solar projects.

Ken also described other projects and opportunities will be available once the program is active such as pooling money with other towns to put an energy project into school or purchase a solar trash compacter. Money goes directly back to town. People can voluntarily pay a few cents more per kw hour and the money can come directly back to Town for a 6-8% rate return. Overall, lower electricity prices are the incentive. He mentioned that it is not in conflict with WiredWest MLPs (municipal light plants). MLPs are legal terms for municipal entities having to do with high-speed broadband access. The Board agreed that this opportunity should be available to residents. HCOG will help the Town with publicity and advertising the program.

FY14 Budget

The Selectboard and the Finance Committee have been meeting with Town department heads and board or committee members to develop a budget for Fiscal Year 2014. Once finalized, the budget will be presented at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 11 of this 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
Sheila Litchfield, Chair
Thomas Lively
Brian De Vriese

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Heath Planning Board will hold a **Public Hearing** pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A ("the Zoning Act"), Section 5 on **February 12, 2013**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath Community Hall, 1 West Main Street, Heath, MA. The purpose of this public hearing is to provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to Heath's Zoning Bylaws, expected to be on the warrant for the February 26, 2013, Special Town Meeting, including: the addition of **Section 6.8, Industrial-Scale Wind Turbine Installations**, which for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of the Town, while preserving its rural character, environment, historic and scenic resources, pursuant to section 1.1 of the Heath Zoning Bylaws, are **disallowed in the Town of Heath**; the related changes to the Section 4.2 Use Regulations Chart; amendment of the Zoning Bylaw Table of Contents to add the new section 6.8.

Rabies Clinic

There will be a rabies vaccination clinic on **March 30 from 10:00 a.m. - noon** in the **Community Hall**. This clinic is for small animals such as cats and dogs. The fee is \$20 per vaccine. Dog licenses will also be sold.

~ Hilma Sumner
Town Clerk

Upcoming Town Election and Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Election will take place on Friday, **May 10**, with the polls open from noon to 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Community Hall. In preparation for the election, nomination papers are available by contacting the Town Clerk. Anyone who is a registered voter in Heath and is interested in running for office is eligible and welcome to obtain nomination papers. Papers must be taken out by **March 19**. The deadline for returning papers with the necessary signatures of 25 voters is **March 21** at 5:00 p.m. The following is a list of the offices needing to be filled this year, the official whose term is expiring, and the length of the term.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Official</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Selectman	Brian DeVriese	3 year
Assessor	Valerie Kaempfer	3 year
Finance Committee	Jeffrey Simmons	3 year
Planning Board	Douglas Mason	5 year
Library Trustee	Janis Carr	3 year
School Committee	Robert Gruen	3 year
School Committee	Andrew Draxler	2 year
Dog Officer	Robert Tanner, Jr.	1 year
Constable	Jeffrey Simmons	1 year
Constable	Robert Tanner, Jr.	1 year

The Annual Town Meeting will be held the following day, **Saturday, May 11**, beginning at 9:00 a.m.. The location will be determined by the Selectboard and included in the posted warrants for that meeting.

~ Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk

Greetings Breast Friends!

In just 102 days I'll be stepping out on the streets of Boston to walk 39.3 miles in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer for my 5th year in a row! As most of you know, I'm very determined to help find a cure for this disease. Every 14 minutes another life is lost. At the young age of 37, my mother was one of these lives. You can help me change these statistics. You can help make a world with more birthdays!

This will be my 5th year walking to help Save Second Base! This year also marks the 25th anniversary of my mother's passing. Since I started this journey, you have helped me to raise over \$16,000 to find a cure, fund educational programs, and help provide care to those who can't afford to themselves. This year, my goal is a big one! I'm committed to raising at least \$7,500!! Am I crazy? Probably. But I can still do it!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

I'll make you a deal....I'll do all the walking if you do the donating! No donation is too small and every dollar counts towards Saving the TaTa's! Make sure you check back with my Web site at: http://info.avonfoundation.org/site/TR?m&fr_id=2200&et=cj5NJDJrMo_Uj7I5IsiIsg&s_tafId=613833 Throughout the training season, I'll have donation incentives. You can donate right on my site, you can call me, e-mail me, or mail me a check written out to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping me do something wonderful in memory of my fantastic mother!

~ Jodi Walsh
102 Branch Hill Rd.
Heath, MA 01340



Milestones

Eric A. Grinnell of Heath died on December 25, 2012, of complications from Parkinson's disease. Born in Ohio in 1939, he was the son of Gordon and Janet Grinnell.

A graduate of Princeton University and North Adams State College, he worked for several years in New York City for an art dealer and moved to Heath in 1966. He taught at Mohawk Trail Regional High School and then with five others including his wife Dianne, he founded The Academy at Charlemont. He served as its headmaster until 2002.

The Academy will celebrate Eric's life and legacy in the spring.

He was a member of the Heath Historical Society Board and the Historical Commission and was a member and past president of the Mohawk Trail Concerts.

