



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 25

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 12, 2018

## Three Nickname Options Remain As School Committee Election Looms

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE — The Thunder. The Chargers. The Raptors.

Fourteen months after the regional school committee made a 6-3 decision to retire the traditional Turners Falls High School sports team name, the Indians, these are the three final names being considered by the volunteer taskforce charged with finding the community's favored replacement.

The taskforce spent months collecting hundreds of suggestions from

the community, and vetted them according to a list of criteria set last spring by the school committee. 58 suggestions became 16 and then 10, and at a public meeting Monday night, three finalists were chosen.

Ten of the group's eleven members were present, and they compared input from informal community polling, mixed with their personal opinions. The most popular idea seemed to simply be "Powertown," but that option grew increasingly complicated as the discussion unfolded.

"We're going to be called 'Pow-

ertown' regardless," said Mike Mackin, TFHS '73, recalling that in his day the name was associated with the high school basketball team in particular.

"We're going to be called 'Indians' regardless," he added. Mackin also reported that this name, which does not meet the school committee's criteria, was still the one favored by his "constituents."

"We had cheers when I was in school that had 'Powertown' in them," said Alana Martineau, TFHS '86.

see NICKNAME page A7

## Southworth Withdraws From Bankruptcy, But Its Future Is Uncertain



The company closed Turners Falls' last paper mill suddenly last August.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS — The Southworth Paper Company, which continues to own the shuttered factory on Canal Road in Turners Falls, has officially withdrawn from Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. The future of the building and its contents, however, remain in question.

At its Monday meeting, the Montague selectboard entered a closed session to discuss possible legal action involving the plant.

According to town treasurer Eileen Seymour, Southworth currently owes the town \$322,309 in back taxes and fees for the Turners Falls plant. These include property taxes, sewer fees, and payments due

to the Turners Falls fire and water districts.

Founded in 1901 as the Esleeck Paper Company, the Turners mill was purchased by Southworth in 2006. The August 31 news of the plant's closing came as a shock to employees, who were not given advance warning that their jobs were being terminated. Southworth filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in late September. In December, the federal bankruptcy court approved the sale of the Turners factory to a Maine firm, but that deal fell through. Plans to auction the mill this month have been abandoned.

Southworth's motion to withdraw from the bankruptcy process, which see SOUTHWORTH page A8

## BESTOWING THE HONOR



AL MACINTIRE PHOTO

Wendell selectboard chair Christine Heard affixes a pin to Ray MacIntire's lapel during an official ceremony last Saturday recognizing MacIntire as Wendell's oldest citizen. MacIntire turns 94 this week. Heard's fellow selectboard members Jeff Pooser (left) and Dan Keller (center) look on. The pin represents the historic Boston Post golden cane, which remains on public display at the Wendell town offices. MacIntire took the opportunity to share numerous thoughts on his various personal lifetime experiences as a dedicated educator, linguist, musician, aircraft enthusiast, and an ever politically active citizen.

## THFS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE — Rain, wind, and snow played havoc on the first week of the Turners Falls spring sports season. On Tuesday, April 10 alone, a varsity baseball game, a middle school baseball game, a track

meet, and a softball game were canceled. On April 4, a tennis match was postponed, and on Friday the sixth, a baseball game and a tennis match were snowed out.

As I frequently say, welcome to New England in the springtime!

### Girls Tennis

Pope Francis 5 – TFHS 0  
TFHS 3 – St. Mary 2

Last Wednesday night, Massachusetts posted a wind advisory, and by Thursday morning, at least two towns reported 60-plus mph winds. (A hurricane is 74 mph.) During the day, trash cans and tree branches bounced in the streets, and by game time, the temperature was still 35 degrees.

But it was nice enough to play tennis. It had rained all day Wednesday, forcing the teams to suit up the next day. "At least it's not snow," one of my compatriots quipped. And of course, on Friday, April 6, we had a 5-hour snow storm which blanketed the entire region.

So it was cold and windy when the Turners Falls girls opened their 2018 season. To make matters worse, they were without their number-one singles player. Ninth grader Amber Taylor, who was still mourning her dearly departed grandfather, had to step up. She won her first game, but seesawed with her opponent to a 6-6 tie. She lost the tie-breaker and in the process dropped the first set 6-7.

With the momentum against her, she was nosed out of the second set 6-4, dropping the match 2-0.

Doubles stalwart Izzy Farrick went it alone against Pope's second singles player. Like Amber, she was leading early in the first game, 2-1. And like in Amber's

see TFHS SPORTS page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Pitcher Kyle Dodge sends the beat over the plate on a cold and blustery day as Powertown hosts the Athol Red Raiders for the season opener.

## A Celebration of Art – and Local Diversity – at the Shea

By VICTORIA MAILLO  
Translation by JON NELSON

TURNERS FALLS — Last Sunday, the third edition of *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts*, organized by the Center for New Americans (CNA), was held at the Shea Theater. The nonprofit organization, with offices in Northampton, Amherst, Greenfield and Turners Falls, dedicates itself to serving immigrants with education, help with job searches, and support for legal questions surrounding immigration and naturalization.

The Shea was packed, with the only empty seats the ones for the artists after their performances. Among the crowd of people of all ages, faces radiated expectation for

the spectacle about to be performed. The parents of child performers, neighbors, tutors of immigrant performers, family, friends, and CAN supporters were all there.

The curtains opened at 3:05 to reveal the presenters, two students from the organization: Samba Kane from Senegal and Biani Salas from Venezuela, whose work was cut out for them, pronouncing all the names and titles in different languages.

Firstly, they thanked the people and businesses that had supported the event, especially Shea president Monte Belmonte, who took the stage to address the crowd. He expressed his desire that the Shea be a welcoming place where all voices in the community could come together, see CELEBRATION page A7



The dance group Flora Tristán: Así es Mi Tierra performed first.



# The Montague Reporter

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From left to right: Sgt. Joshua Hoffman of the Montague police department and acting chief Chris Bonnett look on as Kevin Hastings, state drug awareness chairman of the Massachusetts Elks Association, awards Officer James Ruddock the Enrique S. Camarena Award for his work with K-9 Artie on Wednesday.

Enrique Camarena was born in Mexico, and his family moved to the United States to pick fruit. He joined the Marines and then the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Stationed at a DEA foreign office in Guadalajara, Mexico in the 1980s, Camarena uncovered links between drug cartels and Mexican police, army, and government officials. Information he leaked led the army to attack and destroy a multi-billion-dollar marijuana farm operated by the Sinaloa-affiliated Guadalajara Cartel. In retaliation, Camarena was abducted, tortured, and murdered in February 1985. The incident led to a number of high-profile prosecutions, as well as the establishment of Red Ribbon Week in 1988 by the Nancy Reagan-chaired National Family Partnership, and in 1990, the Enrique S. Camarena Award, granted by the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

Every year, Elks in each state grant the award "to a Law Enforcement Professional who has gone above and beyond their normal duties to inform their community about the dangers of drugs." Hastings explained that the 62 Elks Lodges in Massachusetts select one statewide winner, and that this year, "on behalf of a grateful nation," they had selected Officer Ruddock. "Artie's very active – both of us are very active in the surrounding communities," Ruddock said. "We are definitely bumbled by this award."

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION – FROM A PHOTO BY MIKE JACKSON

## GUEST EDITORIAL

By ANNA GYORGY

**WENDELL** – That was the message on a fly-specked green on white bumper sticker from the mid-1970s that surfaced in my old papers recently. A reminder that what we are living (and dying) with now is not a new phenomenon, only more of a ‘same’ that has gone on far too long. Remembering the oft-mentioned quote in President Eisenhower’s January 1961 farewell address to the nation, warning that “in the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex,” I read his short speech with interest.

Eisenhower also said: “This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence – economic, political, even spiritual – is felt in every city, every Statehouse, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.”

Six years later Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., decrying America’s “triple evils” of poverty, racism and militarism, said: “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

Are we there now? Certainly the funds going for “defense” cannot be justified to the world: fighting and financing seven wars; funding over

## Cut Military Spending, Invest In Our Future

800 military bases around the world; persisting in building more nuclear weapons; providing arms to dictators, occupiers and governments who use them against the poor and defenseless (think Yemen).

Meanwhile we face myriad cutbacks to social and environmental programs, increased poverty at home and abroad, and insufficient action to meet the realities of a dramatically warming climate.

We need a big change, and Tax Day is a good time to consider how our tax dollars are used – and abused. Thus the importance of citizen opposition to the recent tax give-away and more swollen than ever military budget.

So it will be interesting and important to hear what local groups and activists have to say about the effects in our immediate area – and what we want and need – at the Tax Day Rally and Speak-out this Saturday, April 14, from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the Greenfield Common.

The day after the King assassination anniversary, two articles in the *Greenfield Recorder* spoke to the problem. Without mentioning federal cutbacks in state education, “My Turn” writer Deborah Potee (“Funding school budgets shouldn’t be a bottom-of-the-barrel priority”) gave good reasons for public support of resource-starved public schools.

And in “Local pols hope to continue Healthy Incentive Program,” we learn of the fight to keep “the wildly successful” program “providing local produce to SNAP recipients beyond mid-April.” Needed is an additional \$2.1 million.

The FY’19 federal budget includes more than \$700 billion allotted to the military. Do the math on

that one. Perhaps a bit of wiring on a boondoggle F-35 fighter jet (whose siting in VT was opposed by residents of nearby Burlington at their recent town meeting)?

The extreme and unnecessary allocation of resources to the military has so many ripple effects: More pollution and greenhouse gases. Less money for mental health care. A culture that glorifies violence. Insufficient funds for education. Each of us can add to the list.

Why not replace missile “defense” with more security at home – through guaranteed and preventive health care, jobs to rebuild and replace run-down infrastructure, building affordable housing, improved public transportation, well-planned walkways and bike paths?

We want healthy food available for all, adequately funded schools benefiting our communities, and free public education. Let’s meet basic needs and deal with the causes of poverty, racism, addiction, depression and violence. It’s an old cry and demand: turn those tanks into trolley cars! They are needed now, more than ever.

As we work to change priorities from fear, exclusion and death to hope and community, we join others in the broad social movement that has no name, but is resisting the worst and working for life-giving and saving alternatives. The Greenfield Rally and Speak-out on April 14 is one of dozens of such actions around the country and world.

*Wendell resident Anna Gyorgy supports the April 14 Tax Day Rally with the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution.*

## Mass Communication

Nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center are on a one-day strike, and subject to a three-day management lockout, as we go to press.

By all accounts, the Massachusetts Nurses Association and Baystate have made progress at the bargaining table since a similar strike and lockout last spring. (The nurses have been working without a contract since 2016.)

We hope they will settle soon. What’s new this time around is the mass mailer sent this week by hospital management to – anecdotally – thousands of Franklin County households. Greenfield, Montague, Deerfield, Shelburne Falls, Orange, Shutesbury, and Northfield readers all report receiving an identical letter in the mail, though some in Gill and Colrain said they hadn’t gotten one. Did you?

The United States Postal Service’s “Every Door Direct Mail” service will send up to 5,000 pieces of mail per day per zip code; Greenfield’s 9,009 mailboxes must have taken two days to mail. But that town would only cost \$1,600. Another \$456 would cover Turners Falls, \$160 the rest of Montague, \$66 Erving, \$69 Deerfield, \$237 Northfield, and \$707 Orange... It seems likely the whole county could be hit for under \$10,000.

That’s a serious bargain, even when you add in the cost of hiring a mail service to stuff the envelopes, considering hiring travel nurses for a 3-day lockout is reportedly costing the hospital system in the neighborhood of \$1 million.

And as for the content? We won’t pretend to understand the ins and outs of nurse scheduling and staff-to-patient ratios, but we recognize it’s a sticking point. This fall all Massachusetts voters may be asked to weigh in, as a question called the Nurse-Patient Assignment Limits Initiative may make it onto the ballot.

The underlying issues are the skyrocketing cost of American healthcare and a statewide nursing shortage, but one of the ways it will play out is a back-and-forth struggle over staffing and the labor process.

The factions for and against legislation capping nurse ratios are led by groups called the Committee to Ensure Safe Patient Care and the Coalition to Protect Patient Safety; we won’t even tell you which is which.

The money on the table so far, though, is a labor-versus-capital split, with the Massachusetts

Nurses Association supporting the measure and the Health & Hospital Association on the other.

*Well.* Either it’s an issue that should be settled with legislation, or it’s one that will come up hospital by hospital in contract fights, and may result in strikes. And if the industry can’t train and hire enough nurses in the first place, then such legislation will of course threaten the capacity of at least some hospitals to take on patients.

As potential patients, as fellow workers, and as political actors in the state, we should all learn more about the details of this debate.

Another quality of Baystate’s mass mailer should be easier to judge, though. Since the lower-tier strategy of trying to drive a wedge between patient-consumers and the striking nurses hasn’t worked in Greenfield, the letter turns a discursive spotlight instead on “union leadership.” The “leaders” or “leadership” are negatively referenced no fewer than *eight* times in the text, counterposed to “the team,” “their nurse members,” and “the nurses at the bedside.”

Will this gambit work? The trope of the labor bureaucrat, playing the game for his own political or economic gain, is an old one in this country, and one with some roots in reality.

