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by Joseph Parzych

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Democracy under Duress

in Turkey

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Should Towns Do More to Support Local Agriculture?

BY PATRICIA PRUITT WENDELL - Did you know that local farm businesses generate \$3.5 million dollars a year in Franklin County? Much of that income is from direct to consumer food sales, according to the final report from Elizabeth Carter, who served as the local food coordinator for the first year of the Wendell local foods project.

The report, with research by UMass grad landscape architecture student Chris Pletcher, contains in depth information with wide implications for the towns and farmers in our region.

Franklin County happens to be right at the center of the local food movement nationwide. With some of the least expensive farmland in Massachusetts, Franklin County has seen an increase of 155 new farms since 2002.

Carter's report states that for the first time in decades local food systems (farms, farmers markets, cooperative food distribution and storage centers, farm stands, etc.) on

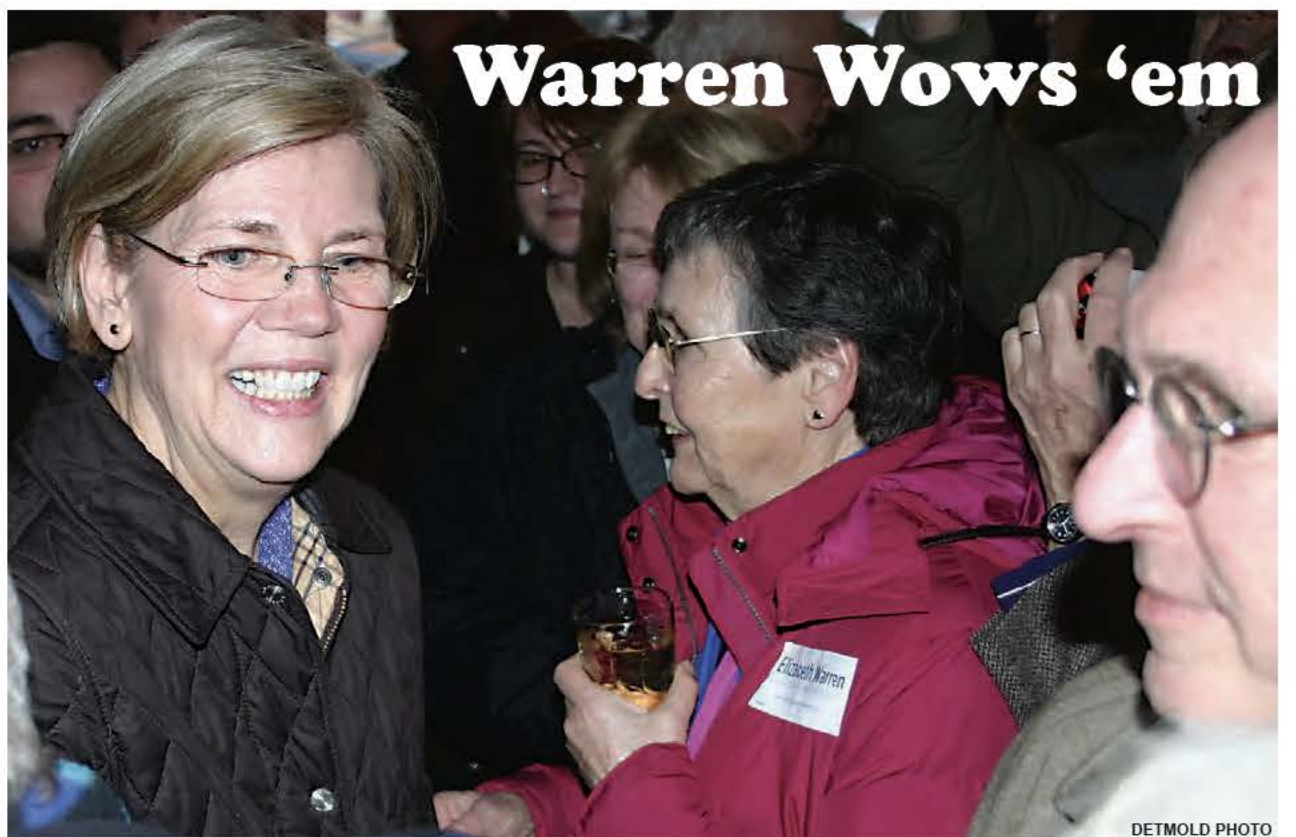
the whole offer a better economic investment for towns than industrial development.

Carter has identified at least 34 ways in which towns can offer enhanced support to farms. Some of these include town planning strategies, promotional efforts such as direct marketing to consumers, holding community agricultural events, or promoting agro-tourism and agro-education.

Most local towns do support farms to some degree; Wendell took a further step in actually hiring a part time coordinator to focus on the town's local food systems. Carter hopes her report presents an accurate picture of Wendell's food involvement at present, and points the way to collaboration to support and develop local agriculture within Franklin County.

Indeed, farming in Wendell is quite complex: much of Wendell is forested and not available for cultivation. Nonetheless in a survey of townspeople, 80% of the town's nearly 850 residents said

see LOCAL pg 5



U.S. Senate candidate, Democrat Elizabeth Warren (Cambridge) greets supporters at the Arts Block Cafe in Greenfield

BY PATRICIA PRUITT GREENFIELD - The air was full of expectancy. Elizabeth Warren, the Cambridge Democrat mounting a challenge to incumbent U.S. senator Scott Brown (R), entered the Arts Block Café on Friday, February 17th, from her tour of downtown Greenfield with mayor Bill Martin, and set off a tumult of applause and cheers.

She plunged into the midst of the packed, standing room only crowd, shaking hands and greeting people one by one.

Here was the consummate consumer finance advocate, the Harvard prof who challenged U.S. Treasury secretary Tim Geithner's policies on banking practices. Turned down to head the new Consumer Finance

Protection Bureau in Washington after spearheading its creation, Warren came back home to Massachusetts last year and soon plunged into the race for the Senate seat long held by Ted Kennedy, which the Dems had ceded to Scott Brown in an off-year election after a lackluster campaign by Martha Coakley in 2010.

Warren left the floor and

went on stage to be formally introduced by Franklin County sheriff Chris Donelan, who concluded his remarks by saying, "It seldom happens in politics that you have a chance to correct a mistake. We have that chance with Elizabeth Warren."

On that note, Warren stepped to the microphone and the hundreds of see WARREN pg 6

TALKING PICTURES

BY SHIRA HILLEL - AMHERST - The documentary *Leonardo Live* takes the viewer on a tour of the blockbuster exhibition of Leonardo Da Vinci's work that recently completed a three-month, sold-out run at the National Gallery in London.

Da Vinci is thought to have completed only about 20 paintings in his lifetime, and of those, only 15 (or 16) survive today. The National Gallery exhibition brought together seven of these works and focused on Da Vinci's time in Milan.

The artist moved to Milan in the early 1480s and remained there through the 1490s, working as an engineer, sculptor and painter.

Leonardo Live shows contemporaneous coverage of the exhibition's opening reception, including see LEONARDO pg 7

Leonardo Live



The Leonardo da Vinci collection included 'Salvator Mundi' (Christ as Savior of the World), a painting from circa 1500 that was only recently authenticated as a da Vinci.

Vermont AG Appeals Entergy Case

This story first appeared in The Commons online edition on Saturday, February 18th. Reprinted by permission. The Commons is an independent weekly serving Windham County, Vermont.

BY RANDOLPH HOLHUT

MONTPELIER, VT - Vermont attorney general William Sorrell has filed an appeal of the U.S. District Court's recent decision in favor of Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee.

The appeal was filed Saturday morning, February 18th, and will be heard by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City.

Judge J. Garvan Murtha, in his January 19th ruling, invalidated large sections of two Vermont statutes that gave the state legislature a veto on the ability of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon to continue operating for 20 more years once its current operating license expires on March 21st of this year.

In a news conference on Saturday, Sorrell said the state has appealed all aspects of the judgment entered by the district court, and is basing much of the appeal on the 1982 *Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) v. California* case, which was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sorrell said Murtha's decision used "undue reliance on legislative discussions" in deciding that the state had overstepped its regulatory bounds.

In 2005, Vermont passed a law stating the legislature had to give its approval before the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) could issue a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) for Vermont Yankee to operate for another 20 years. The Vermont Senate, on a 26-4 vote in 2010,

declined to give the PSB that approval.

Current federal law prohibits states from regulating nuclear safety, and Entergy filed a lawsuit last spring on grounds of federal pre-emption, arguing that legislators had used code words or talked openly about their fears for the safety of operations at Entergy's management.

During the trial that took place at the federal courthouse in Brattleboro last September, Entergy submitted numerous excerpts from legislative committee hearings to make the case that lawmakers were indeed making legislation based on nuclear safety, a subject that falls under the sole jurisdiction of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory see VERMONT pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK

I Spy



Patches

I'm an 8 year old female shorthair cat, named Patches. My name must be on account of my pretty grey and white fur pattern. I've lived eight years with one human companion but now am looking for a new loving home. I am what we call a private investigator, which means I am often working undercover, keeping an eye on your household and family. I'll find spaces to call my own, but I also love cuddle time with my people. Come in to pet me, which I love by the way, and you might find that I'm your soul mate! I'm a member of the Lonely Hearts Club. That means I've been here longer than most of the other kitties and my adoption fee is half off!

For more information about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

THE WENDELL COA FILM SERIES PRESENTS:

"Dracula"

The Wendell Free Library will present *Dracula* on Saturday, February 25th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Bela Lugosi's Count Dracula is now a 74-year-old icon, outlasting all other interpretations before or since. Lugosi devised the most insidious form the character would ever take – a handsome, courtly, well-groomed, civilized aristocrat, so gracious and attractive that he projected an aura of well-being over the viewer. Lugosi's Count would have you chatting and drinking wine – until he began to drink of you. That cape and those

evening clothes are the perfect deception. Tod Browning's *Dracula* is sometimes stogy and tentative in its continuity. But Karl Freund's photography summons up a persistent mood of heavy gloom and enveloping dread.

If you haven't seen this *Dracula*, please do so. The Count awaits.

This is the another film in the monthly series of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library. Admission is free. For more info, visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call 978-544-3559.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Prince and Princess Party



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

TURNERS FALLS - Princess Amanda of Gill enjoyed dressing up and making various crafts at the Prince and Princess Party at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, February 21st. Over 60 children of all ages and adults attended the school vacation week program.

TILTON DEERFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Wine and Micro Brew Tasting

Spend your leap day in a spirited manner. Join the Trustees and Friends of Tilton Library on Wednesday, February 29th for a tasting of wine and micro brews at Chandler's Restaurant at Yankee Candle, 25 Greenfield Rd. in South Deerfield, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This benefit evening includes more than 60 different wines from around the world; a sampling of local microbrews; and succulent appetizers from Chandler's award-winning menu. There will also be a silent auction featuring local

artwork, electronics, and a bed and breakfast stay in France. The artwork is currently on display at Tilton Library and available for preview until the day of the event. Advance tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at Tilton Library, 75 No. Main Street, South Deerfield or at either the South Deerfield or Sunderland Spirit Shoppe. Any available tickets will be sold at the door for \$25 per person. Participants must be age 21 or older. For more information, call 413-665-4683 or visit www.tiltonlibrary.org.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – February 27th to March 2nd

GILL-MONTAGUE - Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Appointments are now being scheduled for free AARP tax aid. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

Monday, February 27th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:00 a.m. AARP Tax Aid by appointment
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, February 28th
10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program
1:00 p.m. RAD Self Defense

Wednesday, February 29th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, March 1st
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, March 2nd
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 413-423-3308, for meal information and reservations. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.



Work on the Gill-Montague bridge has stepped up, with balmy weather appreciated by SPS New England workers replacing rusted beams and putting bridge decking grids in place. In the foreground, cantilevered beams to support the future sidewalk are now in place.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Spring Yoga

Yoga classes will be offered this spring at the Leverett Library on Thursdays, starting March 1st, and running through April 12th.