MTC plans to dedicate the opening concert of the 2013 season and several celebrations of Verdi's anniversary in Eric's honor. His love of opera and his support of New York's Metropolitan Opera were legendary.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Dianne; his mother-in-law Dorothy Dewhurst; his brother and sister-in-law Milton and Diane Dewhurst, and a multitude of friends.

Memorial gifts may be made to The Academy at Charlemont, 1359 Route 2, Charlemont, MA 01339.

Anna "Ann" Rife Nussbaum of Colrain died suddenly on January 5, 2013. Born in the Bronx, New York, on June 8, 1933, she was the daughter of Clarence and Anna McGivney Rife.

To many in Heath, she was known for her devotion to family, her winning smile, her helping hand, and her wonderful garden which was a yearly attraction many took Adamsville Road just to see.

Her husband Emil Nussbaum died in 1988.

She is survived by her three children, Paul Nussbaum of Venice, FL, **Mary Sumner of Heath**, and Anne Savage of Blacksburg, VA; six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A private graveside service was held at the West Branch Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, P.O. Box 38, Heath, MA 01346, or to a local food pantry.

Floyd L. Sherman of Charlemont, died on January 27, 2013. Born on July 20, 1922, to James M. and Lena Pierce Sherman of Charlemont, he was a lifelong resident there.

In his early years, Floyd was a logger and built his own home and in the winter months worked for the ski areas in Charlemont. Later, he was groundskeeper for an exclusive retreat in Rowe, and caretaker for many summer homes in Heath, Rowe, and Charlemont.

He married the former Ruth M. Parker in 1948.

Survivors include two sons, Lawrence of the Philippines, and Dohn of Rowe; his daughter, RuthAnn McCloud of Montgomery; four grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Memorial gifts may be made to Meals on Wheels, in care of Franklin County Home Health Care, 330 Montague Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Requiescat in pace

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In homage and gratitude to our foremothers whose courage and steadfastness brought us the vote in 1920 and the Women's Movement which opened many doors, and to this time in our history when women are Secretaries of State, US Supreme Court Justices, Senators and Representatives. Presidents of major universities, countless scientists, teachers and professors, church leaders, even industry CEOs, etc. and in recognition of the mighty women of Heath whose active lives contribute to the well-being of their communities and families, and to the creation of a decent society,

*FROM SENECA FALLS, NY, IN 1848 –
FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION
TO THE PRESENT – WE'VE COME A LONG WAY....*

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON (1815 – 1902)

Suffragist

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal."

SUSAN B. ANTHONY (1820-1906)

Suffragist

"It was we, the people, not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens, but we, the whole people who formed the Union."

SOJOURNER TRUTH (ca. 1787-1883)

Evangelist and Reformer

"If women want any rights more than they got, why don't they just take them and not be talking about it."

LUCRETIA MOTT (1793 --1880)

Quaker preacher and anti-slavery activist

"I grew up so thoroughly imbued with women's rights that it was the most important question in my life from a very early date. My conviction led me to the sufficiency of the light within us, resting on truth for authority, not on authority for truth."

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (1884-1962)

Humanitarian and writer

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

BETTY FRIEDAN (1921-2006)

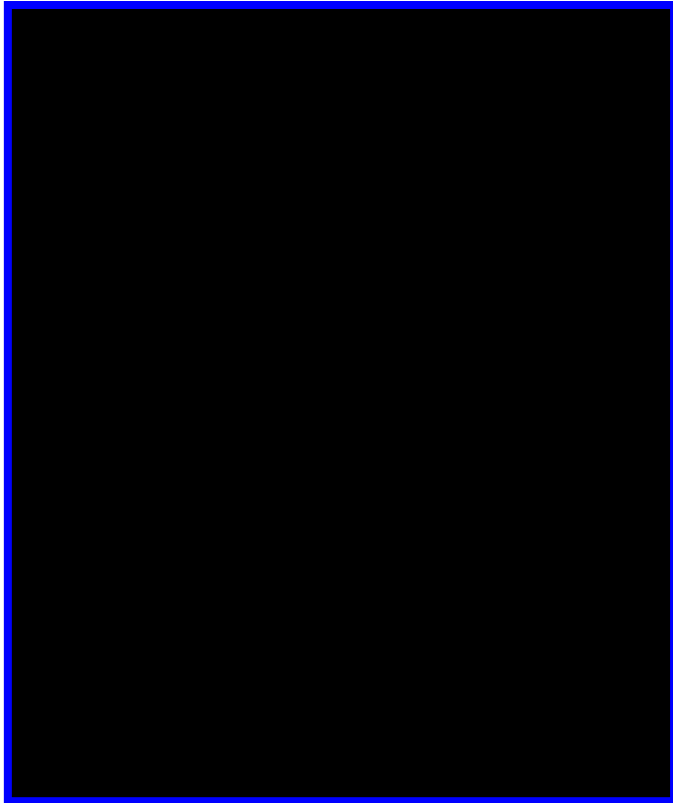
Feminist Writer and Founder of the National Organization for Women *"The only way for a woman, as for a man, to know herself as a person is by creative work of her own. There is no other way."*

HILLARY CLINTON (1928 --)

US Senator and Secretary of State

"What we have to do is find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities."

("Women's History Month" continued on page 23)



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