But our impression is that the MNA is a fairly democratic union. If there’s rank-and-file dissent, we haven’t seen signs of it around Greenfield – on the contrary, we’ve been impressed by the evident rank-and-file leadership.

But even if the letter doesn’t get a single doubtful MNA member to abandon the union’s position, it could have an impact by allowing otherwise well-meaning members of the public to *imagine* that the union’s leadership is operating behind its membership’s back. And if someone is actually gnawingly concerned or annoyed by the labor stoppage, this could allow them to develop that attitude *while still imagining themselves as being* on the nurses’ side.

It seems a bit like a trashy, union-busting move, this letter, but hey, a fight is a fight, after all.

Our economic system pits healthcare workers against patients by its nature, and a strike at a hospital does pose some risk to public health. And yet, the outcome will affect everyone who lives in this county for years to come.

So if you’re wondering what to think about this whole debate, go find a nurse, and ask *them* about it.

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Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

The Great Falls Discovery Center will be **open school vacation week** from Saturday, April 14 through Sunday April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Presentations planned for the week include Teaching Creatures Presents: Animals of Spring; Meet Toto the Tornado Kitten; Earth Day Open House; and Kidleidoscope Story Hour. Visit [www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org](http://www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org) or call (413) 863-3221 for dates and times.

Two entirely different presenters will be at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, April 14, both starting at 10 a.m.

Two experienced **Montague finance committee** members, John Hanold and Michael Naughton, will be in the Community Room; Montague residents can drop in and ask them relevant questions in an informal setting.

Both are longtime members of this very important branch of our town government. Feel free to share your thoughts and concerns as the annual town meeting is fast approaching on Saturday, May 5.

And **massage therapist Nancy Paglia** will offer those folks who pre-register a relaxing 15-minute shoulder and neck massage, as well as some stress management tips.

Her sessions will start shortly after 10 a.m. Register either in person at the bank branch in Turners Falls or by phone at (413) 775-8267. Please leave your name, phone number and preferred time, and you will receive a call back to confirm.

Free light refreshments will also be available, courtesy of the bank.

Leverett's CapTel representative will be speaking about **CapTel phones for the hearing-impaired** at the Leverett Library on Saturday, April 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Leverett Council on Aging.

The public is invited to a debut reading of Pushcart prize winner **Laura Rodley's latest books: *Turn Left at Normal*** by Big Table Publishing and *Counter Point* by Prolific Press, on Sunday, April 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street.

The event is free and wheelchair-accessible, and delicious refreshments will be served.

Wendell celebrates Earth Day at the historic town hall on Sunday, April 22 with a presentation and discussion on **the situation in Puerto Rico**, at 5 p.m., featuring special guest Iris Morales, followed by a **community potluck** at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Wendell Energy Committee, North Quabbin Energy, the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice, and the Markham-Nathan Fund. For information and to register for childcare, contact [info@wloe.org](mailto:info@wloe.org) or 1 (978) 544-3686.

You've been bitten by a tick – now what? Blue Dragon Apothecary in Greenfield is hosting a free **Lyme Prevention Workshop** with Dr. Nitya Jessica Eisenheim ND, a Naturopathic physician, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26.

Learn why herbs and homeopathic medicines are your first line of defense against tick bites and Lyme disease, along with appropriate use of antibiotics. Topics to be discussed

include the top warning signs of Lyme, what to do when you get a tick bite, and Dr. Eisenheim's acute tick bite protocol.

Seating is limited, so call (413) 676-9009 to reserve your free spot today. Blue Dragon Apothecary is located at 158 Main Street, Suite 10 (second floor) in downtown Greenfield.

On Saturday, April 28, the **Franklin County Spring Parade** returns to Turners Falls for its eighth year.

Event organizer Michael Nelson is looking for participants interested in joining the parade. All businesses, organizations, clubs, groups and bands are welcome. There is no cost to participate, but pre-registration is required. The theme this year is "Superheroes."

The parade begins at Sheffield School at 1 p.m. The route includes sections of Millers Falls Road, High Street, Crocker Avenue, Montague Street, and Turnpike Road. Houses along the route are encouraged to decorate for the theme. Prizes will be given to the best-decorated houses.

People interested in being a part of the parade may contact Mr. Nelson at 485-8627 or [michael-nelsonmba@gmail.com](mailto:michael-nelsonmba@gmail.com). You can befriend the parade at [facebook.com/montague-parade](https://www.facebook.com/montague-parade).

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Public Works Garage: Financial Thoughts

BY JOHN HANOLD

**MONTAGUE** – During the discussion about a Public Works Garage at Montague's March 29 special town meeting, three "affordability" questions were raised: how large the price will be, what the effect of debt repayment on taxpayers will be, and what the effect on other major projects will be.

None of the answers to these questions is certain, but here is how one voter understands it. (Please note that these are my own thoughts, and do not represent a position of Montague's finance committee.)

Town meeting members approved an \$11,146,762 price, which is the maximum: it cannot be exceeded unless town meeting authorizes more money. The estimate is based on an initial concept, and the building committee's next step is a detailed design and bidding process.

To anticipate the changes which may occur during this phase, about \$1,760,000 is included for escalation, design and construction contingencies, etc., which together are over 15% of the total price. This seems conservative enough to reassure us that the approved price will not be exceeded, and may indeed be lower if some of these provisions are not needed.

The effect on taxpayers was estimated at \$75 per \$1,000 of property value, and was based on three factors: a 25-year bond, a 4.5% interest rate, and our borrowing the full price. The rate is an estimate from our bond advisor, and since Montague has improved its financial stability in recent years, 4.5% seems the most we are likely to pay. The longer we wait to finish this project, the less certain the price and locked-in rate would be.

Finally, if the project is completed below the full price we will borrow less, and annual debt ser-

vice will be lower.

Another timing factor is that the full impact of debt service does not generally occur until a couple of years after the final bond is sold, about FY'22 or so. Some smaller borrowings expire by then, so the impact will be eased a bit.

A decade ago the capital improvements committee, who discuss and recommend these projects, selected the Public Safety Facility as most important for the town to pursue, and they judge this Garage to be most important now.

I think it is realistic to expect this will delay other major building projects, but this ranking process is not new. Future proposals for town hall, the libraries, the elementary schools, and the senior center will continue to be evaluated each year, and repairs and improvements to them will continue to be made.

After examining these estimates and uncertainties, I have one more thought. In years to come, we anticipate growth in our tax base from marijuana facilities, solar arrays, and other new development beyond the usual growth in existing residential and commercial/industrial property values. These sources will broaden our tax base, and cushion the impact of the Garage's debt service. On February 15 our representatives authorized a tax on retail marijuana sales, and at the May 5 annual town meeting a meals tax is being proposed.

The Garage's final impact involves uncertainties, but the uncertainties are part of our opportunities. Stay focused on supporting our values, and stay informed on the design committee's work.

*John Hanold is a Precinct 5 town meeting member. He serves on the finance committee, but his views expressed here are his own.*

## Land Trust Celebrates Earth Day with Two Volunteer Events

**ATHOL and NORTHFIELD** – Make a difference on Earth Day with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust by volunteering to help care for the earth on Friday, April 20 or Saturday, April 21.

Skyfields Arboretum, located at 1461 Old Keene Road in Athol, is the focus of volunteer activities all day Friday, April 20.

Volunteers will blaze and maintain trails, repair stone walls, remove invasive plants, clear vegetation around blueberry bushes, plant native wildflowers in the greenhouse, organize the tool shed, build sign posts, fold trail maps, and label pictures. Volunteers are encouraged to stop by anytime between 9 a.m.

and 7 p.m. on Friday.

On Saturday in Northfield, join Mount Grace on the Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey S. Ames Trail at Alderbrook Meadows Sanctuary, near 835 Millers Falls Road (Route 63).

Stop by between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to help put the finishing touches on the new accessible trail and build a cantilevered viewing platform. Work will continue on Sunday. Lunch will be provided.

Snacks and beverages will be provided for each event. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact KimLynn Nguyen at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (978) 248-2055 x14 or [service\\_americonps@mountgrace.org](mailto:service_americonps@mountgrace.org).

## Leverett Alliance Members to Visit Rural Kentucky

By **SHARON DUNN**

**LEVERETT** – Fourteen members of Leverett's Hands Across the Hills project will travel to Letcher County in eastern Kentucky on April 19 for a three-day visit that will include dialogue, cultural exchange and community events.

The Kentucky hosts, who visited Leverett for a comparable weekend in October 2017, have planned the stay to include storytelling, a Shriner's breakfast public event, a coal mine tour, and cultural and musical activities, as well as six hours of dialogue facilitated by Leverett's Paula Green. The Kentuckians will host the Leverett visitors in their homes.

The Leverett travelers have prepared short presentations about their town and will be bringing a large handmade paper "quilt" telling stories of immigration and family, made by Leverett and Letcher County participants together last fall.

The Hands Across the Hills project developed out of Leverett's response to the 2016 presidential election in



*Barbara Tiner, left, of Leverett receives a "quilt" of immigration and family stories to bring as a gift to Letcher County, KY. Leverett and Letcher County residents illustrated the squares last October under guidance of artist Judith Ingles, right, who assembled the banner.*

which Letcher County voted 80% for Donald Trump, who received 14.7% of the vote in rural Leverett. Despite this significant political divide, the 2017 visit of the Kentucky group was an unqualified success in reducing stereotypes and increasing empathy. Following her visit, one

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Kentuckian noted: "We came with curiosity and we left with love."

David Rabinovitz of DMR Productions in Pelham has created a short film trailer about the October events, available for viewing at [www.handsacrossthehills.org](http://www.handsacrossthehills.org). Eventually Rabinovitz will create a longer film reflecting both the Leverett and Letcher County visits.

Hands Across the Hills is documenting this endeavor in hopes that it will inspire communities to reach out to places and people often characterized as "other." Meeting face to face, talking together, finding mutual concerns, all can help bridge the differences we currently experience.

Following their return home, the Leverett group will share its Kentucky experiences through photographs, music, and personal stories at a public event on Tuesday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at Leverett Elementary.

For more information, visit [www.handsacrossthehills.org](http://www.handsacrossthehills.org).

*Sharon Dunn is a member of the Leverett Alliance.*

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Proposal to Add Cultural Staff to Payroll

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its meeting Monday, the Montague selectboard voted to create a new part-time position called “cultural coordinator.” The job, which will be funded at twenty hours per week, will replace the director of the RiverCulture program, which was once funded by a state arts grant. That grant has disappeared, and last year town meeting voted for a temporary infusion of tax funds to keep the popular program alive.

According to town planner Walter Ramsey, the position will be within the planning department. Town administrator Steve Ellis noted that the addition of a new employee would require a “Memorandum of Agreement with the union, the Town of Montague Employee Association.

“[The town budget] will fund just this position,” Ramsey explained. “We’re not looking for a budget for programming.”

“I know what you’re wanting to do, and I agree with it,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. “I just think you’re going to have some folks on town meeting floor who are going to have some concerns. Last year, there was a discussion of funding some money toward RiverCulture, and many people were assured that it would be the only time we would ask for money.”

“This is the product of a lot of conversation and soul-searching,” said Ellis. “We could try to create a position that spent most of its time fund raising for its own survival... and ends up distracting from the real purpose of the position.”

Ellis pointed out that town meeting members also said they valued RiverCulture, so “we’re giving them the opportunity to make that decision.”

The board voted unanimously to approve the job description.

### New Rules

Ramsey then reviewed a proposed “Interim Recreational Marijuana Establishment License Policy.” He clarified that the “interim” refers to the policy, which could be changed in the future, rather than license or establishment.

“Since the town has signed a ‘host community agreement’ [with the cannabis company 253 Organic LLC], and there has been a lot of press about it, a lot of interest has come to the community about opening up marijuana establishments,” said Ramsey. “We thought it prudent to have some basic policies in place.”

Ramsey reviewed the draft policy, which mostly followed state guidelines and drew on the experience of the 253 Organic application process. Ramsey said the policy would go “above and beyond what

the state requires” in terms of community outreach.

The board approved the interim policy.

### Dump Cap

Ramsey also requested the board approve a “Corrective Action Design Plan” for the town’s former burn dump on Sandy Lane. A solar array is scheduled to be built on the location, but first the burn dump, which was used from the 1930s until the 1970s, must be capped.

Brian Huntley of the engineering firm Tighe & Bond reviewed the history of the dump, and a plan for its capping that should meet the approval of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Huntley said discussions with the state about the site had been going on since 1998, and that he himself had been going “back and forth” with the DEP for the past five years. He estimated the project could cost as much as \$2.5 million. According to Ramsey, this would be financed using revenue from the solar array.

The board approved giving the chair the authority to sign the permit application to the DEP.

### The Warrant!

The board reviewed the warrant for the May 5 annual town meeting. It voted to place all the articles on the warrant, and to endorse all of them, except Article 35.

This article, proposed by the town energy committee, would petition the state legislature to establish “greenhouse gas emissions pricing,” similar to a carbon tax. “I would prefer that we just put it on the ballot and not say ‘endorse,’” said Kuklewicz.

“I would agree with that” responded Michael Nelson.