Bliss Yoga: 4:45-5:45 p.m.

An hour of basic yoga for health and relaxation.

Evening Yoga: 6:00-7:15 p.m.

A moderate class dedicated to

inner and outer alignment of body, mind and spirit.

This program is sponsored by the Leverett recreation commission.

For more information, contact Lisa Enzer by phone: 413-367-2658 or email: enzer@earthlink.net or visit www.livingroomyoga.net.

Some Pig!



Janice Tyner brought her bousebroken pet pig Fletcher to the Leverett Library during school vacation week.

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a **PSYCHIC FAIR** on Saturday, February 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Lake Pleasant post office.

For more information, contact the TNSA website, www.thenationalspiritualalliance.org

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Skylar Thompson

Grade 7

Riley Wood

Grade 8

Hailey Whipple

Jacob Clark

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more info? call: 863-2054

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JESSICA LARVIN ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Join in for a memorial celebration of Keith Fiske's life to be held on the playing field of the Swift River School, New Salem. Celebrate with a campfire, cook marshmallows, sing songs, tell stories and share memories on Wednesday, February 29th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Keith Fiske, who had a smile and a helping hand for all, was the school custodian for 33 years and provided many of the special touches that help make Swift River School a welcoming and comfortable place for children, families, staff and community.

Family bingo returns to the Greenfield Savings Bank community room, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Georgette Lambert will be guest caller. GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments. Seating will be on a first call, first reserve basis. Reserve a seat by calling Alyshia, Linda or Kerri at 413-863-4316.

The Parent-Child Development Center serves families with young children through kindergarten age and expectant women. They offer a **free Head Start** preschool, Early Head Start home visiting programs and Full-Day childcare in Franklin, Hampshire and Western Hampden Counties. Spanish speaking services available.

For more information, call 413-475-1405.

The staff and students of Northfield Mount Hermon School will present their 9th annual **Concert to Celebrate Seniors** on Sunday, February 26th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Rhodes Art Center on the Gill campus. The jazz band and orchestra will play selections. Refreshments will be served. This concert is free and open to the public. Donations will go to support Franklin County Community Home Care's local Meals on Wheels program. For more information, contact: aviadero@fchcc.org or 773-5555 Ext 2296.

A **Hoop Trance Dance Workshop** will be held at the Montague Grange on Sunday, March 4th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Hooping is a great activity after a sedentary winter. You burn between 400 - 600 calories for every hour of hooping. Participants should be 18 years and older. Please register at kellianna@kellianna.com or call 978-544-3116.

Hospice of Franklin County has scheduled its **Spring Volunteer Training**, beginning Monday, March 19th. This is a nine-week training course that prepares people to serve hospice patients and their families through their life-limiting illness. Requests for volunteer services come from patients and families needing respite care, supportive visits, companionship, assistance with meal preparation and other tasks as directed by the hospice staff. Training will be held at the office of Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway

Street in Greenfield. Classes will run on nine consecutive Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hospice would especially like to hear from interested individuals in the outlying towns within Franklin County, such as: Charlemont, Colrain, Heath, Wendell, Erving and Sunderland. There are many ways to offer volunteer service to Hospice of Franklin County; please call for a more complete list of possibilities or to schedule an interview. Contact Jayne Allen, volunteer services coordinator, at 413-774-2400 or jgallen@hospicefc.org.

All potential volunteer candidates will be subject to reference and background checks.

The Franklin County Technical School's 4th Annual **Dodgeball Tournament** will be held Friday, March 16th, to benefit FCTS athletics and yearbook. The registration fee for this event is \$25.00 per team and there will be cash prizes for the top two teams. The tournament is double elimination, and you must register by March 13th to become one of the 36 teams to participate. Contact Daniel Prasol at 413-863-9561 x233.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

Opportunities Abound for New Town Meeting Members

There are many open seats available for Montague town meeting for the May 21st town election. Seats available are as follows:

Precinct One: Two — 3 year seats open

Precinct Two: Four — 3 year seats open
One — 1 year seat open

Precinct Three: One — 3 year seats open
Three — 2 year seats open
Two — 1 year seats open

Precinct Four: One — 3 year seat open
One — 2 year seat open

Precinct Five: Two — 3 year seats open

Precinct Six: Four — 3 year seats open
Two — 2 year seats open
Three — 1 year seats open

Consider running for town meeting. The annual town meeting meets every first Saturday in May. Usually, a special town meeting is held in the spring and again in the fall.

It is very easy to become a town meeting member. Nomination papers can be obtained from the town clerk's office. Only ten signatures from registered voters from your home precinct are required to earn a place on the ballot.

The deadline to obtain papers is Thursday, March 29th by 5:00 p.m., and all nomination papers must be returned to the town clerk's office by Monday, April 2nd by 5:00 p.m.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 413-863-3200, ext 203. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays.

Wendell Special Town Meeting – Tuesday, February 28th

An article on the Tuesday, February 28th, 7:00 p.m., special town meeting at Wendell town hall seeks to allocate \$5000 to the energy committee account for the purpose of conducting the second year of a two year pilot project focused on local food security.

Among the other articles under consideration will be a motion to see if the town will authorize the selectboard to

enter into a solar power purchase or net metering credit purchase agreement with a third party for a term of more than three years.

The meeting will also consider whether to raise fees for the town clerk's office, spend \$500 for installing 911 emergency house numbers, and transfer the sum of \$2650.12 from free cash into stabilization to fund a previously established

special account to cover employee sick pay.

Another article would transfer \$270,957 from free cash to stabilization.

Finally, in two separate articles, town meeting will be asked whether to instruct the Mahar school committee to study a range of possible K-12 regionalization alternatives, excluding a pre-K-12 / 7-12 hybrid district.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Go Deport Yourself

BY RAUL REYES

NEW YORK CITY – I bet Mitt Romney has a sweatshirt that says I (heart) Florida. Romney's victory in the Sunshine State revitalized his campaign for the GOP presidential nomination. Florida also gave him an opportunity to explain his immigration policy.

Asked how he would deal with undocumented immigrants, Romney said during the Tampa debate he believes in "self-deportation." A crack-down on undocumented immigrants, he explained, would make "people decide they can do better by going home because they can't find work here... because they don't have legal documentation to allow them to work here."

Some spectators in the audience giggled at Romney's answer. "Self-deportation," however, is no joke. It amounts to laws that harm undocumented immigrants and Latinos.

Let's break it down and see why self-deportation defies reality, legality, and American values of dignity and human rights.

First of all, Romney's idea of self-deportation overlooks the obvious. How do we think the estimated 11 million undocumented U.S. immigrants got here? They already "self-deported" themselves right out of their home countries in search of better lives and opportunity. And the fact is they're here to stay.

In 2011, the Pew Center found that, despite a weak economy and increased enforcement measures, the undocumented population has remained stable. Although unauthorized entries have dropped, Pew reported that few undocumented immigrants are returning to their countries of origin.

It's amazing that Romney, a successful businessman, doesn't realize that if the undocumented were to leave, even gradually, it would cause our economy to contract. An exodus of this labor force would hit agriculture and the service sector very hard.

But wouldn't American workers take these jobs? So far, it hasn't worked out that way. In Alabama and Georgia, two states that passed harsh immigration laws, farmers are facing severe labor shortages. Alabama has even considered using prisoners because farmers can't find anyone willing to do backbreaking fieldwork.

Key components of the self-deportation strategy are state and local laws targeting "illegals." Yet ironically, many of these laws have been found to be of questionable legality themselves.

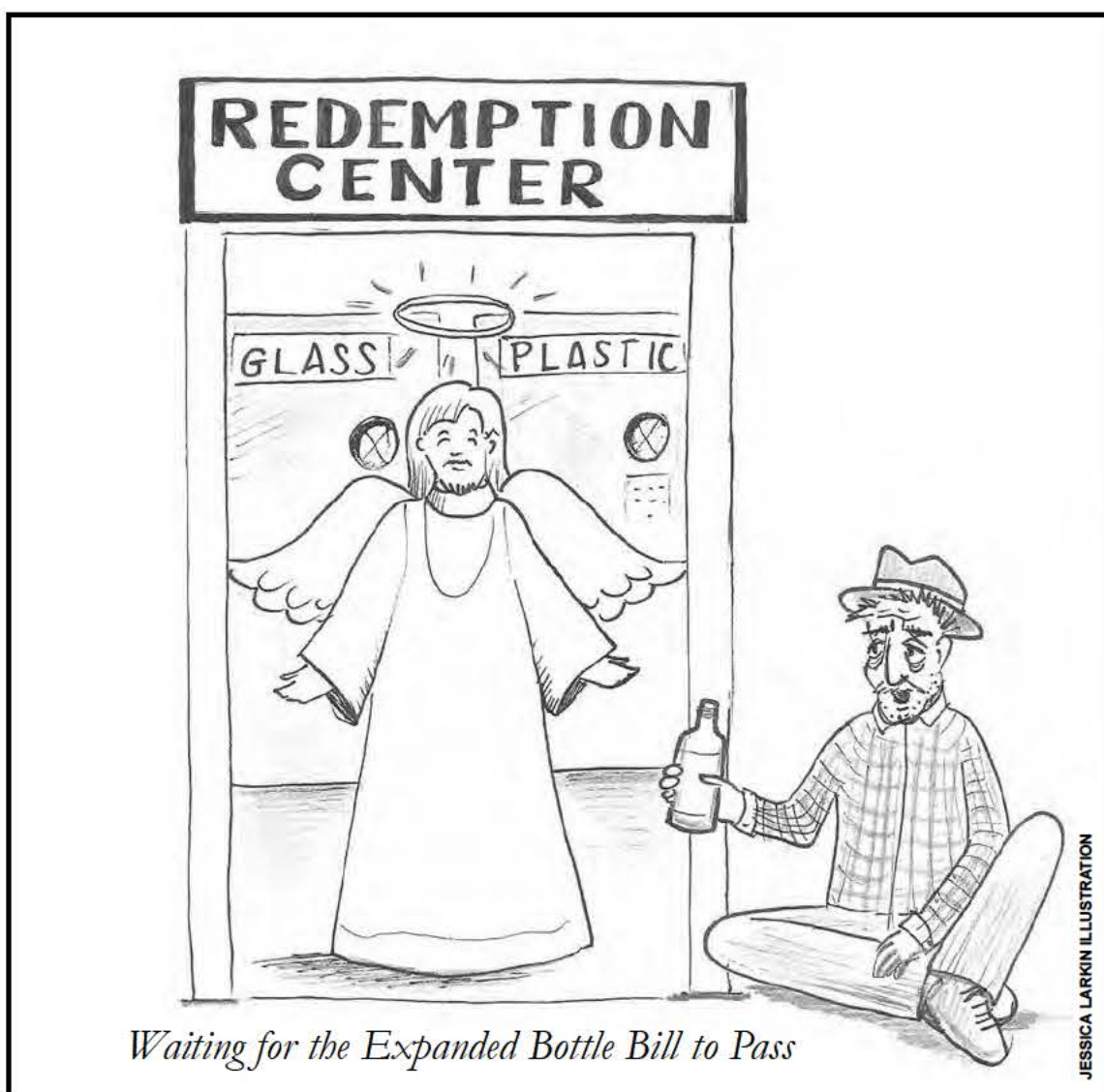
The Department of Justice has challenged many such statutes because they usurp federal authority over immigration and result in racial profiling of Hispanics. In Arizona's Maricopa County, for instance, the department found that Latinos were up to nine times more likely to be pulled over for traffic violations than non-Hispanics. Alabama's Civil Rights Division has received more than a thousand complaints about that state's new anti-immigrant law.

Romney favors self-deportation over rounding up undocumented families and removing them from the country. Unfortunately, his solution is equally harsh and inhumane.

Self-deportation means passing laws that make the daily lives of the undocumented miserable. It means measures that would bar them from finding work or renting a home and deny them basic services such as water and heat. It means questioning school-children about their parents' immigration status. These examples aren't hypothetical. They're all components of Alabama's draconian immigration law.

It's troubling that Romney endorses trampling on constitutional and human rights for the sake of winning his party's nomination. His stance on immigration shows a lack of compassion from a man whose Mormon ancestors were persecuted across America before

see **DEPORT** page 5



Waiting for the Expanded Bottle Bill to Pass

LETTERS TO



THE EDITOR

Courtesy Lacking on G-M School Committee

I don't watch much TV, but when I do, I try to make it the local channels.

So, as I putter around the house, I sometimes listen 'with one ear' to the Gill-Montague School Committee meetings.

I think the folks who volunteer their time to run our towns and schools are heroes.

So, I'm reluctant to sound as if I don't appreciate the work being done by this committee. Believe me, I do.

However, there seems to be a split on the committee between a very few folks who are able to think and the majority who think those people are great big smarty pants.

The chairman seems to have aligned himself squarely with the members who believe the key to success in the schools is more school spirit. Any other

ideas are just "negative."

That would be OK if the chairman could just pretend to be at least slightly objective. Unfortunately, he can't, and his animosity toward the minority has gotten completely out of control.

A couple of meetings ago, I thought he should have "taken it outside" with Jeff Singleton.

Then, last week, the chairman was so rude to Margorie Levenson, I decided I had to write this letter. She asked when she could make a motion and he basically told her she couldn't. Then, he finally agreed Levenson could make her motion later, but made a point of never getting back to her.

Jeff Singleton is certainly being punished by the chairman for his irritating habit of

thinking things through. In fact, at the last meeting, the chair mentioned that he had asked the committee's lawyer to draft a "letter of rebuke" for Singleton.

I'm not sure what this is about, but I would assume it has to do with a previous meeting where Singleton questioned the firing of a staff member by the superintendent.

I would just like to remind the chair that his committee members are all volunteers. A few of them appear to actually care about improving the school system. That is probably why they come back meeting after meeting despite being publicly ignored and rebuked.

– Jeri Case
Lake Pleasant

Clarifying a Solar Warrant Article

There seems to be some confusion about the solar article on the warrant for the upcoming special town meeting, on Tuesday, February 28th, 7 p.m. at Wendell town hall. This article does not involve the sale of town owned land. What is being proposed is that the town of Wendell use its status as a municipality in order

to take advantage of a state incentive program aimed at promoting solar technology, that would most likely not involve placing any solar panels in town. There is a small window of opportunity for the town to participate before the incentive program reaches its cap.

The deal would be structured in such a way that a third party would fund the construction of a 10 MW solar farm, most likely further to the east of Wendell. That third party would sell electricity at a discount to the town for town-owned buildings, and

sell the surplus electricity generated on the so-called renewable energy credit market. The third party would take a cut, but in essence, the town would be signing up to earn approximately \$60,000 a year for 20 years, simply for putting its name on a meter.

The selectboard has reviewed the proposal with town counsel, but before investing too much time and energy in it, the board wants to get approval from the town to move forward. Please come and join the discussion on Tuesday.

– Jeffrey Pooser
Wendell

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Jeffrey Pooser is a member of the Wendell selectboard. The opinions stated here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of other members of the board.

Science, Politics and Global Warming at the Leveret Library

BY JEFF SINGLETON

"I was not originally a global warming evangelist," University of Massachusetts professor Raymond Bradley told a friendly crowd at the Leveret Library on February 16th. Bradley is a climatologist who, along with colleagues Michael Mann and Malcolm Hughes, published several influential studies in the late 1990s estimating historical patterns of climate change. But the topic on this unusually warm February night was not just global warming, but the "politics of climate change."

Bradley ought to know something about this. He and some colleagues have been at the center of something called the "hockey stick controversy." That's the catch phrase for a

chart in a 1999 study by Bradley and his colleagues portraying global temperatures over the past thousand years. Within a decade, this chart had become the target of a campaign by political critics of global warming science, leading to congressional investigations, charges of fraud and demands for researchers' emails and data bases.

Bradley says this brouhaha is less a serious debate over science than a concerted effort to bully a segment of the scientific community.

He began his talk by presenting the case for global warming. A range of studies have attempted to project the earth's temperatures in the centuries before systematic records began to be kept in the late 19th century.

There is a good deal of historical evidence from ice cores about levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The research appears to show that temperatures have risen significantly above the norm over the past century, and that the cause for this global rise in mean temperature can be definitively correlated to the increase of "greenhouse gasses" like CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere, gasses released rapidly as the result of human activity since the Industrial Revolution.

These conclusions have been supported by virtually all national and international scientific organizations, including an organization called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC, according to Bradley, does not engage in research, but assesses the validity of existing research on global climate. The organization has supported the majority view among scientists about global warming.

In 2001, the IPCC chose to highlight the so-called hockey stick graph in its assessment. This simplified view of climate

history stimulated critics of global warming research within the scientific community, and this dissent was seized upon and amplified by political critics of the mainstream consensus.

During a debate on a 2003 Senate bill to limit greenhouse gasses, Senator James Inhofe used the alternative research – a few studies not widely accepted by climate scientists – to suggest "Man-made global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people."

Extreme political statements became the justification for harassment. Bradley discussed in some detail an investigation initiated in 2005 by Republican Joe Barton, chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Investigations. Barton wrote a group of scientists, including Bradley, demanding "full records" of their research. These records were to include vast quantities of raw data, emails and information about personal finances. This effort was sharply attacked as "illegitimate" with the goal of intimidating scientists by another influential Republican, Sherwood Boehlert, chair of the House Science Committee.

Bradley called Boehlert the "hero" of this particular controversy. (Barton, who is clearly the villain in Bradley's eyes,

was later accused of encouraging plagiarism in a 2006 report by his committee.)

Bradley argued that these tactics have established a pattern of intimidation and harassment. They have also been effective in casting doubt on the scientific consensus about global warming. Americans, it seems, are far more skeptical on manmade climate change than their European counterparts.

Bradley presented survey data showing that views on the subject are highly correlated with political affiliation. Predictably, liberal Democrats are overwhelming in support of the scientific consensus on global warming. Republicans are far more skeptical, although the majority appears to believe the Earth is warming. Tea Party members were shown to be, shall we say, overwhelmingly skeptical.

Bradley delivered a harrowing tale of partisan attacks on science, but there appeared to be few skeptics on global warming science at the Leveret Library. Perhaps the only shortcoming was that Bradley forgot to bring copies of his new book, *Global Warming and Political Intimidation*, published by University of Massachusetts Press. He probably could have sold a few on the spot.

from LOCAL page 1

they were engaged in some level of food production; many sell some of what they produce.

Laurie DiDonato, chair of the Wendell energy committee, stated the goal of the local food project is for Wendell to develop a strong local system able to provide a safety net to the town, in case of food shortages due to weather interruptions, or excessive energy costs.

To that end the energy committee will be seeking town meeting's support to appropriate \$5000 for the second year of the program.

The committee has also applied for a \$17,000 grant from the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture. They hope to hear back on the grant sometime in late March.

If the energy committee receives the funding, they plan to hire a few more people to continue community education on local food systems, through workshops, collaborations and organizing.

Committee members want to build on what Carter accomplished in the first year of the project.



How Does the Town of Montague Support Local Agriculture?

1. Montague has historically been active in preserving farmland through the Henry Wadsworth Conservation Fund.
2. Three community gardens are maintained in Turners, including a temporary lot near Unity Park, plus one in Montague Center
3. The town has an Agricultural Business Overlay district to promote permanent protection of productive agricultural land by allowing landowners to develop property that is not valuable for agricultural purposes via "back lot development."
4. The agriculture commission reformed in the summer of 2010 and is working on a right-to-farm bylaw, and conducting a survey and inventory of local farms.
5. The town completed a 2010 update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which includes preserving agriculture as a way of life as a high priority www.montague-ma.gov/Pages/MontagueMA_Planning/docs
6. The town participates in Chapter 61 tax incentive program.

Chart compiled with help from town planner Walter Ramsey.

DEPORT from page 4

settling in Utah, and whose own family crossed the Mexican border a few times themselves. He would be well advised to learn from Ronald Reagan (who granted amnesty to three million undocumented immigrants in 1986) or even George W. Bush (who supported a path to legalization for the undocumented).

Romney might consider that his immigration stance is at odds with his faith. The Mormon Church actively promotes compassion towards all immigrants.

Most of all, Romney needs to realize that Americans don't want a long, slow purge of the undocumented. What we want is sensible, comprehensive immigration reform.

Raul A. Reyes is an attorney and columnist in New York City. This article was distributed via Other Words (OtherWords.org)



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Wage Study Proposed in Response to Town Employee Pay Concerns

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY - Workers in town departments are dissatisfied with their levels of compensation, after several years of budget tightening.

In response to several complaints throughout town departments, the selectboard on Tuesday agreed to have a special town meeting in late March or early April in order to vote on funding for a wage and classification study.

Staffing and wage cut-backs since the recession began have challenged town departments, and "Each department has a good case they can make" for more staff or better compensation, said selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother.

Selectboard member Pat Allen emphasized that having the big picture to "get context" would be critical for the town to make the best choices possible given continued budget constraints.

In a follow-up call, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the purpose of the study would be to survey surrounding communities, and communities with comparable demographics to Montague, to make sure the town has not slipped behind in paying competitive wages and benefits to its employees. The town has not conducted a wage and classification study since 2001; (recommendations from that study were finally implemented in 2005).

Abbondanzio said, "We don't want to become a training ground for surrounding towns. It's apparent at entry level positions we are not keeping pace."

Among the many

requests from town departments are bonuses and reclassifications for Water Pollution Control Facility personnel, increased hours for board of selectmen clerical work and building inspection administrative tasks, and stipends for computer administration. The highway department would like to rehire a groundskeeper and a mechanic, and the WPCF would also like to add another employee.

While these and other departments wait for a wage and classification study to be approved, Barbara Miller's request for a stipend for her information technology work for town hall was approved for the next fiscal year's budget, at \$2,000. Miller, who is also the director of assessing, has been doing the computer work for the last three years without a stipend, whereas previously stipends had been paid for such work.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio has already begun gathering quotes for a wage and classification study from consulting firms, for what he estimated could be a \$20,000 - \$25,000 study.

In 2005, a background document provided to town meeting members from the town administrator on the estimated cost of implementing the earlier pay and classification study calculated the likely impact to town finances at \$115,000.

Meanwhile, the art

Go on an old mill building, that is. In January, it was announced that Terry Marshlian of Northfield won the \$7500 juried Riverscaping design award for Turners Falls (other awards were

also granted for Springfield, Holyoke, and Hadley through Five College / European Union Riverscaping grants), to install his art project on the façade of Strathmore mill Building Number Eleven.

Marshlian presented his designs to the selectboard to get their approval of the aesthetics, in order to continue the process of obtaining funding and insurance for the project through the Riverscaping grant.

The selectboard approved the project.

"I can't wait to see it," said Allen.

"It's an entirely plausible, creative idea," commented building inspector David Jensen.

Marshlian will install a series of 460 moveable panels made out of highly reflective recycled aluminum, which will shimmer in the wind and mirror the motion of the Connecticut River, on the face of Building Eleven using special compression clamps, which artist explained should not damage the old brickwork.

"Safety and liability are my number one priority," he said, although he also welcomed any opportunity to involve the community in the process of thinking about the art and design. "I'm so happy to be doing this," Marshlian added.

A former teacher at San Francisco University, now a three year resident of Northfield, has installed large scale art projects in California, Northfield, and Springfield which have included wigwams, solar panels, and Archimedes screws.

Town planner Walter Ramsey explained the art project can stay up on the

WARREN from page 1 people jammed into the room went from expectant to wildly enthusiastic in their welcome.