### New Restaurant

Sam Kochan, who described himself as a “chef-partner” at the Pioneer Tavern in Millers Falls, came before the board to request a liquor license transfer to a new bar at the same site on Route 63. The new establishment will be called the North Village Smokehouse.

Kochan described the new business as a “Texas style barbecue bar/restaurant” with two outdoor smokers. He said the previous Pioneer Tavern was a music venue that did not serve food. “Now it’s going to be a full-on restaurant,” he said. “Were going to do entertainment when we can.”

“I just want to disclose, as we have the conversation,” said Ellis, “I am a hack musician and I have played at that particular venue on a few occasions.”

“You don’t have to vote anyway,” said Kuklewicz.

After several questions, the

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Board Approves Town Meeting Warrant, Contract with Library Architect

By KATIE NOLAN

The proposed FY’19 operating budget for Erving is \$10.3 million, with the largest expenditures for Erving Elementary School (\$3.08 million) and secondary education (\$1.4 million). At their meeting on Monday, the Erving selectboard reviewed and approved the warrant for the May 2 annual town meeting. The warrant and the proposed FY’19 budget will be printed and sent to each Erving household in the next week.

In the printed budget book, the board writes that drivers for budget increases are increased utility costs, an increase in the town’s state-determined equalized valuation (EQV), and a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for town employees.

In addition, the town will now be considering capital expenditures at annual town meeting under the town’s new capital improvement planning process. A total of \$2.1 million is proposed for capital expenditures, including replacing a wastewater main, roadway and sidewalk repairs, computer upgrades, a police cruiser, a highway department utility van, and repairs to the Veteran’s Park tennis court.

At the April 9 meeting, the board reviewed the contract with Johnson Roberts Associates, the architects for the new library building. The board authorized administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to present the contract to

Johnson Roberts and sign it for the board as long as there are no significant changes to the document.

According to Smith, the results of a survey of town departments about their need for IT help indicated that about 70% of departments could use two or more hours a month of help. Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that survey showed “there is a need there. We need to find out what we actually want to provide.”

Smith estimated the need for IT help at approximately 15 hours per week. The board authorized him to contact vendors and ask them to provide an estimate of the services they could provide and costs of the services.

In a letter to the board, Smith suggested changes to the office layout in town hall. Bastarache described the building as “very compartmentalized,” and said the board had been discussing changes to town hall for two years. The board encouraged Smith to call a meeting of employees and officials who use town hall to brainstorm changes that would make the space more efficient.

Selectboard member William Bembury said that redesigning and retrofitting town hall could take several years to accomplish, but that there might be simple, low-cost changes that could be done sooner.

board unanimously approved the license transfer.

### Other Business

The board voted to approve a record of actions taken the previous week involving the approval of non-public executive sessions. Nelson said that the board’s decisions had been read the previous week, “but the news media was not here.” The board released a printed list of the decisions to the news media.

Ellis said he was reviewing the possibility of changing the town’s labor counsel. He compared hourly fees for current labor counsel, Sullivan Hayes & Quinn, and general counsel, KP Law (formerly Kopeman and Paige).

“That counsel has been with us for 30 years, and I am loath to change a good thing,” said Ellis. “But after 69.5 hours, we start paying the regular fee, which is \$225 per hour.”

The board directed Ellis to ask KP Law to come to a board meeting and “make a pitch.”

The board placed an article for a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion for

the highway garage on the May 21 town meeting warrant.

The board voted to transfer \$2,000 from the reserve account to the advertising account of the zoning board of appeals.

At the request of highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, the board extended the completion date for a sewer lining project on Turnpike Road until April 20.

The board endorsed a letter to the state supporting a new liquor license application for the proposed cidery at 42 Canal Road.

It supported a request for use of public property for the annual Newt Guilbault Little League parade on the hill, and for a vintage motorcycle event downtown on May 5.

At the end of the meeting, the board withdrew to executive sessions to discuss the Southworth bankruptcy proceedings, litigation, and approving more executive session minutes.

There is no selectboard meeting on April 16 due to the holiday. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for April 23.

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**TFHS SPORTS** from page A1  
first set, it was tied late, 5-5. But Pope managed to score the last two points, and Izzy lost the game 5-7. She won three games in the second set to her opponent's 6, and dropped her match 2-0.

Rachel Tucker, Farrick's double partner, played in the third singles match. She won an early game, but Pope took 4 straight to win the first set 6-1. Rachel won one game in the second set but lost it 6-1.

Haleigh Greene teamed up with Steph Peterson in first doubles and dropped their match 6-2, 6-1.

In the second doubles match, Taylena Pabalon and Ceci Wood lost 6-0, 6-0.

Then on Monday April 9, the Blue Ladies traveled to the Municipal Playground in Westfield to take on the St. Mary Saints. Taylor, playing in the more familiar number-two spot, won her match 6-0, 6-2. Greene, back in the third slot, took hers 6-1, 7-6.

Turners also won the first doubles match 2 sets to 1. Tucker and Farrick used teamwork to win 6-1, 1-6, 6-4, giving Blue a 3-2 victory.

Charlie Kretchmar, who played in

the number one spot, dropped her match 6-0, 6-2 while Maria Labelle and Wood lost the second doubles 6-2, 6-3.

The girls' tennis team heads into the 2018 season with three big holes to fill. Alysha Wozniak, who was the top singles player, graduated. Turners also lost Kaili Lynch, half of the first doubles duo. The third player lost to graduation was utility player Hailey Trott. She played on the first double team, and played second and third singles as needed.

So how are the Blue Ladies going to fare this year?

"It's hard to tell," coach Vic Gonzalez told me on opening day. "We have a lot of green players." The ladies travel to the Berkshires to play Lee on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, and then come home to play Mohawk on April 17.

#### Baseball

*TFHS 7 - Athol 5*

The Turners Falls baseball team opened their season on April 5, the same day as the Red Sox home opener.

The game opened up under howling winds and chilly temperatures.

Athol's starting pitcher was unable to adjust, and walked the bases loaded in the first inning. But the Blue Boys couldn't capitalize and came up empty.

In the second, Powertown again loaded the bases, and this time they were able to score four runs. In the third, Athol made it a one-run game, but back-to-back doubles by Ryan Campbell and Jaden Whiting put Blue up 6-3 on their way to a 7-5 victory.

The Dodge brothers shared pitching duties for Turners. Kyle pitched four innings, letting up 3 runs on three hits and five walks; Jake pitched three innings, giving up 2 runs on four hits and two walks. Offensively, Jake also had 2 RBIs on two hits and a walk.

Campbell had three hits, two RBIs and scored 2 runs, and Whiting walked, doubled, and scored 2 runs.

Weather permitting, the Boys in Blue continue their season on Wednesday, April 11.

*Next Week: Softball, track, and boys tennis....*



#### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Concern Over Cultural Sites In Planned Logging Area

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Citizen Lisa Hoag met the Wendell selectboard as their April 4 meeting opened to discuss issues with proposed logging in the Wendell State Forest by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Hoag had come to the February 21 meeting and said there are 26 culturally significant sites within the proposed cutting area, and that DCR seemed to be fast tracking the sale of trees without allowing time for citizen input.

At the April 4 meeting she brought a copy of DCR guidelines, which included a provision to avoid cutting in areas of cultural importance, and argued that DCR was ignoring their own guidelines. She said she had spoken on the telephone with a DCR representative, but so far had not received a written response, or a satisfactory answer.

Hoag said she was drafting a letter, which she hoped board members, as an elected body, would sign and send to DCR. She was still working on it so she asked the board to postpone the discussion until its April 18 meeting.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked her to email the finished letter to the board prior to that meeting so they would have a bit of time to think about it.

#### Town-Owned Lots

Treasurer Carolyn Manley came in next with a discussion of town properties that may be suitable for auction. Some are landlocked and

may be of interest only to an abutter. But, she said, someone had shown interest in moving the house at 97 Wendell Depot Road across the road onto land the town owns through the same tax taking.

The house is one of the oldest standing in Wendell, and is still structurally sound. Many in Wendell want to see it preserved, but with high-voltage wires almost overhead, it is not likely to attract an investor. It may be sold using a request for proposals, with the land across the road sold separately at auction.

After years of delay, the house and land at 120 Wendell Depot Road is owned by the town and available to be auctioned. The house has attracted considerable interest, but in the time it took for the town to get the title, the house has degenerated beyond reasonable repair.

The lot that was foreclosed on with the house was 1½ acres, too small to include a well and a septic system, but another 1½ acres have been added, making it a legal lot to build on in Wendell.

There are also two parcels at the intersection of Jennison and Cooleyville roads, likely to be wet, and two along the Millers River that former selectboard member Ted Lewis thinks might contain brownfields.

#### Over Budget

The town properties maintenance budget has been stretched beyond what was allowed at the annual town meeting. Replacement of glycol in the library and office building is

estimated at \$2,600. Facilities engineer Jim Slavas estimated \$15,000 to replace the Johnson Controls in the office building, which have never worked as they were supposed to, with thermostats, and suggested three annual installments of \$5,000 to pay for that.

The town allowed \$8,400 for the first steps of the process of insulating the town hall floor. That money has not been spent yet, because the work had to wait until the ground underneath the floor thawed and dried before any of it can be removed.

Tri County Construction estimated \$2,560 to replace the three windows in the senior center.

The FY'18 budget authorized \$10,000 for properties maintenance, and so several of those expenses will be postponed.

Snow and ice removal also cost \$10,241 over what was budgeted. Snow and ice are one line item that may be overspent, as long as the town allocates at least that much more for the next fiscal year.

#### Broadband

The selectboard has been discussing the town meeting vote that authorized borrowing money for a fiber-optic network.

Keller, who has been conducting an informal survey of business owners, said that Myron Becker finds working around the limited internet access is difficult, but thinks it is not wise for the town to borrow money now for construction of a network. Keller said that makes four business owners against borrowing for the

### Leverett Assessors Services REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Leverett seeks proposals for firms to supply assessing office services for the town beginning on July 1, 2018 for three years. Services to be provided include general clerking and office hours as well as assessing duties. The office is overseen by an elected three-member Board of Assessors (BOA). Copies of the Request for Proposals are available from Marjorie McGinnis, Administrator, (413) 548-9699 or [townadministrator@leverett.ma.us](mailto:townadministrator@leverett.ma.us). All proposals must be received by May 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The contract will be awarded to the proposer offering the most advantageous proposal, taking into consideration minimum required criteria, comparative evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFP, and price. Contract will be awarded by the Selectboard based on the BOA's recommendation. The Town of Leverett reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part, and to waive irregularities and informalities, when at its sole discretion it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town and to the extent permitted by law.



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network to one in favor.

Technology is a moving target, and the process of getting internet connections to town has taken time, and before this system is built it may be obsolete.

Although the words of the town meeting article did not specify it, talk on the floor was of buildout and operation by WiredWest, and a household cost of \$49 a month. It may not be required legally, but board members are considering another vote because of the changed landscape. If it happens, the vote should take place after Westfield Gas & Electric has a design and a useful figure for the projects' cost.

The planning board unanimously approved a permit to place a 9' by 16' shed behind the office building to house electronics for the network. That approval is subject to citizen objections for 20 days.

#### Other Business

No conservation commission member came to hear the essays submitted in hopes of getting a campership to Mass Audubon's Wildwood summer camp. Two es-

says on the importance of nature arrived, and after listening to both, board members awarded Kiera Baleno the campership.

John Craddock resigned from the zoning board of appeals.

Ross Kahle resigned as tree warden, because of long term work out of state. Corine Baker is appointed as interim tree warden until the May election.

Governor Baker recently signed legislation that requires towns to follow OSHA guidelines for all work. Among other things, the law requires every firefighter to maintain a commercial driver's license with tank endorsement.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that highway commissioner Phil Delorey had opened bids for replacement of the Wendell Depot Road bridge that spans Whetstone Brook in Wendell Depot. The low bid was \$714,344, and the high bid was \$1,460,283.

The town has saved enough money for the project, but the cost of moving utility poles as will be required may not be covered by the money the town has saved.

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# Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico *The Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: [spanish@montaguereporter.org](mailto:spanish@montaguereporter.org). Esperamos su participación.



## Voces inmigrantes: Una celebración de las artes y de la diversidad

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

**TURNERS FALLS** – El domingo pasado se celebró en el teatro Shea en Turners Falls la tercera edición de *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts* organizada por *Center for New Americans*. Dicha organización sin ánimo de lucro con sedes en Northampton, Amherst, Turners Falls y Greenfield se dedica a labores de educación, ayuda con la búsqueda de empleo, y apoyo en cuestiones legales de inmigración y naturalización a inmigrantes.

El teatro estaba hasta la bandera, solamente vacías las sillas destinadas a los artistas después de su actuación. En el público se podía ver gente de todas las edades con caras de expectación ante el espectáculo que se nos iba a ofrecer. Estaban los padres de los niños participantes, los vecinos, los tutores de los inmigrantes que iban a actuar, familiares, amigos y simpatizantes

importancia de este tipo de eventos en circunstancias como las que estamos atravesando en las que hay una corriente anti-inmigrante.

La primera actuación corrió a cargo del grupo **Flora Tristán: Así es mi tierra** que interpretaron un baile tradicional mexicano llamado “La bikina” proveniente de la región de Jalisco. Eva Martínez y sus tres compañeras subieron al escenario acompañados de una pareja vestida con trajes nacionales mexicanos y portando la bandera de su país. Las bailadoras iban ataviadas con unos espectaculares y coloridos vestidos que llenaron el escenario de todo el sabor de México. ¡Viva México!

A continuación intervino **Sonam Gyaltzen** del Tibet que vestido con su traje folclórico nacional interpretó una canción titulada “El bello país que es América”. Sonam llenó todo el escenario con su potente voz y en las caras del público se reflejaba el sentimiento de la canción a

canciones con sus voces frescas, rotundas y poderosas: la primera el himno nacional de su país llamado *La Dessalinienne* y la segunda con significado religioso sobre la pasión de Jesucristo titulada *Via Dolorosa*.

A continuación subieron al escenario los más pequeños de entre los artistas, aunque solamente en edad, no en entusiasmo. Las niñas estaban vestidas con trajes blancos adornados con cenefas de colores y flores en el pelo, llevando entre sus manos las cintas de colores que entrelazaron durante su actuación. El grupo **Folclor Latino** estaba compuesto de una decena de niñas bailando *Xochipitahuatl* (Flor menuda), una danza típica en honor de la Madre Tierra que con la llegada de los españoles fue reemplazada por la Virgen de Guadalupe, patrona de México.

La banda **Gokh-Bi System** de Senegal interpretó dos canciones. *Khadi*, en la que se habla de cómo la música tiene la capacidad de conectar al ser humano globalmente. Todos los integrantes llevaban los sombreros que usan los campesinos para protegerse del sol en los cultivos de Senegal. En la segunda canción, *Simobe*, los espectadores no podían controlar sus manos y pies al ritmo de los acordes de la melodía.

El **Grupo Folclórico Tradiciones**, está compuesto por maestras y administradoras de las escuelas públicas de Amherst, y es ya habitual en eventos en que se muestra la diversidad cultural. Interpretaron dos danzas típicas de Colombia. La primera conocida como el ritmo del porro, de clara influencia africana, con la canción *El Binde* en que las cinco integrantes llevaban unos preciosos trajes negros adornados con cenefas con los colores de la bandera colombiana a juego con las flores que lucían en el pelo y llevando en su mano una vela.

En su segunda actuación, en la que cambiaron sus atuendos, bailaron al son de otro ritmo colombiano, el fandango, con la canción *Goza Plinio Sierra*. Las bailarinas llevaban unos preciosos trajes blancos y azules que formaban parte de la danza ya que al agitarlos con sus manos parecía que tenían vida y ritmo propio.

Pero no todos iban a ser bailes y canciones, el repertorio fue muy variado. **Tugba Yazici**, una estudiante turca recitó un poema en inglés escrito por ella misma llamado *La caja de Pandora*. La lectura del poema con una perfecta dicción en inglés impresionó al público que la premió con sonoros aplausos.

La siguiente artista fue Raquel Artiga de El Salvador que interpretó una canción de amor titulada *Te dejo en libertad* con una bonita voz y un gran ritmo.

Desde Guanajuato llegó el dúo **Guanajuatense pride** formado por Gaby y Efrén. Interpretaron una danza original de la región de Tamaulipas con la canción *La Cáp-*



*Grupo Folclórico Tradiciones*

*sula*. La pareja iba ataviada con los trajes típicos en un día de fiesta popular y nos deleitaron con una muy bien coreografiada danza.

A continuación las luces del patio de butacas se apagaron y unas carcajadas resonaron desde el fondo de la sala. **Alex de Melo**, brasileño, interpretó el conocido monólogo de la película *El Gran Dictador* de Charlie Chaplin. Antes de empezar su actuación dedicó unas palabras a la situación que está viviendo su país y clamó por la libertad de Lula al grito de *Lula libre* que fue coreado por parte del público. Hizo en inglés una fabulosa interpretación en la que se habla de un nuevo mundo, un nuevo mundo más decente y que es un canto a la libertad y a la democracia. El público chasqueó los dedos durante la actuación y la cerró puesto en pie con una cerrada ovación.

No podía faltar la canción de moda, *Despacito*, que fue bailada por **Las Mamás**, un grupo con representantes de Colombia, El Salvador y Costa Rica con Teresa Córdoba de *Nelcwit* al frente. Los entusiastas jóvenes se movieron al son de *Despacito* y el público bailaba en sus asientos coreando el estribillo. Al fin y al cabo, ¿Quién no conoce *Despacito*?

**Audi Gonzalez** de Guatemala recitó un poema en inglés: *I had a dream* (Tuve un sueño). En el poema se habla sobre un sueño fabuloso en el que hay un mundo sin odio y donde todos podemos vivir como hermanos en paz. Audi al terminar su poema cantó unos versos de la cantante chilena Violeta Parra que emocionaron al público.

*El baile de los locos*, un baile popular costarricense fue interpretado por la muralista **Maricella Obando Moya**, natural del país centroamericano. Vestida con bo-

tas altas de cuero y un sombrero de estilo tejano adornado con plumas naranjas, exhibió unas fenomenales dotes de baile y conectó con el público desde sus primeros pasos.

Fue entonces el momento de los agradecimientos a los patrocinadores por la organizadora del evento y directora ejecutiva de CNA, **Laurie Millman** que dio las gracias también a los artistas participantes y sus tutores para terminar anunciando otros eventos futuros de la organización.

Por último actuó la conocida banda **Viva Quetzal** que hace una mezcla entre pop y tradición folclórica y está integrada por naturales de Chile, Venezuela, Panamá y Estados Unidos.

El grupo nos deleitó con dos bonitas canciones: La primera, *Moliendo Café*, es una conocida canción del folclore venezolano que habla del melancólico son del zambo Manuel al moler el café. Todos los latinos presentes en la sala coreamos juntos el estribillo que dice así:

*Una pena de amor, una  
tristeza  
Lleva el zambo Manuel en su  
amargura  
Pasa incansable la noche,  
moliendo café*

Después interpretaron *Pampa Lirima*, música instrumental típica de la zona de los Andes y por último para su última canción que fue popularizada por el grupo cubano Buena Vista Social Club, *El cuarto de Tula*, llamaron a todos los artistas a reunirse en el escenario y compartir sus ritmos con la audiencia que aceptó gustosa la invitación a levantarse y bailar juntos como un gran fin de fiesta.



*Gokh-Bi System.*

de *Center for New Americans*.

A las tres y cinco se abrió el telón y pudimos ver a los presentadores, dos estudiantes de la organización: Samba Kane de Senegal y Biani Salas de Venezuela que hicieron una excelente labor conduciendo y pronunciando los nombres y títulos en diferentes lenguas. En primer lugar dieron las gracias a las personas y empresas que habían patrocinado el evento y especialmente al director del teatro, Monte Belmonte, que subió al escenario y tomó la palabra. Monte expresó su deseo de que el teatro Shea fuera un lugar de bienvenida y encuentro para todas las voces de la comunidad y subrayó la

pesar de la barrera del lenguaje.

La siguiente representación fue a cargo del grupo **Quarteto del cinco**, aunque los integrantes son ocho. Uno de los miembros es Marise Lyra que fue estudiante en CNA y ahora forma parte de la organización. El grupo combina diversos instrumentos como charango, panderetas, tambores y saxofón para crear ritmos de samba y melodías con influencia afrobrasileña.

Una de las integrantes explicó al público en inglés que la samba tiene el significado de libertad y liberación y dedicó la canción a la maltrecha democracia en su país después de la encarcelación de su ex-presidente. En primer lugar interpretaron la canción *Acalanto* apoyados en el estribillo por el público coreando la palabra *marienneiro* que en español significa marinero. En segundo lugar fue la canción *Trem das onze* (El tren de las once), una antigua y famosa samba que cuenta la historia de un chico que no quería perder el tren y molestar con ello a su madre.

Haití fue el siguiente país protagonista. La actuación corrió a cargo de dos estudiantes de este país caribeño: **Rose Coquillon y Johanne Juste**. Interpretaron dos



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**CELEBRATION** from page A1

highlighting the importance of this type of event in a time when strident anti-immigrant rhetoric has reached near-deafening levels.

For the first act, the group **Flora Tristán: Así es Mi Tierra** performed a traditional Mexican dance from the region of Jalisco called *La Bikina*. Eva Martínez and her three colleagues appeared on stage, accompanied by a couple wearing traditional Mexican outfits and carrying the country’s flag. During the dance, the spectacular and colorful outfits filled the stage with all the flavor of Mexico. *¡Viva México!*

Next up, wearing traditional clothing from Tibet, **Sonam Gyaltzen** sang “The Beautiful Country That is America.” Sonam filled the theater with his powerful voice, and the sincere emotion of the song was reflected in the faces of the audience, despite the language barrier.

The **Brazilian Quarteto de Cinco** (Quartet of Five) has, in fact, eight members – one of whom is Marise Lyra, who was a student at CNA and is now part of the organization. Using diverse instruments such as the *charango* (a type of South American lute), tambourines, drums, and saxophone, they create the rhythms of samba whose Afro-Brazilian influence is apparent in the melodies.

One member explained to the audience in English that the samba signifies both liberty and liberation, and dedicated the song to the damaged democracy in Brazil following the imprisonment of former President Lula. They sang “Acalanto” first, with the audience joining in for the chorus of *marienhiero* (Portuguese for “sailor”). They followed this with “Trem das Onze” (the 11:00 train), an old and famous samba telling the story of a boy who doesn’t want to miss that train.

Representing Haiti were two students from this Caribbean nation, **Rose Coquillon and Johanne Juste**, who sang with fresh, strong voices both the national anthem, “La Dessalinienne,” and the religious “Via Dolorosa.”

Next came the youngest artists to take the stage, whose enthusiasm easily matched all the adults: the children’s dance troupe **El Folklor Latino**, representing Mexico. The girls wore white dresses decorated with colorful trimming and flowers in their hair, and interwove the multi-colored ribbons that they carried in their hands while they danced. They performed *Xochipitahuatl* (Aztec for “little flower”), a traditional dance originally honoring Mother Earth, but which evolved after the Spanish conquest to honor the Virgin of Guadalupe, patron saint of Mexico.

**Gokh-Bi System**, a Senegalese band, performed two songs with all the group members wearing the wide-brimmed hats used to protect themselves from the sun in the fields of Senegal. The first, “Khadi,” expresses the capacity of music to globally connect humanity, while the second, “Simobe,” drove the audience to clap their hands and stomp their feet along with the music.

**Grupo Folklorico Tradiciones**, comprising women educators from Amherst, performed two traditional dances from Colombia. The five members wore beautiful black outfits trimmed with the colors of the Colombian flag as well as matching flowers in their hair. The first dance, *El Binde*, is based on a traditional Colombian rhythm, porro, that clearly shows African influences. They changed their outfits for the next dance, which they performed later in the program: *Goza Plinio Sierra*,

this time a fandango. Now they wore white and blue outfits that formed part of the dance as they shook them with their hands, giving them a life of their own.

Poetry came next, as **Tugba Yazici**, a Turkish student, read her own poem in English titled *Pandora’s Box*. Such was the strength of the poem that the audience could scarcely contain the thunderous applause.

**Raquel Artiga** (El Salvador) performed an achingly beautiful love song, “Te Dejo en Libertad” (I’ll Set You Free), with her beautiful voice accompanied by tender music.

Gaby and Efen, the duo **Guanajuatense Pride**, performed a traditional dance from the Mexican region of Tamaulipas. They danced to the song “La Cápsula” wearing traditional local dress for a festival day, and stunned the audience with their sophisticated choreography.

Suddenly, the lights went out, and laughter echoed through the theater. Then the Brazilian **Alex de Melo** came out to perform the well-known monologue from Charlie Chaplin’s *The Great Dictator*. Before he began, he, too, made a reference to the dire political situation in Brazil, arguing for the liberation of Lula, culminating in the audience chanting *Lula libre!* In English, de Melo gave an amazing performance that talked of a new world, more decent than before, calling for freedom and democracy. The audience snapped their fingers throughout and in the end gave him a standing ovation.

Of course, the hit song “Despacito” made an appearance, danced to here by **Las Mamás**, a group with members from Colombia, El Salvador and Costa Rica and fronted by Teresa Córdoba. They enthusiastically moved to the sound of “Despacito” as the audience danced in their seats, singing out the chorus. After all, who doesn’t know “Despacito”?

**Audi Gonzalez**, from Guatemala, next recited a poem in English titled *I Had a Dream*. The poem recounts a fabulous dream in which there is a world without hate and where all can live as sisters and brothers in peace. Afterwards, Audi sang some verses by the Chilean Violeta Parra which moved the audience with their emotion.

*El baile de los locos*, a dance popular in Costa Rica, was performed by **Maricella Obando Moya**. Wearing high-topped leather boots and a Texan cowboy hat decorated with orange feathers, she executed some phenomenal dance moves and connected with the audience from her first steps.

Thanking the sponsors, event organizer and CNA director Laurie Millman also took time to thank the participating artists and their tutors.