It is fair to say that Warren's opening remarks about her upbringing by working parents, her father's heart attack when she was 12, her mother's employment at Sears in order to make the mortgage payments, her own first job as a babysitter paid 35 cents an hour, and her description of her three older brothers served to make her seem as familiar as the girl next door. Formerly an elementary school teacher, she gave great kudos to public schools and universities where she was educated through law school. Warren now teaches law at Harvard University.

She went on to take

questions from the floor.

Warren said she would work to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act to end discrimination against non-traditional couples.

When she listed a half dozen of Senator Brown's negative votes on bills from health care reform to President Obama's jobs bill, outlining her support for these same measures and how she would work to support progressive legislation, the people in the Arts Café cheered louder with each point she made.

To the suggestion that what America really needs is single payer health care, Warren responded, "Yes, but we need to make sure the Republicans don't undo health care reform and send us backwards."

The audience listened closely to everything

Warren said. At every point where she expressed her beliefs and positions, they responded with roars of approval. Warren's introduction to the Democrats of Franklin County soon took on the air of an old fashioned political stemwinder, with the crowd getting more energized with each remark she made.

The statewide polls may not show it yet, with Warren down by nine points in Suffolk University's telephone survey of 600 Massachusetts residents last week. But Scott Brown might want to take note of the electric response Warren generates just by stepping into a room and saying hello.

Our junior senator has reason to be nervous.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT TRAILS COMMITTEE

Chain Saw Safety Class, and Leverett Trails Report

BY MARY ALICE WILSON - On March 3rd, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Leverett town hall, the Leverett trails committee will present certified chain saw safety instructor Walker Korby for a free class on 'Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance.' If you have never used a saw and are planning to, or if you are an occasional user, this class is essential. Even if you have been using one for years, you are still guaranteed to come away with some new knowledge to

keep you sawing safely for many more years to come.

On March 4th, at 2:00 p.m., at the Leverett Library, the committee presents: 'the Trails of Leverett'. What has been accomplished by the Leverett Trails committee, with the help of many volunteers, and what still needs to be done? More trail work? Mapping? Stewardship? Bring your ideas.

For more information visit: www.rattlesnakegut-trust.org/events.

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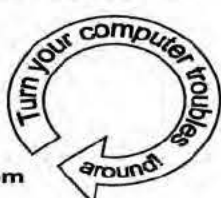
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Considers Regionalization Articles

BY JOSH

HEINEMANN &

KATIE NOLAN - Wendell will hold a special town meeting on Tuesday, February 28th.

On that meeting's warrant are two articles that address school regionalization.

The first would rescind the vote of December 19th, 2007 which authorized the Mahar school committee to study a range of K-12 regionalization alternatives, including a four town K-12 district.

The second would authorize the Mahar school committee to study a range of K-12 regionalization alternatives, excluding a pre-K-12 hybrid district.

The Mahar regionalization planning committee (RPC) had asked to meet with the Wendell selectboard, so the Wendell selectboard scheduled an extra, off-week meeting for Wednesday, February 22nd, at 5:00 p.m., and school committee members Dick Baldwin, and Johanna Bartlett, joined the selectboard on February 15th along with finance committee members to discuss the agenda for the upcoming meeting with the RPC.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine's

made the opening remark that the special meeting of the selectboard should have been based on Wendell's questions for the RPC, rather than on the RPC's effort to convince Wendell to approve the hybrid regionalization plan as proposed.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas said the intention was to have regionalization consultant Ken Rocke present options, and then to seek consensus around which of those options the RPC should pursue.

Bartlett said the RPC seems to have the strange belief that no one in Wendell knows what the school committee and the finance committee representatives are up to, that Slavas and Idoine and Baldwin are obstructing the regionalization process while keeping Wendell citizens in the dark about their tactics.

Baldwin said he was convinced that, "Jim [Slavas] knows more about the ramifications," of the hybrid regionalization proposal than anyone on the RPC. He said that pushing the plan through now would be premature, the Swift River School administration and school committee is satisfied as a member of U-28, and the RPC is resisting looking at

other possibilities.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested the school committee and finance committee members send the selectboard a list of issues that should be addressed at this meeting. Selectboard chair Christine Heard said the biggest question is why the RPC does not pursue other regionalization options.

The special meeting was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. because finance committee member Doug Tanner was scheduled to perform at the Deja Brew pub at 7:30 p.m. that night.

Nancy Graton opened the meeting by reserving the town hall for the tentative date of Sunday, April 15th, for a spaghetti supper to benefit Good Neighbors. Graton said one third of Wendell residents are signed up to get food at the Sunday food pantry distributions.

Selectboard members signed an agreement, as approved at the annual town meeting, that would authorize the Hampshire Council of Governments to get DPU approval to enter into an electricity purchasing agreement with 24 towns that have voted to buy electricity from HCOG. Unless they actively chose otherwise, households in town will be included in this

program, which is intended to save consumers money.

Board members also signed a letter in support of Senate Bill 1664 and House Bill 1776, which would increase the net metering cap on solar on site generation, and so encourage development of new solar installations.

Before talking about regionalization, Idoine reported some of the Department of Revenue's (DOR) suggestions that followed their financial management review. He said the DOR recommended written job descriptions for town positions and recommended the town use a different auditor.

Keller said the auditor the town has been using is familiar with the town and the way it works and has done a good job.

At the February 1st meeting, Idoine relayed the DOR recommendation that the town put all its money articles on the annual town meeting warrant and avoid making appropriations at special town meetings through the year. Heard it is a good idea in principle, and that departments should start to think along those lines. But if rigidly applied, this rule could become too restrictive.

LEONARDO from pg 1

interviews with specialists, the show's curator, star turns from guests across the arts, even remarks from an Anglican bishop.

The documentary includes segments about Leonardo's life, and preparations for the exhibition.

Most of the paintings at the National Gallery have been loaned from museums in France, Italy and Poland. One big surprise is that the exhibition also included *Christ as Salvator Mundi* (Savior of the World), a newly attributed 16th painting owned by the National Gallery.

This ethereal portrait depicts Jesus with his hand raised in blessing. The actress Fiona Shaw pinpoints the eeriness of Jesus as depicted in the painting when she refers to "the hovering eternity" of the image.

Interestingly, the *Salvator Mundi* was only authenticated in 2011 as a Da Vinci painting, after some controversy.Although art historians had known that Da Vinci had painted a version of *Salvatore Mundi*, the painting itself was lost for centuries.

The work was documented in the collection of King Charles I of England in 1649 before it was sold at auction in 1763. Where it had been stored subsequently is unknown.

Previous restoration attempts made the painting difficult to authenticate, and it was sold at auction for a mere 45 pounds in 1958.

In 2005, the work was acquired by a consortium of US art dealers and restored. The painting has since been studied by several experts on Da Vinci and the Renaissance period. A consensus has emerged that this work is, in fact, the long lost *Salvatore**Mundi* da Vinci painted.Another high point of the exhibit is that it includes both of Da Vinci's two versions of the *Virgin of the Rocks*. In a rare cooperation, the Louvre allowed its precious version to cross the Channel so it could hang - for the first time ever - in the same room as Leonardo's second version of the painting, which is owned by the National Gallery.

One big difference between the two paintings is that the National Gallery has restored and cleaned their painting, while the Louvre has not. Due to this, the colors are strikingly dissimilar.

Along with many of Da Vinci's drawings and uncompleted paintings, the exhibition includes three of da Vinci's beautifully idealized, yet fully expressive portraits: *The Portrait of a Musician*, *La Belle Feronnierre*, and *The Lady with an Ermine*.

Overall, the movie tends toward redundant hyperbole, which makes it often come across as more a fluffy advertisement for the National Gallery than an art retrospective of substance. Viewers are continually reminded, for example, that the exhibition is a "once-in-a-lifetime, never-to-be-repeated" occasion.

However, the movie does have some wonderful highlights and includes a few interesting perceptions about Da Vinci's unique approach. And the works themselves are so impressive that - for those of us who missed the opportunity to attend the exhibition in London - it is a rare treat to see them!

Leonard Live will be shown again on March 3rd and 5th at the Amherst Cinema, with limited tickets still available. The February shows have sold out.

MORE NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Meets with Regionalization Planners

JOSH HEINEMANN - Regionalization consultant Ken Rocke began the meeting between Wendell town officials and the Mahar regionalization planning subcommittee (RPC) by invoking the "good intentions" and "rationality" of everyone present. The meeting between the RPC and the Wendell selectboard, finance committee, school committee and interested

citizens took place on Wednesday, February 22nd, and though differences were raised, discussion was quiet and respectful.

Michael LeBlanc, Petersham's representative and chair of the RPC, gave a short history of his town's school regionalization effort. In 2003, the Petersham town meeting voted to create a committee to study regionaliza-

tion. The first option facing that meeting was whether or not to pursue a K-12 region, and that passed almost unanimously. That left a choice between joining with Mahar and Orange for K-12, or with Quabbin high school.

Petersham voters chose Quabbin by a narrow margin, but Oakham, one of the towns in the Quabbin region, voted against

accepting Petersham, closing out that option.

Next, the town turned to Mahar and formed a regionalization committee that is now the RPC.

He said the choice to regionalize was never about money, but about the quality of education, the idea of a continuous curriculum for every student and being able to follow every student from see WENDELL pg 14

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Letter from Istanbul

The Arab Spring Should Come to Turkey



Turkish lawmakers discuss the finer points of legislation at a recent meeting of Parliament on February 9th.

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO -

Turkey is engaged in a fierce debate over how democratic and secular a nation it will be.

In many ways, this is not surprising. Turkey is a heavily Islamic country. Istanbul, for instance, has more mosques per square kilometer than any city in the Muslim world, including Mecca. And while few women wear chadors or burkas, the majority of Turks are fairly traditional Sunni Muslims.

But the ruling Islamist-leaning Justice and Development Party (AKP) has also presided over a booming economy, and for most here, this matters even more than the AKP's religiosity.

Within the past year, however, growing signs have emerged that secular and democratic principles are less important for the government and the ruling party than holding onto power itself.

The AKP, headed by prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is still enormously popular in Turkey, as evidenced by its landslide reelection last summer. Almost from the moment of Erdogan's first election in 2003, he demonstrated a fear (some critics call it paranoia) of being ousted from power by force.

Erdogan has reason to be on

guard. Modern Turkey has been plagued by military coups.

The military in Turkey has an ambivalent reputation. Some view the army as the guardian of the constitution, poised to enforce Kemal Ataturk's (founder of modern Turkey) insistence on a clear division between mosque and state.

Others see the military as a ruthless bunch of ultra-nationalists who have little regard for democratic principles, and who are quick to stifle any possible compromise of Ataturk's original vision of a strong central government, in which Islam is seen as the political enemy.

Erdogan and the AKP are among those who view the military with distrust. Therefore, it was not much of a surprise when last year a number of military officers were accused by the justice ministry of plotting to overthrow the government.

At first, just a few officers were arrested. By the end of 2011, over 400 current and former officers, among them many generals and admirals – including the former chief-of-staff of the armed services – were swept up and imprisoned on vague charges of conspiracy.

When the round-up began, many Turks breathed sighs of

relief. The memories of coups are generally unpleasant for most of the population. By the end of 2011, however, many Turks were beginning to feel that Erdogan and the AKP were attempting to consolidate power so they could push forward an Islamic agenda without fear of a military coup.

This theory has been fueled in part by the fact that no military officer has yet been put on trial, nor has evidence against the accused plotters been made public.

The arrests have not been confined simply to military officers. Journalists, too, have been targets. More than 100 journalists now sit behind bars, with no trials scheduled, nor evidence against them circulated in public.

The attempted silencing of the press has created an even bigger chill in the country, and has made allies out of right-wing nationalists, liberals and far-leftists.

Several highly respected editors, writers and publishers are now behind bars in Turkey. Among the more high-profile internees are one of Turkey's most eminent publishers, Ragip Zarakolu, a constitutional law professor, Busra Ersamli, and distinguished investigative journalists Ahmet Sik and Nedim Sener. All are vaguely charged

with aiding the political wing of the outlawed PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party).