The last act was the well-known band **Viva Quetzal**, which plays a synthesis of pop and traditional folk music and is made up of members from Chile, Venezuela and Panama as well as the United States. They delighted the audience with two beautiful songs. The first, “Moliendo Café,” is a well-known Venezuelan folk song, drenched in melancholy, as Manuel grinds the coffee. Again, practically the whole audience sang along when it came time for the chorus. Next they performed “Pampa Lirima,” an instrumental typical of the Andes, before closing with “El Cuarto de Tula,” a Cuban song popularized by the Buena Vista Social Club. For this, they called all the artists back on stage to join them.

The show ended with practically everyone in the house on their feet, dancing together. It was a great end to a terrific *fiesta!*



**NICKNAME** from page A1

“I feel like we kind of already have that... why use up that one slot? We could attach Powertown: ‘We’re the Powertown Thunder.’”

“Turners Falls is Powertown,” said Gill resident Tupper Brown. “Maybe we should try to avoid having it twice over – Turners Falls Powertown?”

Members also expressed concern over the difficulty of representing “Powertown” in the form of a logo. The group considered presenting four finalists to the public for consideration – Powertown, Thunder, Chargers, and Raptors – but then reviewed their initial instructions, which had asked them to bring “two or three” names forward for a final decision. Still they put the question to a vote, and by a 7 to 3 margin decided to only choose three.

They then separated “Powertown” from the rest, but some worried that the taskforce would be criticized for eliminating the choice after two other popular names, “Indians” and “Tribe,” had already been prohibited.

Martineau suggested “Thunder” be amended to “Powertown Thunder.”

“If we’re going to do one, I say we do all,” said Betsy Laczynski, TFHS ‘64.

“Powertown Thunder, Powertown Chargers, Powertown Raptors,” district employee Christine Bates summarized.

“When you come to the football game, and you’re in the stands, and you’re cheering away, you don’t have to do the whole thing,” Laczynski said.

Bates suggested the names be sent to the community “in a fashion that states, ‘we recognize that Powertown will be used with any of these three.’”

The taskforce will meet again in two weeks to decide how to poll the public in order to select a new name from the finalists. Members discussed requiring voters register with their names.

“It’s a total drag, but when we see our [suggestion] boxes stuffed full with the same handwriting – of the same word – I feel like it’s a



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valid request,” said Bates.

“I feel like it’s a really valid request, but what does that vehicle look like?” asked Chad Cadran, TFHS ‘99. “How do you do it?”

As the group began to schedule its next steps, discussion turned to the coming town elections. Eight candidates will be on the district ballot for four open school committee seats, and the administrators of the “Save the TF Indians Logo” Facebook page have endorsed a slate of four candidates – including page administrator and prominent nickname retention activist Chris Pinardi – who they “feel best represent the purpose that this page was created for.”

“The town elections are May 21,” Laczynski pointed out. “I have seen the slate of candidates who are running, and I’m concerned that any of the work that we’re doing here may be moot if we don’t get this done.”

“It happens,” Mackin replied.

“We know that a lot of people running for school committee got involved initially based on this issue,” Martineau said, “but I think by the vote that happened last year, the school committee called a lot of attention to themselves. And the people that I know that are running for school committee maybe

perhaps started with the logo issue, but are now more concerned about larger issues.”

Martineau added that she would not rush the process, nor stay until 10 p.m. at meetings to “get it done.” “I am not jamming this through before the election,” she said.

Tupper Brown expressed disagreement. “It is a great danger that something as important as the election of people responsible for education in this community should turn on the question of whether there should be an Indians mascot,” he argued. “It’s just a terrible skewing of what’s important, and what isn’t.... I urge you, not in the name of Indians or not Indians, but in the name of education, to get this over with as quickly as we can.”

“I have kids in this district, and I also work in this district,” said Thomasina Hall. “It’s exhausting. This process has gone on long enough... Let’s stop dragging this out. I want to be done at the end of the year, and say, ‘You know what? 2018-19 school year, we’re going to move forward with our new logo/name,’ and then go from there.”

The taskforce will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 23 at Turners Falls High School.



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Three Sudden Departures

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The regional school committee’s regular meeting on Tuesday night had a late start, due to an executive session and a “working” session to finalize the committee’s formal goals for 2018 to 2021.

That session was successful, and committee members presented the final draft, with category headers “student success and support,” “professional learning culture,” “communication and community engagement,” “fiscal stewardship,” “governance,” and “safety and security.” These goals and their corresponding action steps were approved 8-0, with Shawn Hubert absent.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan reported the sudden retirement of high school custodian John Deveny, and the sudden resignation, effective this week, of middle school art teacher Katie Eichorn and high school adjustment counselor Andrea Leydon.

Sullivan and the board wished all three employees well.

Business manager Joanne Blier

shared the results of an internal audit of the district’s financial practices. The audit found one “significant deficiency” – less serious than a material weakness – concerning the proper filing of time sheets for three employees and the salary agreements for one. Blier said new procedures had already been put in place to correct the issue.

Blier also noted that the district’s leases on Sheffield and Hillcrest schools from the town of Montague are up for renewal this spring, and will go before that town’s annual town meeting.

A recent study at the middle and high school found low rates of school breakfast access, attributed to multiple barriers. In the course of a 33-day period, visits to the school nurse before lunch that were deemed hunger-related accounted for 230 minutes of lost learning time.

The district will apply for the state’s Community Eligibility Provision for reduced food pricing at the high school and middle school. The program has already been successful at Hilcrest and Sheffield, but if the district included Gill,

that town’s economic demographics would cause the town to lose money on the deal.

The committee approved a Gill Elementary sixth-grade field trip this month to Nature’s Classroom in New Hampshire, but complained that they hadn’t been notified of the trip before fundraising began, and that no teacher or administrator came to the meeting to discuss the trip.

The committee approved a calendar for the 2018-19 school year, and learned of the results of surveys of teachers and parents about some of its variables.

School will begin on August 27 for staff and August 30 for students.


A proposal to merge February and April vacations into one two-week vacation in March was more warmly received among families than teachers. Sullivan and the committee agreed that the idea should be discussed regionally, to make coordination easier for families with children in multiple districts, and for childcare providers.

Regular February and April vacations are scheduled for next year.

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**SOUTHWORTH** from A1

was approved by the court on April 5, paints a dismal picture of the prospects for selling the Turners Falls facility. It states that maintaining the closed plant is currently costing the company \$100,000 per month. Although funds to cover these expenses were provided by a “secured creditor,” according to the motion, “those funds have been depleted and the Debtor has insufficient funds to satisfy ongoing operating expenses.”

Southworth went on to state that a conversion to Chapter 7 bankruptcy, wherein a trustee liquidates the company’s assets, would not be feasible because the trustee “would likely be burdened by duties and responsibilities without the funds to fulfill those ob-

ligations.” For example: “utility services to the Turners plant would be terminated, the boilers will fail, the pipes will freeze and the fire suppression system will fail.” The trustee, the document explains, would not be able to purchase insurance on a building with no fire suppression system.

The motion also notes an “underfunded pension plan.” An accompanying statement by a group of creditors states that claims totaling \$7,696,842 have been filed against Southworth, which also laid off most of its workers in Agawam and Seattle, Washington, by a company called the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Southworth’s motion to end bankruptcy proceedings offers no indication of how it plans to dispose of the plant, building, and machines. Montague town administrator Steve Ellis speculated that one of the company’s creditors may exercise its right to sell the machinery within the plant.

“I don’t know about the building,” he added.

Seymour said that the bank that holds a mortgage on the property could foreclose, but “I don’t know if they want the building.”

Both Ellis and Seymour said the town plans to enforce its lien on the property, which it could not do while the company was in Chapter 11. But this enforcement could lead the town to state land court, and a “tax title” taking of the factory.

“We do not wish to own the building,” Ellis emphatically told this newspaper. “Right now, we want to secure our liens. We are a long way from tax title.” But Ellis also stated that the town “wants to learn from the experience of past building closures.”

One of those buildings, the Strathmore complex, sits next door to the Southworth plant. That building remained on the private market for over fifteen years after it ceased operation as a paper mill in 1994. After a series of owners who were unable to finance a renovation allowed the property to degrade, the town was forced to assume control.

Now, after spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in public money to avoid further deterioration, the town has slated eight of the ten buildings for demolition.

**MONTAGUE REPORTER...****...ON THE GO**

A couple weeks ago, we noticed our neighbor Emmett Larkin-Harmon out on the Ave, pointing his phone at our office door. He explained that he was just capturing a Bulbasaur, and later shared this screenshot with us.

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## Eleanor Roosevelt Comes to Erving

By ANNE HARDING

**ERVING** – Last Friday it was my privilege to watch historic impersonator Sheryl Faye bring to life the story of Eleanor Roosevelt from her early childhood to her final days.

The performance started with a young Eleanor talking about her extreme shyness, her close relationship with her father, the difficulty living up to her mother's standards of beauty and societal norms, as well as the roots of her deep caring for mankind.

Roosevelt suffered many losses in her early life – her mother died when she was eight, followed by an older brother, and then at age ten, her father died unexpectedly. She was raised by her maternal grandmother and then sent off to England to finishing school at 15.

Audience members were moved to tears by the realism of young Eleanor's grief at the passing of her father, and the packet of letters from him that she carried with her for the rest of her life.

Growing up in Canada, I didn't study much American history, so

I wasn't particularly knowledgeable about one of America's most revered women. I learned a lot during Faye's performance and thoroughly enjoyed the entire show, as did the rest of the audience. There were several members of the audience in their later decades who could attest to the accuracy of Faye's accent.

It was a simple set – desk, chair and dressmaker's manikin – that are very likely part of the everyday furnishings of the Erving Senior Center (well, perhaps not the manikin). The desk held a steamer trunk, a few wig stands, and other small items. Faye used wigs, hats, and clothing items to transform herself from a child to a teenager; from young woman to a wife and mother; from the woman who encouraged her polio stricken husband to return to government life, to becoming the First Lady; from a widow to an Ambassador to the United Nations.

There were well-timed historic photographs projected behind her, plus periodic recorded sound effects, music and voices, while the

see **ELEANOR** page B6

## Exploring the Borderlands of Invisibility

By DINA STANDER

**TURNERS FALLS** – I took a break on a snowy April afternoon to visit Cindi Oldham's watercolor portrait show, *Seen/Unseen*, in the gallery at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. I'm so glad I went!

Featuring fifteen familiar faces – people she might run into in the course of day-to-day routines in and around downtown Turners Falls, where the artist has lived since 1990 – the project explores the borderlands of visibility and invisibility; being noticed and appreciated, or ignored and overlooked.

Oldham's group of head and shoulder portraits are hung at about eye level along the walls of the Great Hall, where the vaulted ceiling and natural light allow visitors to be drawn into the proximity of each painting without feeling crowded. Oldham's eye and brush offer a glimpse of an inner person we might never otherwise see.

This series grew from an experience the artist had of becoming more invisible in public spaces as she grew older. She noticed being looked through, instead of seen, and began to think more about people we habitually overlook with a cursory glance. Being invisible can sometimes be vexing, and other times a shelter; as she explored the idea more, she noticed that every person carries a story about what is seen or unseen about themselves.

This series is her way of gently peeling back a bit of the public veneer we wear walking through our day, revealing the inner strengths and vulnerabilities that our personal histories convey; things no one sees in the course of doing business or passing each other on the street.

Oldham interviewed and photographed her subjects; as she put it, "reaching for the candid moments where their inner selves shine through." Each portrait is accompanied with a reflection by its subject addressing their own



Cindi Oldham stands next to her self-portrait, one of fifteen watercolor portraits she created for the *Seen/Unseen* exhibit now on view in the Great Hall at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

experience of being, or choosing to be, unseen. The interplay of this personal dialog with the paintings adds dimension and depth to the concept Oldham is unpacking:

*I learned to be non-reactive, to be still, even when my mind raced and split in two directions.*

*Where are your dogs? This is the most frequently asked question I get while walking alone in downtown Turners Falls. Who is seen and who is unseen? ... without the dogs and without the uniform, who am I?*

*I'm not sure exactly when I disappeared, probably around the time that the wrinkles and lines appeared on my face. Inside, I am all of the*

*women that I have ever been. my eye might be hard with it, I realize / old sorrow can look hard, and what does forgiveness look like?*

*Loving myself means unlearning the ways I'm trained to want to be seen... It means stretching to expose my tender, quirky, non-binary enthusiasm and aesthetics, or letting a trickster part out to play, especially when I'm around people who welcome us. It means looking back to validate and forgive past versions of us who could not do so for themselves.*

This show is a colorful and well executed exploration and meditation on the human experience. When I asked Ms. Oldham what had most

see **OLDHAM** page B3



Sheryl Faye has been portraying historic women since 2003.



## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### APRIL SNOW

By DAVID BRULE

*What season, what century have we got out here, my dears?*  
(Apologies to Boris Pasternak)

**MILLERS RIVER BEND** – This morning for a while at least, it's early spring.

Dueling woodpeckers tap out a rata-tat-tat in the clear frigid sunrise, at 18 degrees, to welcome in the spring. Barely missing a beat, one of them hammers that hollow sound on a dead tree, the other, a rival, immediately answers and challenges.

A famous musician once said:



Hairy and downy woodpeckers.