The arrest of Zarakolu, a long-time foe of government censorship, sent shockwaves across Turkey, and reverberated internationally. PEN International, the world-wide association of writers, denounced Zarakolu's arrest in the strongest terms. American PEN delivered a petition of protest on Zarakolu's behalf to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Ahmet Sik and Nedim Sener are vaguely accused of conspiring with a gang aiming to overthrow the government – a gang whose criminal activity they had exposed in the past. More recently, Sener, who was named a World Press Freedom Hero by the International Press Institute last year, and Sik had begun investigating the activities of a powerful Islamic network with links to the government.

Among the evidence seized during Sik's arrest was a book he was writing, in which he claimed the Turkish police had been infiltrated by Islamists.

Prosecutors ordered every copy of the manuscript, which they described as an "illegal organizational document," seized. One copy managed to escape the searches and seizures and, last November, Sik's book was finally published through the efforts of friends.

It went on display in a grand act of defiance at the Istanbul International Book Fair last fall.

Despite these arrests, a fair number of committed Turkish writers and columnists have continued to speak out against the wholesale arrest of their fellow scriveners.

The Europeans are also keeping a watchful eye on Turkey. Paris-based Reporters Without Borders listed Turkey as 148th out of 178 countries in its World Press Freedom Index for 2011.

Even some Americans are getting involved. On January 30th, Brooklyn writer Paul Auster, who is also vice-president of American PEN, and whose novels are extremely popular in Turkey, gave an interview to one of the leading Turkish papers. In it, Auster announced he would not come to Turkey, "because of imprisoned writers and journalists."

These statements created an immediate backlash from prime

minister Erdogan.

"Paul Auster gave an interview to a Turkish newspaper recently. He said he will not come to Turkey as he finds it anti-democratic and because of arrested journalists. Oh! We were much in need of you! If you come, so what? If you don't come, so what? Will Turkey lose prestige?"

Erdogan continued, attacking Auster next for his willingness in the past to visit Israel.

"Supposedly, Israel is a democratic, secular country, a country where freedom of expression and individual rights and freedoms are limitless. What an ignorant man you are. Aren't these the ones that rained bombs down on Gaza? The ones that launched phosphorus bombs and used chemical weapons? How can you not see this?"

Auster responded, "All countries are flawed and beset by myriad problems, Mr. Prime Minister, including my United States, including your Turkey, and it is my firm conviction that in order to improve conditions in our countries, in every country, the freedom to speak and publish without censorship or the threat of imprisonment is a sacred right for all men and women."

Erdogan, not yet satisfied, retorted: "We have a situation here that Western intellectuals have never experienced. In the west, journalists do not take part in coup plots, they do not write books to lay the ground for coups."

The opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), however, is urging Auster to come so that he can see first-hand how Turkey is squelching press freedom.

This, in turn, brought another angry response from Erdogan.

"If that writer [Auster] responds to the CHP's invitation and comes to Turkey, let them go together also to Israel and picnic at a hill overlooking Gaza."

The opposition party, the CHP, has also been very actively engaged in attempting to make public at home and abroad their concerns that democracy is truly at peril in Turkey. Earlier this month, the head of the CHP, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, denounced Erdogan in a *Washington Post* op-ed piece as a "post-modern dictator."

In Turkey, Kilicdaroglu wrote, "One gets arrested; then authorize **ISTANBUL** page 10

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Chinese Culture through Student Eyes, at Great Falls Art Exhibit

BY SHEILA DAMKOEHLER

GREAT FALLS – During the month of March, art, history, and literature converge at East to West, an exhibit of student art at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

The student art work is inspired by traditional Chinese family recreational activities related to this year's Pioneer Valley Big Read selection: *The Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan. The public is invited to a free opening reception on Saturday, March 3rd, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and can view the exhibit Fridays and Saturdays from March 9th – March 31st, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

With this exhibit, young readers and artists from area public schools are helping the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) and Memorial Hall Museum explore

the themes presented in Amy Tan's book about 20th century Chinese immigrants and their life in China and in their new home in the West. *The Joy Luck Club* makes frequent reference to times of recreation with family and friends, thus the theme of "Stories, Games, and Festivals" was chosen as the exhibit's focus.

Students from kindergarten through grade seven from Greenfield and Pioneer Valley Regional schools used a variety of media — including watercolor, pastel, tempera, and inks — to create an array of two- and three-dimensional art inspired by Chinese traditions and motifs. Two hundred years ago, local residents may have first enjoyed Chinese or Chinese-inspired art through Chinese export porcelain (or English imitations), so the exhibit also looks at that earlier fascination with Chinese art

through digital images of Memorial Hall Museum's ceramics collection — blending art, history, and literature.

The exhibit is one of a number of events around the valley this winter and spring that are sponsored by PVMA's Big Read of *The Joy Luck Club* (visit the Big Read page at www.deerfield-ma.org for listings).

Lanterns inspired by "Lin Yi's Lantern," a children's picture book of the Chinese Moon Festival. First and Second graders at the Discovery School at Four Corners (a Greenfield public school), worked collaboratively to make the decorative papers for these lanterns. Students worked in pairs, with one class doing one stage of the process, and another class continuing. The two styles of paper the students made are: 1) Oil pastel and watercolor resist, 2) Tissue paper collage on mylar.



The New Renaissance Players Present Treasure Island at the Shea Theater - February 24th, 7 p.m., February 25th & 26th, 2 p.m.



BY JC PRODUCT

TURNERS FALLS – Bring your school age costumed pirates for a fun adventure on the high seas!

It began with the camper's pledge to leave the theater with

what we brought in, and then, with a hardy "Aaarghh!" of unity, we were off to *Treasure Island*.

Fiona Wilson played Young Jim Hawkins, and set the scene for us in a clear, light British

accent. Her voice was pleasant, full of innocence and intelligence, and she immediately impressed with a lively and lengthy monologue. Her cadence was masterful, and all the more impressive for her youth.

As the play went on, Ms. Wilson played the un-credited dual role of Young Jim and the narrator, delivering speeches like pirate jewels, each as flawless as the first.

Wilson appeared in almost every scene and not once did she stumble or fall out of character. When crying for her dead father, scrambling to save her mother's

life, even when sword fighting to save herself, Wilson commanded the stage and her lines as if Jim Hawkins himself had come to Turners Falls to tell his tale. It was an engaging and impressive performance from this young thespian.

Wilson's task was made easier by a terrific supporting cast. Erika Wolbach's Dr. Livesey upstaged everyone without uttering a single word. I found myself straining to hear her above the barks of a rum-drunk pirate bully, Billy Bones, played capably by Tony Manica. Gilana Chelinsky as the loose-tongued Squire Trelawney turned up the volume on hilarity with her silly jigs and finely tuned snobbery. The audience would have delighted at more stage time from these two crusty upper classmen and the heart-broken Bones.

Ben Miller, first as Blind Pew then as Ben Gunn, was another gem in the bounty. While his blind Frenchman was sinister with a comic side, his marooned

pirate was wacky and slightly deranged with a singular taste for a certain French delicacy. In both roles Mr. Miller was a crowd favorite.

Of course, *Treasure Island* would not exist without a gang of pirates, and this troupe clearly delighted in the roles into which they were cast. Whether stalking their prey, swabbing the decks, or challenging power to the death, this rascallion crew, on the whole, kept the audience willingly suspending our disbelief. They had the difficult task of being on stage frequently without any written lines to utter. They did a mighty fine job of being in the moment — reacting to the dialogue around them and staying in character throughout.

The leader of the pirate gang, Long John Silver, was played by Jonathan Kelly, and he acted the part as if born for the role. He lured and lulled, cajoled and clamored, hunted and hounded like a true villain of the high seas. He was quite convincing as the

see SHEA page 16

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VERMONT YANKEE Info Sessions to Be Held

Five information sessions for the general public will be held in Franklin County on the topic of the Safe and Green Energy Alliance's (www.SAGEAlliance.net) upcoming campaign, employing nonviolent direct action, to support the state of Vermont's legal effort to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor on schedule on March 21st, 2012. SAGE

resource people will be present to answer questions about the campaign, and affinity group formation and nonviolence training will be discussed.

Information sessions will be held: February 23rd, in **Shelburne Falls** (73 Main Street, 7:00 p.m., contact: 413-625-9671); February 26th, in **Orange** (13 South Main, 3:00 p.m., contact: tom@tomwyattphoto.com);

February 27th, in **Greenfield** (Community Room Green Fields Market, 6:30 p.m., contact: 802-258-0124); February 27th, in **Sunderland** (Sunderland Library, 7:00 p.m., contact: 774-563-9845); March 4th, in **Shutesbury** (295 Montague Road, 5:00 p.m., contact: 413-570-0009). An additional info session is planned in **Gill** on March 4th; (call 863-4992 for more details).

from VERMONT page 1

Commission (NRC).

The state countered that the legislature was acting out of concerns about the plant's future reliability, environmental and economic impacts. These concerns are permitted based on the PG&E case, Sorrell said.

In the PG&E case, Sorrell said the U.S. Supreme Court decided it was "not going to go into the legal weeds" and carefully review statements made by individual lawmakers. "Instead, they looked at the last, finished product."

Sorrell said Murtha's ruling "has the potential to chill legislative debates in the future" and will make lawmakers "afraid to make public statements that could be used later to challenge the legal validity of legislation."

"[There would be] a definite disincentive for people to speak their minds," said Sorrell. "Left unchallenged, this decision could make it harder for ordinary Vermonters to clearly state their views in future legislative hearings."

The state had until February 21st to announce its decision to file an appeal.

Earlier this week, Sorrell had sought an extension until March 9th to respond to a motion filed by Entergy over legal fees in the lawsuit. Entergy is seeking more than \$4.6 million in legal fees from the state of Vermont to pay for the corporation's legal team.

Sorrell said Saturday the state of Vermont has spent roughly \$400,000 on the *Entergy v. VY* case, and he doesn't expect that pursuing an appeal will cost the state a substantial amount of money.

"An appeal is less expensive and less time-consuming than the trial itself," he said.

Sorrell said he and his staff

have been consulting with the Washington, D.C., law firm Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans, and Figel on possible strategies for the appeal.

Sorrell said Saturday he has been working with David Frederick, whom he described as a "nationally respected" attorney with extensive experience in federal appellate cases. He said Frederick will play a "prominent role" in the appeal effort.

The state did not seek outside legal help during the initial trial.

When asked if he had any regrets for not doing so, Sorrell responded he had "absolutely none," adding that if the state had chosen to seek outside counsel, "It wouldn't have cost \$4.6 million like Entergy."

The Entergy legal team was led by Kathleen Sullivan, the former dean of Stanford Law School, who is considered one of the top attorneys in the country.

"Corporations can bring much more resources to bear [in a case] than a state the size of Vermont," Sorrell said. "But the cost of the case should not have an effect on the rightness of the cause and the desire to fight."

"This is a case that will have wide effects beyond Vermont," he said. "I did not think this case would end in Vermont, and my view on that hasn't changed."

Sorrell said he anticipates that other organizations, pro and con, as well as neighboring states, will likely file amicus, or "friend of the court," briefs during the appeals process, but he predicted the appeal will not hinge upon how much outside support the state receives.

"The bottom line is — I want to see Judge Murtha's ruling overturned," Sorrell said.

Sorrell anticipates the state will file its briefs to the Second Circuit within a couple of months, and then Entergy will

have the opportunity to respond.

Initial oral arguments will likely take place in the spring, with a trial probably taking place in the fall of 2012.

As for the CPG that Vermont Yankee needs to operate legally under Vermont law, that case is before the Public Service Board, but the debate is now over whether additional testimony needs to be taken before the PSB issues its ruling.

Vermont governor Peter Shumlin (D-Putney) said earlier this month he supports the PSB taking additional testimony. In late January, Entergy CEO J. Wayne Leonard said his company believes that, based on Murtha's ruling, there is no need to take additional testimony and that the PSB should issue a CPG to allow for Vermont Yankee to continue operations for 20 more years without further delay.

U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders, (I) said Saturday that he supports Vermont's decision to appeal.

"I believe the law is clear that states have the right to reject nuclear power based on economic and other reasons that have nothing to do with safety," said Sanders in a news release.

"If Vermont wants to move to energy efficiency and sustainable energy, no corporation should have the right to force our state to stay tethered to an aging, problem-ridden nuclear plant," Sanders added.

In a statement issued Saturday, Entergy spokesman Michael Burns said, "We stand ready to respond to the state's appeal. We are committed to ensuring that Vermont Yankee continues to deliver safe, clean and reliable power to the people and businesses in New England, as it does today, and to protecting the jobs of the 600 dedicated Entergy employees in Vermont."



Remember FUKUSHIMA Walk from SEABROOK to Vermont Yankee

LEVERETT - One year after the nuclear disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility, nine organizations including the Leverett Peace Pagoda are co-sponsoring a "Remember Fukushima" walk to begin at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station on the Seacoast of New Hampshire on March 3rd. Local residents are invited to join for an hour, a day or the whole journey.

This will be the 10th annual walk known as "Walk for a New Spring," begun five months after the World Trade Center disasters in the spring of 2002. The goal of each New Spring walk has been to inspire society to live in a more

sustainable and peaceful way.

This year, billed as "Remember Fukushima," the walk will visit four New England states with communities all within 50 miles of a nuclear power reactor.

Three reactors in this area, in Seabrook, NH, Plymouth, MA and Vernon, VT, are up for relicensing. All have been cited for leaking radioactive chemicals into the environment as well as other aging related problems.

A calendar of the walk's planned route and more details are available from Tim Bullock at the Peace Pagoda by phone at: 413-485-8469 or by email at: walk4newspring@gmail.com.

from ISTANBUL page 8

ties gather evidence to establish an infraction. Presumed guilt is the norm. Sadly, all opponents of the government are viewed as potential terrorists or plotters against the state."

Erdogan as usual denounced Kilicdaroglu, claiming the CHP leader was at the forefront of a "very ugly and dangerous campaign to smear Turkey. We will struggle against this black propaganda. We will tell the whole world over and over again that not journalists and writers but people who plotted a military coup and engaged in terrorist activities are in jail," he said.

The war of words has continued, as have the indefinite jail sentences of the vaguely accused plotters and journalists. The exchanges between the AKP and the CHP got so heated last Thursday, February 9th., that an actual brawl erupted on the floor of Parliament, with members of the opposing parties pushing and shoving one another, and, in at least one case, engaging in mild fisticuffs.

The domestic and international criticism of Turkey has not restrained Erdogan in the least. Last week, he declared his party's mission was to "raise a pious generation." Ironically, this statement was made on the 75th anniversary of secularism in Turkey.

Immediately, warning sirens went off in the minds of many Turks who have felt since the establishment of the republic quite free to practice (or not practice) their religion as they saw fit, and to raise their children according to their own beliefs.

Erdogan, under increased fire to clarify his position, seemed late last week only to dig himself in further: "There is no reference to people as pious or non-pious in my statements. There is the ideal of raising a pious generation. I stand behind my words... Do you expect us, the AK Party, which has a conservative-democrat identity, to raise an atheist generation? Should we, instead, raise homeless drug addicts?"

The opposition, of course, went into overdrive. Almost every columnist in the major dailies commented. Semih Idiz, writing in the centrist newspaper *The Milliyet*, noted that no one was doing more to cement the idea that the AKP did have a "secret Islamic agenda it will activate once the environment is ripe," than Erdogan himself.

Others, of course, came to the AKP's defense, but even a columnist in the Islamist *Zaman* remarked that Erdogan appears to be flaunting the constitution. Others echoed this idea, but pointed out that with most of the military brass in jail, the Turkish people couldn't count on the military to safeguard secularism.

On the street the debates are continuing. Indeed, in every tea cafe in Istanbul the locals are talking about their country's situation. On the buses, in restaurants, in the barber shop, it's a frequent topic of conversation, almost as dominant as soccer. Students, too, are exercised over the perceived loss of democracy in Turkey.

As one student recently remarked, "Perhaps the Arab Spring should be a model for Turkey."



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The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page: -
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Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at
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or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Janel Nockleby
design by Claudia Wells

Ask the Kids

Thank you, Maure Briggs Carrington
For Occupying the bank, every day, in Turners.
(The 99% are so beautiful!)
I want to get my body out there too
But my town doesn't have a bank.
Should I occupy the post office?

I think I'll ask the children,
"How can our town join the Occupation?"
I'll explain the problems. Say we need solutions.
They'll know what to do. They always know.
Let's ask the kids, in school.

Let's ask them Now!

—Alice Scheffey
Leverett

They Shall Beat Their Swords...

With my father's Army ballpeen hammer I'd found
down in the cellar, I kept banging on the swordblade,
trying to turn it back into a plowshare like the ones
the prophets sang of. Plowshares? Hell, what did I know
of plowshares? Once more trouble was stewing—

you could taste it—what with old Shermans phosphoring
into ash across the desert, and all those blackened corpses
on the road to Tripoli and Hell. My right forefinger
stood poised on the passage from Isaiah, searching for
the recipe for peace. Too late, the pundits wagged. Too late!

Too late for anything like peace. A thousand generations
since Cain clubbed his brother in some field, and a million
cries for peace, for plowshares, say, and what's to show?
The bells keep tolling in their broken towers for the dead
at Megiddo or at Manhattan's smoking prow, as at Shiloh,

Passchendaele, the Bulge...and now in some hell hole called
Abbottabad. Four Blackhawks in and one already down.
And the ballpeen hammer bangs once more as some blinded
prophet scrambles from his bed. Ah, my father, look how
the plowshares keep turning into bullets, and the bullets
into brains.

—Paul Mariani
Montague

When Corporations Are People

I shook hands with a corporation today;

felt grey flannel veins

pumping poison

where blood might have been.

Deliberate, precise,

its cold, calculating fingers

rubbed my skin raw.

The corporation leered at me,

a ghoulish hermaphrodite

enshrouded in

a drab, ominous fog

thick with masculine ideology

and the stench of rigor mortis.

I wrenched myself

from the corporation's steely grip,

palpitating like an agitated machine

and saturated in sickening metallic
sweat.

My nausea embraced me,

as though it were the caress

of a warm and caring hand.

—Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

Christmas Eve 1945

They've propped me with a comforter
there in the living room just off the dim-lit kitchen,
where reddish bubble lights keep winking
from the etched-out blue black spruce. The scratched

mahogany top of Uncle Charlie's secondhand
Dumont lies pried open at an angle like some coffin
lid, flickering gray images off its five-inch screen.
I'm five, alone, enmeshed now in the first TV

pictures I've ever seen, the strains of a violin
playing klezmer music as Army bulldozers nose
white manikins forward, legs and arms flailing
as they tumble headlong into the pit. A pall

of snow pitches forward into the darkness
of these tenements as a voice keens there
from the console, though it's the music I keep hearing,
notes long since tattooed upon my tattered brain.

For the thousandth time the Army bulldozers
turn again, nosing the bodies forward into the waiting
maw. Once more the dark night the Psalmist sang of
hunkers down, as if keeping watch, except that

they're all gone now, the once-living and the dead, returned
now to the depths from which we all once sprang. Nothing
for it then, old cantor, but to sing them on their way, all those
with names, names only, and the million nameless ones.

—Paul Mariani
Montague

Contributors' Notes:

Kevin Smith lives in Turners Falls and is a
tubist, therapist, and poet.

Gini Brown is a Berkeley mom watching life
go by and kids grow up. Some moments
feel like poetry.

Alice Scheffey lives in Leverett.

Paul Mariani lives in Montague Center, is a
poet, teacher, and biographer. His biogra-
phy of Hart Crane, *The Broken Tower*, has
inspired a film by James Franco.

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On Books – Why I Left the Amish

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - In her book, *Why I Left the Amish*, Saloma Miller Furlong gives several reasons, telling her life story in the present, coupled with flashbacks to a former life and time.

I was interested in Saloma's story because our family became acquainted with an Amish family in Pennsylvania, decades ago. We have kept in touch with them, and it is interesting to see changes in their lifestyle as children take over and their bishops grow more lenient.

The Amish is a group of Christian church fellowships that form a closed society, and Saloma's community in rural Ohio was no exception. Outsiders can neither join nor marry into the social group, except when Amish leave, marry an outsider, and then return as a couple with the outsider applying to join. Marriage within the community often means marrying cousins.

The Amish are known for simple living, plain dress, and resistance to modern conveniences, including ownership of motorized transport, though they often ride in someone else's motorized vehicle.

Every aspect of Amish life is governed by a male hierarchy, down to details about hairstyle and beards. The bishop, who rules his church district like a fiefdom, is guided by elders, composed of ministers and deacons. Decisions about everyday aspects of life may often seem capricious, varying from district to district.

"Our bishop in Ohio allowed the use of chainsaws, back when I still lived there," Saloma said. "That was long before other

bishops allowed them. Amish people heat with wood, so it was a great time saver."

Our friends in Pennsylvania only recently got the bishop's nod to use chainsaws.

Women are second class citizens in the social order, with little or no say in their day to day affairs. In Saloma's earlier life, she lived in a family dominated by a sharp tongued grandmother, an abusive father and an abusive brother. Saloma felt she didn't leave the Amish, as much as she escaped the Amish and the abuse of her father and brother.

Saloma needed to carefully plan and conceal her flight, so as to avoid being brought back for a concerted harangue by family and church members urging her return to the fold. She worked for an "English" woman, doing housework, and this woman initially helped her. She was further encouraged by the kindness of strangers in the outside world, as she made her way to Vermont by rail, in a spontaneous latter day version of the underground railroad.

Saloma dreamed of advancing her education. Amish children cannot further their education beyond grammar school, either in an Amish school, taught by a teacher who has only a grammar school education, or in a public school.

Saloma attended both. She did well in school despite often being kept at home to help with chores. When school officials said that was not a valid reason, Saloma's mother simply wrote "Ill" as an excuse for keeping her home.

Boys are allowed to sow their wild oats, drinking, racing their buggies and engaging in other

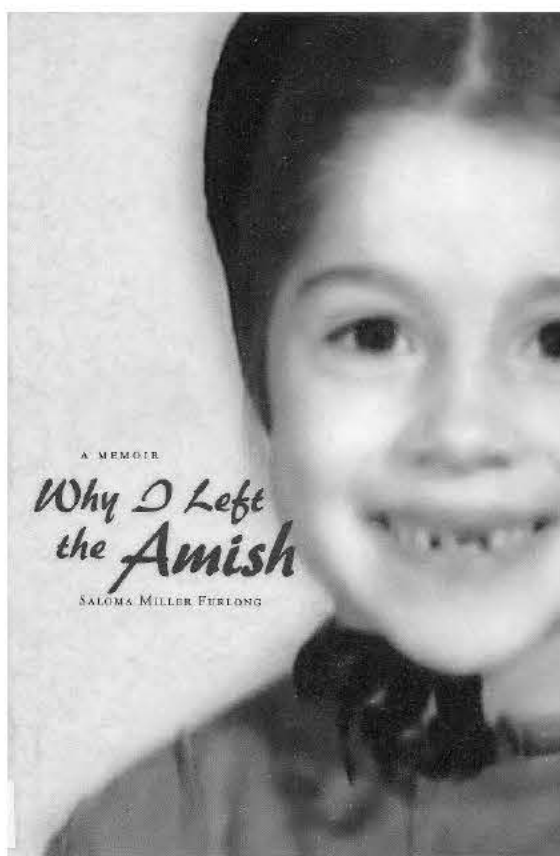
forms of rebellion until age 21, when the community requires them to act as responsible Amish adults. Girls are not allowed similar privileges.