*"The notes I handle no better than many others. But ah! The pauses between the notes, that's where the art resides."*

But that zen doesn't apply to these two 'peckers. They don't give it a rest, no pause between hammered notes. There's too much at stake. They've been at it for twenty minutes, now riveting their knocks into the rhythm of my reading, writing, and sipping coffee. When you're a musician yourself, the pulse of these distant tempos can penetrate your mind like brainworms.

Insistent like the bells in the head of a madman, I'm praying that they stop!

Mercifully they do hesitate, perhaps to rest their rattled brains, then back to it they go, back at it again. I know what they're up to, theirs is a territorial spring ritual, the territorial imperative. Their tribal drumming is announcing their intentions to control all the space within earshot, but who will out-drum whom?

Ah! It has stopped, someone has won, or they're taking a break for breakfast. Now I can get back to reading the lines of this morning's poet, Robert Lowell, without being forced to fit the woodpecker rhythms; now the poet can take

see **WEST ALONG** page B4

## Please Don't Pass the PCBs!

By EMILY MONOSSON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – For the past year and a half, our Neighborhood Toxicologist has been having, for the most part, a one-way conversation with Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt. He has responded on occasion ensuring the author that he is looking forward to "working with the agency's dedicated employees.... on a shared vision to protect our environment for generations."

And that he aims to "strike a balance between protecting our water, air and natural resources and building our economy." (We all know how this has been going.)

Below is a letter written in response to a proposed cut in funds for hazardous waste cleanup.

Dear Mr. Pruitt,

I see you have finally taken an interest in the environment, what with your recent decree to give yourself the last word on waterways – side-stepping the input of those knowledgeable environmental scientists – and your ardent interest in Superfund sites, inserting yourself as the final decider on any site costing more than \$50 million to clean up.



A vintage postcard view of the General Electric works at Schenectady, New York.

Your focus on water and Superfund reminds me of our relatively local Superfund, the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, MA. There's a mess with a hefty price tag.

As I am sure you are aware, there is some haggling about how best to remove all those polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) left behind by General Electric: the roughly \$613 million cleanup based on earlier EPA directives, or... the bargain basement cleanup suggested by GE, as reported in the *Berkshire Eagle* earlier this year. And you could be the final decider on this!

So, let's talk about those PCBs, the chemicals that, one could argue, fueled a generation of toxicologists – I am also one of those toxicologists who, for a while, made a living off of PCBs – along with the Superfund and Hazardous cleanup industry.

PCBs are the quintessential example of chemical recklessness and, like DDT, are a legacy pollutant. As another turn-of-the-century industry darling, these unregulated chemicals eventually contaminated just about every region of the planet. Even

see **PCBs** page B4



# Pet of the Week

Hi there, my name is Edith. I am at Dakin because my person passed away. Because of this, not much is known about my past. In my previous home, I was an indoor/outdoor cat. I lived with one woman my whole life, so a quiet home may be best for me. I may be 8 years old, but that doesn't stop me! I like to chase and pounce with a variety of different

toys. I am also litter box trained. I would make a great companion to someone looking for a quiet friend. If you would like to meet me, stop in and ask an adoption counselor for more information. Take her home with you this week! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



“EDITH”

## Senior Center Activities APRIL 16 TO 20

**GILL and MONTAGUE**

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

**Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F 10:10 a.m.** Aerobics;  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 4/16:**  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 4/17:**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Wednesday 4/18:**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 4/19:**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 4/20:**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

**LEVERETT**

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at

noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

**ERVING**

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 4/16:** No Lunch Served  
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Tuesday 4/17:**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting  
**Wednesday 4/18:**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo & Snacks  
6 p.m. Pitch Night  
**Thursday 4/19:**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 a.m. Create to Donate  
**Friday 4/20:**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
11:15 a.m. Music, Movement, M...

**WENDELL**

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

**By JON DOBOSZ**

**UNITY PARK** – Well, spring has certainly gotten off to a great start for us here at Montague Parks & Recreation!

We held our annual Peter Cottontail’s EGGstravaganza on Saturday, March 31 to what may have been a record crowd! It’s amazing how quickly 5,000 eggs can be gobbled up by children. We would like to thank the generosity of our co-sponsors, the Montague Elks, Letourneau Plumbing, and Greenfield Savings Bank. I would also like to send a shout-out to our friends at Let It Ride Skate Shop in Turners Falls for donating a scooter as a prize!

While we were lucky to have a beautiful day for the EGGstravaganza, so far the weather this spring has been less than stellar. However, you can take comfort in the fact that registration has begun for our **Summer Camp**.

The Montague Summer Camp is still one of the best deals around. We only charge \$75 per child per week in our least expensive program, and we have a bunch of great things planned for the kids. Aside from our daily activities, we also provide field trips, special events, and weekly trips to the lake. Contact us now



to get more information. Don’t wait until the last minute!

We are also very excited with what, we feel, is a new beginning for the **Unity Park Community Garden**. The Great Falls Apple Corps, a very committed and organized group of volunteers who help promote local gardening, has taken on a leadership role in coordinating plot usage and developing special events to maximize participation of the garden.

They are **scheduling a garden clean-up for Saturday, April 14** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help prepare the beds for a productive summer. Come and meet your neighbors, sign up for your garden plot, share ideas, and get your hands dirty. Arrive an hour early at 9 a.m. for an “Eat the Weeds” workshop, to discover which common weeds

are edible (even yummy) before we pull ‘em all out.

I would also like to announce that we’re still taking **registrations for our Warrior Dash**. This is a new adventure course race in which we’re partnering with the Hillcrest Elementary School as a fundraiser for their Playground Project and our scholarship program. Kids ages 5 to 12 will be given the task of racing through a pre-designed course with multiple obstacles, and it’s sure to be a blast. Racers will compete in separate age categories – 5 & 6, 7 & 8, 9 & 10, and 11 & 12 – with boys and girls winners crowned in each category. The course may vary between some age groups.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 9 at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Elementary. Entry fees are \$10 for Montague residents and \$15 for non-residents. We’re looking for sponsors, so please help spread the word.

That’s about it from here. For additional information on our programs and events, contact us at 863-3216, log onto our webpage at [montague.net](http://montague.net), or check out our Facebook page. Talk to you next month!

*Jon Dobosz, CPRP, is parks and recreation director for the town of Montague.*

### FROM A KID’S POINT OF VIEW

## School Safety (Part 1)

**By FINTAN ANDREW JONES**

**GREENFIELD** – I gave you a hint in my last column how to find the second bridge and stone staircase to nowhere.

They are near the first ones that I wrote about in my last column. Cross the first bridge at the Greenfield Swimming Area. Then turn right. Walk ahead around the curve. There they are! Just before the Cherry Rum Brook runs into the Green River. The staircase goes up to the blinking stoplight.

Did you guess?

Today I want to write about violence in schools, first because it’s on the news.

Rarely, people bring guns into schools. You should always call the police (9-1-1) if something like that happens, listen to the teacher, and do whatever she or he says to do. If the teacher isn’t there, then run super far away. If that escape is not possible, then hide and, last, fight. And only fight last.

To prepare, there are a ton of different practical things a school could do. The school could try to afford to install bulletproof glass. They could also try security cameras, or maybe metal detectors. Panic alarms might

work, too. Teachers could look into putting bulletproof locks on doors, and they can make safety signs and post them around schools. The school can look into hiring security officers. Schools should do a lot of lockdown drills. Schools could send home a survey for parents to get some more ideas.

Teachers should talk about school violence to the students, because it can make some kids scared that something like that might happen.

My next column, *School Safety (Part 2)*, will be about walking to school, riding the bus, bullying, and other things.

## YSP Switches from the Bard to Bernard

**TURNERS FALLS** – The dedicated actors of Young Shakespeare Players East, despite the name of the group, don’t just perform full-length Shakespeare plays. This spring, the 24-actor ensemble, which ranges in age from 10 to 18, will mount two of the best, yet least-performed, short comedies George Bernard Shaw ever wrote: *The Music Cure* and *Augustus Does His Bit*. Everyone young and old is encouraged to attend a free performance on the weekend of April 21 and 22 at Northfield Mount Hermon.

In *Augustus Does His Bit*, the year is 1916, and Britain is embroiled in the First World War. Colonel Augustus Highcastle, “a distinguished member of the governing class,” is avoiding the front, lingering in the town of Little Pifflington, supposedly to rally support for the war effort. Shaw argued that every warring country has its “Highcastles” – rulers whose towering incompetence is surpassed only by their complacent self-satisfaction.

*The Music Cure* is especially rare on the stage, partly because it involves a piano duel (classical vs.



*Young Shakespeare Players East members (left to right) Lucy Lynch, Desdamera Gaines Smyth, and Luke Lombard rehearse a play by Bernard Shaw for their upcoming performance at Northfield Mount Hermon.*

ragtime) that leads most ensembles to assume it requires proficient pianist/actors. YSP East solved this problem in a clever way – all the solos for our production were specially recorded by two acclaimed pianists, while our actors were trained in the mimicry of piano playing.

The story of *The Music Cure* involves a foolish, neurotic English aristocrat, Sir Reginald, who is being treated for a case of “nerves.” His doctor prescribes an unusual cure: classical piano music played

by the frightening Strega Thundridge. But high-strung Reginald hates classical, enjoys only ragtime, which he plays well. A hilarious battle of wits and piano ensues in this romantic farce.

Shaw, who wrote more than 60 plays over the course of his lifetime (1856 to 1950), many of them controversial political satires, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1925. He was an extremely influential writer who is thought by many dramatists to be second only to Shakespeare.

Join the Young Shakespeare Players East for this performance and enjoy delicious concessions as well. Proceeds from the refreshments will support the YSP East scholarship fund.

Remember, these performances are free and will be held at **Grandin Hall in the Blake Student Center** at Northfield Mount Hermon, 11 Conference Road, Gill on: Saturday, April 21 and Sunday April 22 at 11a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Run time: 1 hour 30 minutes with one intermission.

SUZANNE RUBINSTEIN PHOTO

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OLDHAM from page B1

surprised her as she concluded the project, she answered, “That we all have in common walking around and not noticing one another. Everyone had a quick answer to how they experience being seen and unseen. It was really at the top of people’s consciousness... It gives you confidence to see that everyone carries these stories.”

Learn more about Cindi on her website, [cindioldham.com](http://cindioldham.com).

*Seen/Unseen* is on view in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, April 6 through May 30.

You are invited to meet the artist at her reception at the center on Saturday, April 28, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Center is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during school vacation week (April 14 through 22) and after May 15.



# Author Gives Birth to Twin Volumes

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Celebrate the recent publication of two books of poetry by local author Laura Rodley at the Gill-Montague senior center on Sunday, April 15. Laura will read from her new books entitled *Counter Point* and *Turn Left at Normal*, while refreshments are served.

Laura Rodley is a Pushcart Prize winner, a quintuple Pushcart Prize nominee, and a quintuple Best of Net nominee.

She is a former co-curator of the Collected Poets Series, and teaches the *As You Write It* memoir class at the Center. Stories from that class have been edited, anthologized and published as *As You Write It, A Franklin County Anthology Volumes I-VI*, which has also been nominated for a Massachusetts Book Award.

Rodley also writes feature articles for several publications, including *Country Folks*, *CF Grower*, *The Montague Reporter* and *Wine and Craft Beverage News*, and she contributes poems to *The New Verse News*. Her poem “Resurrection” which appeared there in 2011 was awarded a Pushcart Prize.

Laura’s book *Counter Point*, published by Prolific Press, came

out March 22. It is a pirate’s tale that Ellen Wade Beals (publisher, editor of *Solace in So Many Words*) describes as being novelistic.

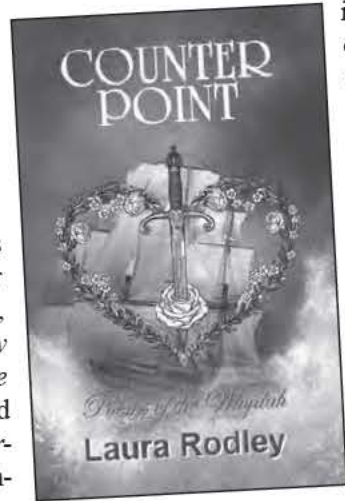
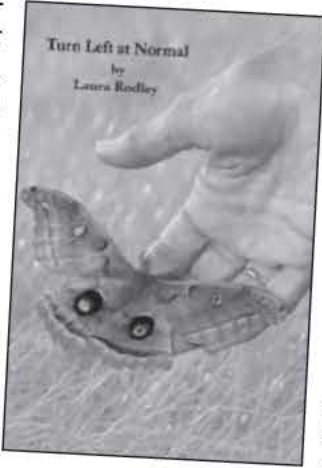
“Counter Point uses scene, dialogue, and action-driven narrative,” writes Beal in her review. “And like any good novel, this book introduces an unforgettable character, Marie, an ordinary girl who navigates the world with extraordinary fortitude. Artful language and sensual detail – whether evoking love’s first desires, or describing the malodors of a pirate ship – bring to life a briny world.”

The other book, *Turn Left at Normal*, published by Big Table, is described by author Patricia Lee Lewis as taking the reader on “sensual journeys of the heart.”