Saloma describes the custom of "bundling" as the Amish way of dating, where a girl awaits her date in bed dressed in a night gown. She was expected to find a suitable mate in this way, but none of the suitors sparked her interest.

Though the "English" are often scorned because of their high living and complicated lives, the Amish have gradually let some of their "simple living" slip away as they adopt the ways of the outside world.

Saloma discovered that strangers were surprisingly helpful and sympathetic during her flight from the Amish, when she first buys "English" clothes to disguise her Amish appearance. Later, a kindly train conductor goes out of his way to assist her on her first train trip ever, (in a scene reminiscent of the Harrison Ford movie *Witness*) in a strange new world far from home and friends, as she made her way to Vermont.

Saloma encounters many more compassionate strangers as she settles in Vermont. She is



just such a vehicle, offered to older women who want to pursue a college education.

Saloma describes her torn feelings during reconciliation with her family, when she returns with her husband to attend her father's funeral. The reunion with family and community results in mixed emotions, and certainly a mixed reception.

This engrossing book is both engaging and informative.

happy to be free, but is faced with the dilemma of longing for family and friends.

Saloma meets and marries the love of her life, David Furlong, and they have two children. She waits until her children are grown before she sets out to fulfill her dream of higher education. The Ada Comstock Scholars program at Smith College provides her with

Saloma brings to light the problems and consequence of living in a society closed off from the outside world, and the difficulty of a woman on her own making a break from family and community.

At the end of the book, Saloma includes three appendices defining terms and practices of the Amish and their cloistered life.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Trespassing; Personal Injury from Crash

Monday, 2/13

2:10 p.m. Report of motor vehicle crash on Laurel Lake Road. No injuries. Report taken.

Tuesday, 2/14

5 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a warrant arrest at Windmill Motel.

Wednesday, 2/15

8:30 p.m. Assisted with keeping the peace at Pleasant Street residence in Orange. Orange

police tied up.

Thursday, 2/16

1:20 p.m. Suspicious person at High Street residence. Checked same. No problems.

Friday, 2/17

12:40 a.m. Arrest [redacted] for second offense of operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and marked

lanes violations.

2 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for allowing a motor vehicle to be operated with a revoked registration and no insurance on Old State Road.

9:20 pm. Assisted Montague police with personal injury crash. Vehicle into a tree on Route 63 at South Lyman Street.

Saturday, 2/18

9:45 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for

operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2 at the Erving Paper Mill.

Sunday, 2/19

6:20 p.m. Trespassing complaint on Northfield Road. Report taken.

Monday, 2/20

5:10 p.m. Complaint of a disturbance on Gunn Street. Spoke with same and advised of complaint.

7:20 p.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle on East Main Street. All set.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Are older people more likely to choke on food?

More than 3,000 people choke to death every year. Children younger than three years old and senior citizens are the leading victims.

Young children swallow small objects that get lodged in their throats. One of the main causes for choking among seniors is ill-fitting dentures that prevent them from chewing properly. This

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Food Dangers and Remedies

leads to choking on a piece of food.

Other causes of choking include drinking alcohol which can dull the nerves that help us swallow, eating too fast, laughing while eating, eating and walking.

If you ever have to use the Heimlich Maneuver on someone who is choking, here is a basic guide from the Heimlich Institute:

If a choking victim can't speak or breathe and needs your help immediately, follow these steps:

From behind, wrap your arms around the victim's waist. Make a fist and place the thumb side of your fist against the victim's upper abdomen, below the ribcage and above the navel. Grasp your fist with your other hand and press into their upper

abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Do not squeeze the ribcage; confine the force of the thrust to your hands. Repeat until object is expelled.

Q. How can I lower my triglycerides?

Triglycerides are a fat in your blood. Calories you take in but don't burn immediately are converted to triglycerides to supply you with energy later. Your triglycerides level can be too high if you continue to consume more calories than you need.

Here are some pointers on how to get your triglycerides down:

- Get off the recliner and exercise.
- Cut your caloric intake across

the board.

- Avoid saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol. A good starting point is to stay away from foods that come from animals such as meat, dairy and eggs.
- Eat oily fish such as mackerel, albacore tuna and salmon.
- Cut down on alcohol.
- Quit smoking.

Q. Does cholesterol serve any useful purpose?

Cholesterol, like triglycerides, are a fat-like substance in blood. You need it to produce cell membranes, protect nerves, and make hormones.

The body can make all the cholesterol it needs. Most cholesterol is made by your liver. You also get cholesterol from foods such as meat, eggs and dairy products. Too much cholesterol is dangerous, because cholesterol can lead to blockages in your blood vessels.

Cholesterol is transported

through the bloodstream in packages called lipoproteins. Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) deliver cholesterol to the body. High-density lipoproteins (HDL) remove cholesterol from the bloodstream. LDLs are often described as "bad" cholesterol; HDLs are called "good" cholesterol.

If there are too many LDLs in the blood, they will combine with other material in your bloodstream to manufacture plaque, a waxy crud that builds up on the inner walls of the blood vessels that feed your brain and heart. When this build-up occurs, you have a condition called "atherosclerosis," which is commonly referred to as "hardening of the arteries."

If a clot forms in blood vessels narrowed by plaque, it can block blood flow, which can cause a heart attack or a stroke.

If you have questions, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

If Budget Cuts Stand, 5000 Meals Are Off the Table

ROSEANN MARTOCCIA
MONTAGUE CITY - Nutrition services for elders have taken the biggest blow and have been hit with a proposed loss of funding of \$1.5 million dollars statewide in the Governor's budget proposal for FY13 which begins on July 1.

Released at the end of January, this document "kicks off" the budget process and provides the House and Senate a jumping off point for their evaluation of expected revenues and how the budget proposals for spending from each of their chambers will take shape.

Most of the other line items for elder services were held at essentially the same level as last year. This is also not great

news as the need continues to grow for Home Care, Protective Services and services provided at local Councils on Aging/Senior Centers. Massachusetts policy is as a "Community First" state which means that elders and persons with disabilities should have the option for home and community based services when long term supports are needed. While this is accomplished in many cases and thousands of individuals across the state benefit from care in their homes and the community, it is not possible to meet the entire need without new resources.

Incremental increases each year make the difference between meeting demand and having to

put systems in place that triage requests, manage intake or have people wait for services.

Nutrition services for elders have been hit with a proposed loss of funding of \$1.5 million dollars statewide in the Governor's proposal. For the 30 towns in Franklin County and the North Quabbin, the cut would translate into about \$36,000 dollars which means an estimated 4,500 to 5,000 meals are at risk.

While the primary source of revenue for the elder nutrition program is federal funding, it has not been increased in over two decades. Hence, this has led to the need to supplement this funding with locally raised dollars. The community has been and continues to be most

responsive and generous in supporting Meals on Wheels through annual fundraising.

The main event is the Walk for Meals on Wheels held each year. This year will be the 20th Annual Walk on May 5, 2012 at the Franklin County Tech School track. We need you more than ever this year! With \$1.5 million of state funding hanging in the balance, local community support is a must if we are to continue to serve Meals on Wheels when needed to elders. Family caregivers rely on this daily check and hot noon meal so that they can go about their day at work having peace of mind that their loved one has received their lunch and been checked on by a volunteer driver.

Elders and families don't ask for help until help is needed. It is not helpful to them if we have to say "services are not available at this time" or you will have to wait for your meals. The ability to respond when help is needed often makes the difference so that a family member can continue to provide care or a nursing home placement is avoided or delayed further.

Now is the time to reach out to your state legislators and urge them to restore funding cuts to elder nutrition and increase funding for home and community services. They need to hear your voice in these next weeks as this is the time when the state budget takes shape for the new year beginning July 1st.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXVIII

Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - I worry that this tunnel might be the first place people would look for a fugitive doppelganger. But that's only if they know the tunnel is here. The FBI agents aren't from Turners Falls.

I find my footing in the tunnel and am relieved the ground is dry. There are loose stones, and it smells musty. I press up against a wall still near enough to the entrance that I could run out again any time. I try to breathe through the panic of claustrophobia. I can feel the weight of all that brick and steel above me. It feels like it's squeezing my lungs.

Immediately I realize one thing. I will not be falling asleep here anytime soon.

I find a place that seems clear and dry and lower myself down onto the ground. Then I close my eyes. At first I just listen to my own heart beating and try to relax. After a minute I tell my body at home to wake up.

Amazingly, I can do this.

I am wide awake and trying not to panic. I need to contact Jason, but I know I can't call him. The FBI will be tracking my calls, I am sure.

Months ago, Jason gave me the address of a person who could help me. I decide to walk over to her house even though it's 6:00 in the morning. I'll pretend I'm out for exercise and then think of a reason to knock on her door.

Her name is Leah, and she

lives a couple blocks away. That's all I know. I put on shorts and running shoes and head out. Even though I want to talk to Jason as soon as possible, I power walk around the neighborhood for a while to make it more believable.

I have never thought of myself as a very good actor, but when I get in front of Leah's house, I pretend to twist my ankle. I sit down on the curb and rub it. I take out my phone and pretend the battery is dead. I limp up to the door, knock, and hope I'm not waking her up.

When Leah comes to the door, I recognize her. She's the woman from Ferry Meadow Farm who always talks to me at the farmers market.

"Theresa," she says, even

though I have never told her my name, "are you OK?"

"I twisted my ankle," I say. "Can I come in and use your phone?"

"Sure, of course," she says, pulling me thorough the doorway.

Once we are inside, she says quietly, "Jason already contacted me. We know the FBI were at your house. What happened?"

"Is Jason here?" I ask.

"No, but we have people who can help you."

"Um, you work with Jason?" I ask.

"No," she says, "I work at Ferry Meadow. Well, actually I work here, in town. But you need help right now."

"Yes," I say, not sure whether I should tell her anything about the doppelganger. "Can I talk to

Jason?"

"No," she says, "I am afraid not, but we'll help you."

There is silence while I wonder what to do.

"Theresa," she says, "I know about the doppelganger. Jason told me to help you. We'll do all we can."

I don't know what else to do, so I tell her. "The doppelganger is in a tunnel by the river. She needs to hide somewhere safe. The FBI are looking for her."

Leah raises her eyebrows and then listens carefully while I explain where the tunnel is. Then she says, "You should go home now. If the FBI don't already know that you came here, it would be better to keep it that way."

- Continued Next Issue

WENDELL from page 7

kindergarten through high school. Because Wendell and New Salem were satisfied with their elementary school membership in Union 28, the committee decided to pursue a hybrid region, with Petersham and Orange as K-12 members, and Wendell and New Salem as 7-12 members.

The current financial trouble in Orange, and the performance problems of Orange elementary schools developed more recently, very late in the process of planning for the hybrid region.

At a November special town meeting, Wendell overwhelmingly rejected revisions to the current Mahar regional agreement that would have allowed for the creation of the hybrid region, several days after Petersham voters narrowly rejected the same revisions.

The goal of the meeting on the 22nd was to decide whether the RPC has hit a wall and is wasting time with further meetings, or if there is a way to continue moving forward.

Near the meeting's end, Rocke suggested a third option, taking a break before starting to move forward towards forming a region. He said maybe we did not give enough time for people to digest a complex and high stakes decision.

As part of central office con-

solidation, Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre is now serving a three year contract as shared superintendent of Petersham Center School and the Orange elementary schools, with Dr. Patricia Martin as assistant superintendent. In these several positions, Baldassarre attends school committee meetings for Orange, Petersham and Mahar, plus town meetings, and Rocke questioned whether all that road time and meeting time is a good use of a finite person. Rocke cautioned against burnout of the central administrative staff.

Baldassarre said, "The most powerful educational districts are those where the superintendent is in the school, 'where the rubber meets the road, not preparing minutes and agendas.'"