Lewis writes: “Poems rhyme, repeat in fixed form, fly wildly free; they swim to lake bottoms, escaping; they crash into sea drenched rocks.”

Hear Laura Rodley read at this free and wheelchair accessible event on April 15 at 1 p.m. The senior center is at 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

Copies of the books are available at local bookstores and on Amazon.



## CONCERT REVIEW

# Immigrant Voices III

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – *Immigrant Voices III* was a concert presented by the Center for New Americans at the Shea Theater on Sunday afternoon. The Center is a non-profit education center where immigrants can learn English, and get support including “citizenship and immigration services.” The group also gives them “the tools necessary to maintain economic independence and stability.” ([www.cnam.org](http://www.cnam.org))

Many performers were at the concert. Grupo Flora Tristen, a dance group of five Mexican women, wore lovely dresses, each a different color. They danced on stage while two individuals held the flag of Mexico on stage for us to see. Their dancing looked well coordinated, and in time with the music being played.

Sonam Gyaltzen was a Tibetan who sang a song I didn’t really understand, but his voice sounded nice. El Quarteto de Cinco was a group featuring eight members, and three different drums being played. One of the drum players was like the lead singer, and other members sang with her. She had a voice I liked a little better than the Tibetan. They also played in good harmony with each other.

A duo of women from Haiti named Rose Coquillon and Johanne Juste sang a couple of songs. Their singing was soulful sounding to me, and their voices beautiful. One song was the Haitian National Anthem, and it showed their singing to be a perfect duet. They were perfectly in key with each other. I bet if someone asks them to sing our National Anthem they could do it very well.

El Folkor Latino was a children’s

dance troupe. They weren’t bad, but they weren’t as well organized as the first one.

Gokh-Bi System seem to play music out of Africa. Three members sang and they did all right. One played an electric guitar, which I really liked. The audience clapped along to a song.

Grupo Folklorico Tradiciones was the third dance group we saw. The audience clapped to them, like they did with Gokh-Bi.

A woman from Turkey, Tugba Yaza, read a poem called “Pandora’s Box.” I know what Pandora’s box is, and it isn’t a positive thing – it’s more like a cautionary tale to be heard. But she had a positive take on it: she connected it to hope. So that was a cool poem.

Raquel Artiga was a singer whose singing I liked as much as that Haitian duo – this was my second favorite singing of the show. Guanajuatense Pride was a duo of a man and woman who danced well. The audience enjoyed

watching them. I think you would see their type of dancing at a party.

I had heard Alex De Melo do a monologue from Charlie Chaplin’s *The Great Dictator* before. But this time, he came through the audience for the start of it, which was kind of cool. His acting wasn’t bad, and people gave him a standing ovation.

Las Mamas danced in the audience more than on the stage, which I liked too. Audi Gonzalez’s poem, “I Had a Dream,” was like Martin Luther King’s *I Have a Dream* speech. It was good, but I liked “Pandora’s Box” better.

Next, Maricella Obando Maya danced solo. This was more like country music line dancing, and I like country music, so it was my favorite dancing of the show. Last was Viva Quetzal, a band featuring two electric guitars, two different kinds of drums, and two flutes. They sounded lovely together.

*Immigrant Voices III* was a concert with a lot of diverse talent to enjoy!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Burnt Jeep By Power Lines; No Brawl At BTU; Icy Bridge; Dead Bat; Litter Pickup Event

Sunday, 4/1

12:14 p.m. Passerby alerted officer to an elderly driver in need of assistance at Springdale Cemetery. Vehicle struck the cemetery gate. Officer requesting Rau’s. Courtesy transport provided to operator’s home.  
3:54 p.m. Message left in general mailbox; caller inquiring whether MPD can jump start her vehicle. Attempted to call back to advise of options. No answer.

6:26 p.m. Officer attempting to make contact with resident on Center Street; observed grill smoking heavily in front of home. Will be confirming that someone is home to monitor same. Made contact with homeowner.

7:06 p.m. Two reports of a dog barking for 20-30 minutes on Grove Street. Officer made contact with homeowner and advised of complaint. Copy of call left for ACO.

7:16 p.m. Report of male subject who appears to be trying to gain entry at Sheffield Elementary School. Last seen on side of building closest to concession stand, then observed walking toward Hillcrest. Unable to locate.

9:13 p.m. Caller reporting that burglar alarm was sounding outside of Sheffield Elementary School. Officer reports that keyholder was on scene to reset the alarm.

11:08 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts reports intoxicated male inside the store “making the clerk uncomfortable.” Officer spoke to party, who did not appear to be intoxicated or under the influence. Party sent on his way home to Gill.

Monday, 4/2

2:12 a.m. Caller reports Jeep with no lights on that has been idling at Fifth and T Streets for the past twenty minutes plus. Officers spoke to involved

male; no impairment noted. Party secured vehicle and is going to a friend’s house for the night.

8:44 a.m. Report of icy conditions on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Possible accident on the Gill side; vehicle a few car lengths behind caller appears to have spun out and may have struck the guardrail. Shelburne Control advised. Notified MassHighway.

10:10 a.m. Caller reports that on March 29, a vendor survey crew made them aware of a burned Jeep near Eversource’s service lines. Caller advises location is off Greenfield Road on “Cross Street.” Dispatched unit to check area of Greenfield Road/Greenfield Cross Road to investigate. Officer followed up; caller emailed a map with a more specific location (Eversource property off Wendell Road). Investigated.

Tuesday, 4/3

12:36 a.m. Caller reports vehicle parked across from her driveway on Sherman Drive; male party observed walking from vehicle that is now on Greenfield Road headed toward the sewage plant. Officers located vehicle in roadway; no one around. Made contact with ex-husband of registered owner, who advised his son normally drives the vehicle. Made contact with [redacted] who advised he left the vehicle there and was walking nearby. Advised party to make his way back to vehicle. Party advised of proper parking procedure.  
1:20 a.m. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on two default warrants and a straight warrant.

8:03 a.m. Deerfield PD requesting that officer try to make contact with registered owner of a vehicle who resides in Montague. DPD has taken two erratic operation complaints on that vehicle in five days. Officer spoke with parents,

who confirmed it was their son operating the vehicle. Son attends Frontier Regional. DPD advised.

11:07 a.m. Report of suspicious items (pens and shotgun shells) that appeared on the caller’s and caller’s neighbor’s property overnight. Officer spoke with caller and retrieved two live shells. Pens appear to have come from a neighbor’s vehicle that was broken into last night. Investigated.

3:38 p.m. Walk-in reporting that he discovered a vehicle that appears to have been set on fire and left abandoned along the power lines on East Chestnut Hill Road out beyond his house. Report taken.

Wednesday, 4/4

1:27 a.m. Report of male party passed out/sleeping in the driver’s seat of a vehicle at Cumberland Farms. Caller states that party is breathing and is not in need of medical attention at this time. Party was just sleeping; no sign of impairment.

8:48 p.m. Report of fight in progress between three subjects and a bouncer from Between the Uprights outside the establishment. MPD units en route; Gill unit also providing mutual aid. Officer advises caller is intoxicated and did not have a clear vantage point. Parties were moving furniture, but no fight occurred. No one else in the area observed anyone fighting.

10:43 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street calling to inform that the street lights had not come back on after a two-minute power outage. By the end of the call, lights had come back on.

Thursday, 4/5

12:20 a.m. Abandoned 911 call to Greenfield PD from Avenue A. Upon callback, male advised that he had been attempting to call 611 to check minutes on his phone. Units clear; confirmed misdial.

6:28 p.m. Caller found a needle near the stop sign at

the corner of Seventh and L Streets. Officer retrieved needle.

6:46 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting ongoing conflict regarding son’s bike and family garden. Caller would like on record that this party removed a bike from the property and attempted to place it in a nearby dumpster. Party also moved leaves and garden debris back to the lawn after caller was finished raking. Officer spoke with caller; advised of options.

Friday, 4/6

8:03 a.m. Vehicle into guardrail on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; no injuries. Caller states that she struck a patch of ice on the bridge immediately before the accident. MPD units advised. Shelburne Control advises no Gill unit on duty at this time. Notified MassHighway re: icy conditions. Upon arrival, officer confirmed ice in middle of bridge from overspray from dam.

11 a.m. Caller from Depot Street found a dead bat in her attic; inquiring whether ACO can test it to find out cause of death. Message left for ACO.

5:53 p.m. Box alarm received from Sheffield Elementary School. Officer clear; burnt popcorn. FD clearing shortly.

9:20 p.m. Caller from Dell Street advises someone may be trying to enter her bulkhead. Officers detained two parties; transporting one to station.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace and resisting arrest.

Saturday, 4/7

2:02 a.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle at Second and L Streets. Officer found resident of Second Street who stated that the operator was her roommate and just got home, forgetting to close the door. Vehicle secured; officer clear.

2:58 a.m. Officer reports suspicious man walking on Third Street with a large bag. At time of contact, officer learned that man was en route to another residence for the night after a disagreement with his girlfriend. Officer clear.

3:15 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road requesting to speak with officer regarding something found on a trail camera at her residence. Report taken.

Sunday, 4/8

5:41 p.m. Caller from G Street concerned with trash and auto parts that have been left down the street from her residence. Officer spoke to a neighbor and learned that the collection of garbage was one of three piles from a community litter pickup event. The other two collections are at Railroad Savage and on Unity Street.

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WEST ALONG from page B1  
back his cadence.

Although I love those bird carpenters whom I've fed all winter, their ceaseless soundings these mornings remind me of the summertime complaints that come from some folks. There are those who feel they suffer from the endless maddening chant of the whippoorwill outside their window on hot summer nights. I even heard one old-timer declare he'd love to take a shotgun to the poor creature in order to get a good night's sleep.

But that was long ago. What I would give to hear a whippoorwill these days. Their haunting whisper is gone from our woods. They did call here from the groves about the old house all through the Depression and the war years. Even when we took over this house in the '70s, they still called. But climate change and habitat loss have lessened their numbers. They still can be heard up in the Montague Plains, but we'd have to trek up there on August evenings to catch the faint voice of that will-o'-the-wisp that used to come from nearby.

But that's summertime, many months away yet, and we are listening to the weatherman's warnings that the snows will start again today around noon. In spite of the recent arrival of the fly-catching phoebe, calling out his name from the edge of the garden, and in spite of the daily, noisy springtime nuptial flight of the goose couple over the yard, it's going to snow.

By noontime, winter will lurch back. But like all of you, I will refuse to shovel! I'm out raking leaves instead, to spite that season that just

T-RUMP



won't go away. Besides, I left my November yard chores chiefly undone, and April exposes my inclination to procrastinate.

In fact, the landscape is that of November, with this month of April a mirror image of that other month by which we enter into winter. Only now, ahead of us we do have the promise of flowers, birds, and strengthening sunshine instead of five months of cold.

Well, it began falling just as predicted, interrupting my yard work. But that was just fine with Nicky the Siberian pup, who wanted me to play with him anyway. Leaping and racing through the whitening air, the dog's *joie de vivre* takes over both of us, and I leave the rake standing in a sheltered corner of the woodshed, back where it spent the winter, the last time I was interrupted by snow.

But this time, we know it won't last. Birds are singing in the snow

just as loudly as yesterday morning, as if this were merely a spring rain. The snowdrops and crocus cringe a bit, but this is nothing they can't handle.

I worry for my woodcock down in the lowland below the house, I worry for the soft-feathered phoebe who has come to the old nesting shelf on the front piazza, a bit early. He spends the hours of this snowfall hunting for insects on the still-warm pavement in front of the house.

The earth drinks, the frogs who yesterday were happily courting and joyfully copulating are briefly silenced, but they'll be back at it again in a day. April snow is but a brief setback, nothing to worry about really.

By the time you read this, we should be back into early spring, and snowless.

But then again, maybe not.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We hope that a week from now, the long, long winter will fade into a faint memory.

This week, the newest video from Montague TV available for viewing online and on Channel 17 is Irish Music at Greenfield Savings Bank! Enjoy some melodies from Ray and Bob, who played for Saint Patrick's Day.

Something going you'd like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays



through Fridays. We're excited to work with you!

PCBs from pg B1

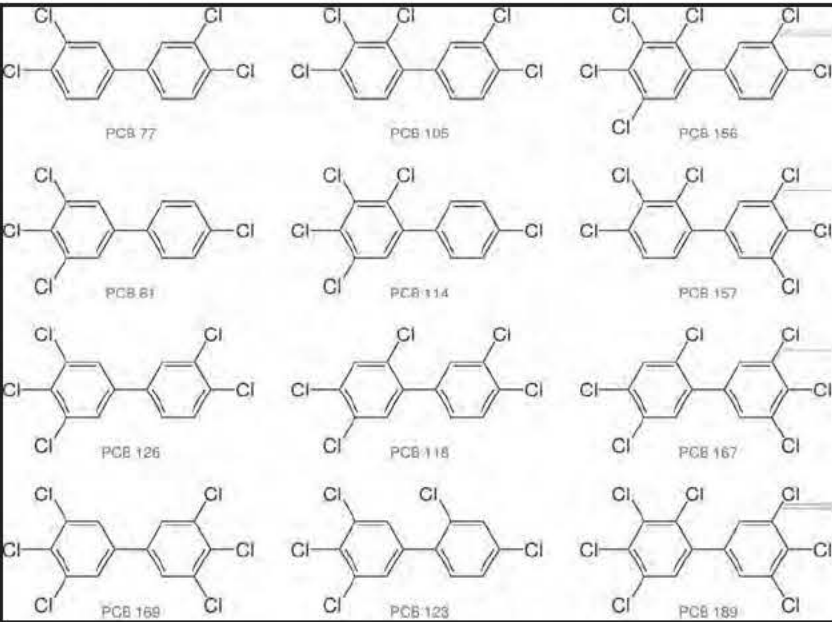
seven miles down, deep sea dwellers are contaminated with PCBs.