He said now he has to deal with five unions, and five contracts, and that would be reduced to one with the hybrid plan. He could move a person from one position to another, one school to another and make better use of the person's skills and training, without the person having to quit the old position and lose seniority, only to start over again as a new employee in the new position.

Wendell finance committee member Doug Tanner said that current law and the hybrid region seem like a bad fit that

should be addressed by the legislature. When asked about the likelihood of legislative action, Steve Hemman, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) said the regional committee and towns could try for home rule legislation. Finance committee member Jim Slavas cautioned there are limits on the scope of home rule legislation.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said, "We put the articles on the town meeting warrant to find out what the people want,"

and not to promote a set decision. Article 6 at the February 28th special town meeting would rescind the December 19th, 2007 town meeting vote to form a committee to study all regionalization possibilities, and Article 7 would instruct the regionalization committee to study all possibilities except a hybrid region.

Rocke told the officials and committee members, "You are already educational partners," and that it was important to maintain good relationships.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Disorderly Conduct, Hit & Run, Brush Fire

Tuesday, 2/14
8:01 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague City Road. Investigated.

Saturday, 2/18
2:23 a.m. General disturbance on Montague City Road. Peace restored.

Wednesday, 2/15
4:56 p.m. Disorderly conduct near Subway on Avenue A. Services rendered.

5:23 p.m. Bad check (larceny) at Montague Inn. Referred to an officer.

6:32 p.m. Warrant arrest of [REDACTED].

Thursday, 2/16
5:29 p.m. Assault with a deadly weapon by Roberto's on Turners Falls Road. Report taken.

Friday, 2/17
6:57 p.m. Brush fire on Millers Falls Road. Investigated.

4:56 p.m. Hit and run accident at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Summons issued.

7:17 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] on a default warrant on Montague City Road.

Monday, 2/20
6:38 a.m. Larceny on X Street. Investigated.

12:08 p.m. Hit and run accident near Our Lady of Peace on Seventh Street. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 2/21
11:21 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Grout Circle. Advised of options.

Keller to Speak

GREENFIELD - On Thursday, March 1st, from 2-4 p.m., at the GCC downtown campus, 270 Main Street, documentary filmmaker and Wendell selectboard member Dan Keller will present "the Utopian Vision: Remembering Local Communes of the 1960s." The 60s saw widespread experiments in communal living; many communes existed in our local area.

Keller will discuss the history and influence of these local communities, with a focus on the Montague Farm, where he was a member, and from which the alternative media Liberation News Service operated. Drawing on a selection of books about the Farm and his own documentary film footage, Keller will reflect on how these communities extend a long utopian tradition in Massachusetts. To register call: 413-775-1681.

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Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, with Dan, Kip and Shultz from *Curly Fingers DuPree* hosting. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Song Shop Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAYS and SATURDAYS

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW through MARCH 10th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sensual, Sexual, Smut: Erotic Art by Local Artists*.

NOW through APRIL 1st

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Imitating Art*, a student photographic exhibition featuring attempts to photographically reproduce an original work of art.

NOW through MARCH 16th

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMASS, Amherst: *Fine Tuning: Zero Balancing & Sustainable Bodies*, featuring work by Montague's Jenny Chapin and also Terry Jenoure, and Alexia Cota. Opening Reception February 21st, 5 - 7 p.m.

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MARCH 2nd until MARCH 28th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Big Read*, artwork by Althea Dabrowski, open on Fridays and Saturdays.

FEBRUARY 23rd, 24th at 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 25th, 26th 2 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players presents *Treasure Island*.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd

Montague Bookmill: *Brittany Haas & Lauren Rioux*, 8 p.m.



Photo by Tristen Chambers

Duo Orfeo, featuring Joseph Ricker and Jamie Balmer, plays the *Great Falls Coffeehouse at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Friday, March 9th at 7 p.m.*

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry, and the Diamondstones*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Come listen to a wonderful story about Owls*, and then stay for a craft activity. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, with special guest *Marc Pinansky*, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Something Else* (name of groove-jazz band), free, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Fred Ellsworth & the House Shakers*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Investigation Station: Winter Buds*. 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Bela Lugosi's Dracula*, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rebel Alliance*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heather Maloney Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

Montague Grange: *Vintage + Antiques Market*, Quality vintage and antiques vendors bring their wares to the Grange, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Vermont Center for Photography,

Timmins and Lea Banks, 7 - 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

Finer Building, Greenfield Center School: *Raising Kids in a Media Saturated World: A Film and Discussion Series*, featuring, *Mickey Mouse Monopoly*, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Housetop*, *Peter Siegel & Friends*, swing, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1st

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series: featuring Abbot Cutler & Diane Wald*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd and SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Pajama Game*, 7 p.m.

Greenfield High School: *The 2012 Pottery and More Seconds Sale*. sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center. Sale hours are Friday 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd

Greenfield Community College Library: *Greenfield Community College Chorus Concert*, Music by Women Composers, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artists reception for *Althea Dabrowski*, for *The Big Read*, 1 - 3 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Square dance*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Miles Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Leo T. Baldwin Thing*, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ben Cosgrove*, 2 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Free Films for the Frozen presents, *Rockers*, 1978, written and directed by Ted Bafaloukos, the golden age of roots-rock reggae. Features Junior Murvin, Jacob Miller, Peter Tosh, Burning Spear, and Third World, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents, *Duo Orfeo*. Duo Orfeo's use of electric guitars and vintage tube amplifiers to interpret classical music

creates a sound that is stunningly gorgeous. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10th

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse* featuring *Jessica Freeman*, 7:30 p.m.

The Harp, Amherst: *Doug Hewitt Group*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

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West Along the River

It Might As Well be Spring

BY DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE - February 18th. Harumph! Am I the only one waiting impatiently now for the white stuff to tumble down, to float in through dark skies?

Each morning I wait anxiously to see something different out there, outside the window. Each morning since November, the same gray-brown mangled landscape, leaf-strewn and blown wasteland, extends from the edge of the yard out to the sparkling river beyond.

There are a few of us around here who can't revel in springtime without having suffered through winter. We're out of sorts, out of our element in this February brownness.

If we wanted this kind of winter, we'd live in Virginia or even, gasp, New York! Here in New England, you have to earn the redemption of springtime after doing winter penance in a frozen version of purgatory.

Oh, well. Won't happen this year.

Let's look on the bright side: fuel bills are down, wood piles are holding up. It's mid-February, but let's pretend it's mid-March.

Ah, but what will March hold for us? Will March be April in disguise, or will we be sent back to January?

We all have the sense that we will have to pay for this sooner or later. That's what being a New Englander is all about. It's all about guilt and redemption through winter suffering.

Certainly our friends who live outdoors are not complaining. Sparrows and juncos come in to eat and even bathe promptly each morning in the balmy 20 degree weather.

A sure sign of spring are the skunks who are already deeply moved by spring love fever. Pepe Le Pew has been lusting after Petunia for the past several weeks already. They came nose to nose a while back, weeks before Valentines Day, and it was love at first smell.

As magnificent and fluffy as two black and white angora cats, they've been lovemaking and squabbling ever since, all over

the back yard, and in their beds under the garden shed. You can tell by the smell.

One of them spent the autumn and part of this so-called winter doing the useful jobs skunks do: ridding the garden of ground wasp nests, grubs and cutworms. So really, we're not complaining about their odiferous courtship. It's just the calendar that's off.

February 21st. Just as each morning arrives frosty and boringly clear, each February evening glows in old gold before a wash of salmon pink spreads over the west with the setting sun. In my journal of February, 1978 I noted that I regularly crossed the completely frozen Millers River on snowshoes in the evening. I crossed over to the marsh on the Montague side, to stand near the beavers' dammed up brook watching as the cardinals and jays funneled out of the yard to spend the night in the brush and pines of the swamp.

It'll be long before I can again cross that swift-flowing river on foot. Perhaps never again.

It's a strange sensation to edge out onto the center of the river, knowing that beneath a foot and a half of ice the water still flows swiftly over summer stones.

The danger was small however, the depth of waters below the ice was only about a foot or two.

After several evenings of crossing over, the snowshoe trail was clear enough so that I could follow it in the dark, since it's never completely dark in a white mid-winter. Others began using my trail: fox, deer, mink.

That was then. Nowadays, at least this winter, the river is totally ice-free. It sparkles all day in the frosty sunlight, or later, by the light of early Venus and late rising moon.

The first redwing arrived precisely on its appointed date, February 19th. Since I began keeping spring arrival records in 1957, they've rarely missed showing up on time; usually anytime between the 18th and the 22nd.

Discrete and all alone, this redwing joined the jays beneath the bare lilacs, where they usual-



Agassiz Fuertes painting of a Redwing Blackbird.

ly spend the morning chugging down cracked corn. He is certifiably the first arrival, the first migrant, the first of literally millions of birds who will flood back into New England over the next three months.

So, I guess I can't hold back the mourning doves and skunks

from courting, can't convince the raccoons to refrain from flirting in the compost heap, just because I think it's too early. They really shouldn't be starting so soon, we haven't even had winter yet!

But the beaver kits are already born and moving about in the pitch black of their winter lodges

SHEA from page 9

one-legged hooligan, and delivered big time in the fight scenes.

As Kelly produced a brilliant character portrayal of the conniving yet redeemable bad guy, Gail Villeneuve's wardrobe changes for him were subtle and bold, as if adding embroidery to his velvety Silver. As with all her costumes, Villeneuve showed clear understanding of the individual movement and character needs of her actor.

There were some parts of the production that took a bit of settling into. The first act dragged on a wee bit, but one was reminded how writers of the classics – the Brontes, Twain, Garcia Márquez, Morrison – routinely take a languid stretch over several pages, filling paragraphs with detail and description. And so, while the narrator's monologues were lengthy, they were all necessary,

and they did tell a very good story.

The predominantly female cast mixed the gendered pronouns used to refer to their Captain Flint – his, her, she and he – which did confuse, at first, but I quickly came to see that perhaps that was who he was to them, and accepted all the sisters among us.

Thick brogues and accents had my ears working hard to follow dialogue, and more than one group of audience members was overheard commenting the same during intermission. In the second half, I allowed that a pirate's brogue can be soothing in its sound alone, and felt safe getting lost in the richness of foreign voices.

Finally, parents are forewarned that pirates drink alcohol and violence is prone to happen when the two are mixed in large

over in the marsh. There's no holding back. It's inevitable. This will go down as the year of no winter.

Maybe ages hence, this year will be legendary, as is the year of 1717, the year of no summer. All things considered, I'd better settle for this non-winter.

The skis will remain unused, gathering, of all things, dust. The battered snow shovels from Aubuchons will add a year to their lives by loafing in the cellar down near the furnace; the roof rake still leans idly in the woodshed. Snow tires wear down on bare pavement; the four-wheel drive never did get called upon to serve.

Should we give in to that feeling, that spring is on its way? It's hard to escape that old fear that, just as we give in to spring fever, winter will come cruelly back.

Around here, we're used to that kind of frivolous thought, then guilt, and punishment. If you think spring, you don't want to have to switch back to winter.

There had better not be a March or April blizzard, but if there is, we'll know we deserve it – it's for our own good.

Just the same, in spite of my own snow-deprived thoughts, I think we'd better look on the bright side. Turn towards the light.

Harumph! I give in. It might as well be spring.

quantities. A few of the beat downs had me glancing protectively at the younger youngsters in the audience, but all were engaged by the action and entertainment, and with good reason – the fight scenes are well choreographed and executed precisely.

An adept crew at hair and make-up turned porcelain smooth skin into scraggly beard and knew how to place a wig and lay hair; the set, with functional simplicity, converted country inn to ship deck to island fortress with the mere flip of a panel; the sound was terrific, the Shea being a wonderful place for that, and the lighting well executed.

Aarrgh! Directed by Jillian Morgan, the New Renaissance Players' production of *Treasure Island* is a great success and well worth an expedition to Avenue A this weekend, mateys.



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