General Electric brought good things to life with PCB-loaded transformers and capacitors, alongside Westinghouse, Aerovox Corporation and others. In a thirty-year period, up until the 1970s, GE's New York manufacturing plant dumped over a million pounds of PCBs into the mighty Hudson River, making it one of the largest Superfund sites in the nation.

And that was just one factory. Basically, wherever industry lit up our lives, there are PCBs. And then there are all the landfills and dumps where those products met the end of their useful lives.

PCBs weren't just long-lived, versatile, heat-resistant chemicals – turns out they are toxic as well. Put the chlorine here and it's toxic to the brain; move it over there and they are like their more toxic cousin, dioxin, causing reproductive failure and developmental problems.

But back in the 1930s and '40s, no one really had a clue about how toxic or well-traveled PCBs were. (Well, actually, they did – workers showed signs of toxicity, but workers really didn't stand much of a chance in those days.) Soren Jensen, over in Sweden, was looking to



Structures of the twelve dioxin-like PCBs.

measure DDT exposure, and found that PCBs had made their way into his wife and kids as well. Imagine his surprise.

Now, we all carry some within us. It is fascinating to imagine the journeys of these stubborn chemicals: created in Monsanto's Anniston, Alabama factory, one of their two production sites; shipped up to General Electric's place in Troy; slipping through a factory drain, eventually picked up by a beauty of a striped bass or maybe a little minnow, living and dying in the Hudson and recycling its toxic load for

decades before some of those PCB molecules eventually made their way into our bodies, perhaps passed from mother to child.

Other PCBs accumulated in the bodies of sleek mink feeding at the water's edge. Unfortunately for the mink, their exquisite sensitivity to PCB toxicity may have led to local extinctions.

Monsanto fretted over its role in this global contaminant back in the 1960s. They worried about lawsuits, and health effects, and their public image... But rather than discontinue the product, which would

be effectively admitting guilt, they persisted (so to speak) producing PCBs until 1977.

Perhaps they saw the writing... Two years later, EPA banned their manufacturing, phased out their use, and tightened controls on PCB waste.

That we are still talking about them four decades later, as a result of decisions made by an industry that put profits over human and environmental health, attests to the relevance of your agency.

Yes, our generation and our parents and grandparents benefited by the technologies enabled by PCBs. But when train-loads of PCBs ceased making their way into our homes, schools and factories, the lights didn't go out. In fact, these industries grew.

Perhaps, had Monsanto and General Electric had the benefit of some federal oversight pushing them to create a great product that was safe for humans and the environment, they wouldn't be spending billions to clean up their mess today. A pittance for them, but it would have been better spent on innovation and testing rather than cleanup and legal fees.

I realize that this is easy to say now, after we've had nearly a century's worth of strategies to better understand the chemicals we use and produce. But it's not irrelevant.

We live in an industrial-age chemical world, and there is no going back. You are now in the unique role to ensure that a generation or two down the road, industry won't be spending trillions on cleanup (and legal bills to fight cleanup), and Americans won't be wondering why we chose to favor industry over our own health and the health of our rivers, forests and wildlife.

So, now that you have personally inserted yourself into the decision about how best to clean up our Housatonic – because it is all of ours, along with the Hudson, and New Bedford Harbor and Fox River and all the other PCB-polluted gems around this country – rather than pass the responsibility for our toxic transgressions onto yet another generation, I hope you consider more than just the bottom line and what's best for the polluter.

Please consider what's best for all of us. If you could get this done before you are fired, that would be great. Who knows what may come next!

Also, if there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. Thank you.

Emily Monosson is an independent toxicologist and writer blogging at [toxicevolution.wordpress.com](http://toxicevolution.wordpress.com).



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels, traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

## FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

## EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact [mcbarrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbarrass@vermontel.net) for location and details.

## 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

## 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Free.

## EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

## 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 7 p.m.

## 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*, 8 p.m.

## EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country with Heath Lewis*, 9 p.m.

## EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5 to 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

## EXHIBITS:

Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Great and Small*. Community art exhibit about the creatures we love. Closing Reception April 14 at 6 p.m. Through April.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Cen-

ter, Brattleboro: Six new Spring exhibits: *Best of Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys; 100 Views Along the Road; Bottle in the River; We Walk in Their Shadows; Gloria Garfinkel; Susan Calabria*.

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Seen/Unseen, portraits by Cindi Oldham*. A conceptual watercolor portrait series that explores what it means to be seen, yet unseen at the same time. April 6 through May 30. Reception April 28.



*Lenny Zarcone has worked for years as a mime artist, a New Vaudevillian, and in musical comedy. He often accompanies his vocals with guitar, piano, or accordion. Sing-a-longs, "Name That Tune," and some juggling may be included in his performance. "I love to make people laugh and enjoy a song," says Lenny. He will be featured at the April 13 Great Falls Coffeehouse concert at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Suggested sliding scale donation \$6 to \$12, kids free.*

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Speaking Figuratively*, by Eric Grab. He will do a life drawing demo at his reception on Friday, April 27. Exhibit through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Onge*. Paintings by Andrea "Onge" Newland whose ranging "from portrait to abstract where worlds collide in a kaleidoscope of color." Opening reception April 6, 5-7 p.m. Through May 15.

Historic Northampton, Northampton: *Single Room Occupancy: Portraits and Stories from Northampton Lodging, 1976-2016*. Northampton Lodging was demolished in 2016. Cassandra Holden interviewed residents and Paul Shoul took portraits of them just before they were relocated. Tracing the waning years of boarding houses in Northampton and existence at the edge of the community. Through June 10.

Hope and Feathers Gallery, Amherst: *What Will Happen?* Mixed media portraits by Jason Antaya. Opening reception Thursday, April 5, 5 to 8 p.m. during Amherst Arts Night Plus. There will be an artist reception and DIY

collage with Jason on Saturday, April 21, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Embraced by Natural Beauty*. Paintings by Stacey Temple.

Leverett Library: *Potpouri*, paintings by artist Louise Minks of Leverett. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Show*. Nina Rossi presents work about Turners Falls from over the years. Through May 15.

McKusker's Market, Shelburne: *Precarious*. Art by Alice Thomas. April 16 through May 31.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Recent Work: Artspace Pastel Studio*. Artists from Rebecca Clark's pastel studio exhibit work with their mentor in the pastel medium. Through April.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Our Vanishing Wild*. Watercolor portraits by Maureen Moore of endangered species. Through April.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Heavenly Bodies*. New multi-media work by Nina Rossi featuring back lit clouds and flying figures. Through April 30.

Wendell Library: *Mez Ziemba and Natasha Hannah*. Ziemba's Sculpture and Hannah's digital prints. Through April.

Hampden Gallery, UMass: *Postsentiment*. Fafnir Adamite sculptures in paper and plaster. Through April.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

*Slate Roof Press 2018 Elyse Wolf Prize* for a poetry chapbook. Winner receives publication and \$500. For full contest guidelines, visit [www.slateroofpress.com/contest.html](http://www.slateroofpress.com/contest.html). Submit no more than 28 pages of poetry by June 15. \$10 reading fee.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *TAR2F!* Silverthorne Theater production of Moliere musical comedy. 7:30 p.m. Repeats April 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 at same time plus Sunday April 15 at 2 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Date Night* (band name). 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Sea*

*Urchin, HoW Total Smoke Unit*. Special DJ to follow. 8 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Wrekmeister Harmonies, Ebbs Flow*. 7 p.m. \$

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Lenny Zarcone* Frank Sinatra tunes, the great American songbook, jazz standards, and pop music with local crooner of international acclaim. Benefit for the Friends of the GFDC. Donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Formula 5, Goose and The Basement Cats*. Funk folk, jam rock, basement rock. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 6:30 p.m. *Sunshine Brothers Inc.* 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Full Disclosure Performance by Katherine Adler*. This interpretation of "Leaves of Grass" seeks to promote inward scrutiny and interpersonal empathy. Part of festival at five locations, one ticket for all. 4 p.m. \$

69 Second Street, Turners Falls. *Full Disclosure Festival Performance by Crystal Nilsson*. A multimedia duet based on the visual artist Roy Lichtenstein's drowning girl work. 5 p.m. \$

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Full Disclosure Performance by Sam Wood*. Hauling Towards Home is a sound installation with rocking chairs exploring the definition of home. 6 p.m. \$

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Full Disclosure Festival Performance with Karl and Mr Drag*. Comedy talk show "Morning Vodka." 7 p.m. \$

Wendell Library: *I Married a Witch*. A beautiful 17th-century witch returns to life to plague politician Wallace Wooley, descendant of her persecutor. There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Full Disclosure Festival Performance by Terry Jenoure*. Premiere of "The Pass" a multi-media piece by Jenoure. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *My Gay Banjo*. Songs of liberation and celebration with Owen Taylor (Philly, PA) and Julia Steele Allen (Brooklyn, NY). 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Doug Hewitt Band*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blugroove*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Book Reading by Laura Rodley*. Refreshments, book signing. See article this section. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Re-*

*placire, Cognitive, Aversed and Necronomichrist*. Metal bands. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont Experience*. Jazz with Samirah Evans. 6 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Irish Music Night*. 7 p.m. \$

### THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The River Cried, "Mni W'Conil"* Documentary about Service and Solidarity in Standing Rock by Jehann El-Bisi. Screening of the film and conversation to follow. 7 p.m.

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ELEANOR from page B1

simple props morphed from scene to scene. The chair became a ship, a burro, a carriage, a train car and more, while the dressmaker's manikin became Eleanor's mother, father, school mistress, uncle, brother, cousin, husband, and sundry other characters.

I learned that her funeral was attended by President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, as well as past presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. She was dubbed the "First Lady of the World" by Truman in recognition of her work as a labor activist, her pioneering efforts for civil rights, not to mention changing the role of the United States' first lady.



Chief civilian flight instructor Charles Alfred Anderson (right) took Eleanor Roosevelt on an hour-long flight during her March 1941 visit to the Tuskegee Institute. Here they are pictured aboard the JP-3 Piper Cub shortly after landing. At left is Tuskegee training director Lewis Jackson.

Roosevelt also wrote a syndicated newspaper column, "My Day," six days a week from 1935 to 1962 and was the best-selling author of several books. After the death of her husband, she was appointed as the United States Delegate to the United Nations by President Truman, serving from 1945 to 1952. She acted as the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and was rightly proud of her accomplishments in overseeing the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She was asked by President Kennedy to chair the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women.

Although Roosevelt was revered at the time of her death, her outspoken activism was controversial

during her early days as First Lady. It's no wonder Sheryl Faye has included her in the roster of historic women she chooses to portray. The audience was completely captivated by her brilliant performance.

Faye studied acting and graduated with an MFA from Emerson College. She has a multitude of acting credits in addition to presenting historic women since 2003. These live historical monologues are entertaining and educational, and they also help audiences truly understand the profound positive historic impact of these carefully selected women.

In addition to Eleanor Roosevelt, Faye portrays Helen Keller, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Anne Frank, Clara Barton, Amelia Earhart, Sally Ride and Abigail Adams. Some of the programs are written by Faye, and some by colleague Joan Schaeffer.

It took Faye eight months to research the Eleanor program through a combination of reading and visiting historic sites; she then had to cull down the wealth of materials to a manageable size. Chosen from a short list of admirable women, Faye could relate to her early childhood shyness and said, "She continues to inspire me to stand up for what I believe in."

There was a focus on Roosevelt's civil rights activism, which was not popular at the time. She gave up her membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1939 when they refused to allow African American singer Marian Anderson perform at Constitution Hall. She also made a historic visit to the Tuskegee Insti-



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tute to visit African American pilots following creation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which would not have been possible without her husband's 1939 approval of Public Law 18, which established training programs at black colleges among other things. President Roosevelt also issued an order prohibiting discrimination in federal agencies in 1941.

There is a famous photo of Eleanor Roosevelt in 1941 when she visited Tuskegee and expressed her public support of the program by flying over Alabama with flight instructor Charles Anderson (often called the Father of Black Aviation).

Due to her work as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sheryl Faye was invit-

ed to attend the 75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen in March 2016, and had an opportunity to recreate the historic photo with the grandson of Charles Anderson. She will also be the voice of Eleanor in an upcoming documentary.

Faye performed earlier in the day at the Erving Elementary School as astronaut Sally Ride. I was unsurprised to hear that performance was excellent as well. The programs were sponsored by the Erving PTO, Erving Historic Commission and the Friends of the Erving Library. Sheryl Faye can be reached by calling (866) 936-6551 or through her website [sherylfaye.com](http://sherylfaye.com).



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