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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 25

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 5, 2007

Griswold Runs for Selectboard

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - For the last twelve years, voters in Gill have always seen one of three names - Phil Maddern, Ann Banash, or Lee Stevens - at the top of the town ballot. These three have served on the Gill selectboard for that long. But this year Maddern, who has been a selectman for 15 years, the longest of the three, has been recuperating at home from an illness since December and absent from selectboard meetings since then. He has decided not to run again.

This May, the town will see a new name on the top of the ballot - Nancy Griswold - who has come forward to run for the three-year selectboard seat Maddern is vacating. Unless a write-in candidate emerges, Griswold will

run unopposed. And she will bring to the position a wealth of administrative and municipal experience.

"I've worked in municipal government



Nancy Griswold

for 18 years," said Griswold. "I served as selectman in Ashfield from 1989 to 1990. I worked in the water department in Wilbraham, I was the secretary to the superintendent of schools in Granby. I was the administrative secretary to the board of selectmen in Sunderland see **GRISWOLD** pg 9

Eight Candidates in the Running for Four G-M School Committee Seats

BY DAVID DETMOLD - With nominating papers in, attention now turns to elections coming up May 21st for the Gill-Montague school district. There are no contests on the townwide ballot in Gill, and only one race - for a seat on the parks and recreation commission - in Montague. But with the spotlight on the issues of elementary school configuration, intra-district choice, and steadily rising school assessments to the towns, the races for two three-year seats in Montague and one three-year seat in Gill are likely to draw voters to the polls this year. Voters in Gill and Montague cast votes for school district candidates in both towns.

Squaring off against incumbents Mary Kociela, of North Street, and Richard Colton, of Main Street, in Montague Center, for three-year seats in Montague are Kelly Gobel, of Burnett Street, Steven Palso, of Randall Wood Drive, and



Richard Colton

Joyce Phillips, of Vladish Avenue, all of Turners Falls. In Gill, two candidates are vying for a three-year seat being vacated by Sue Henry: Sandy Brown of River Road and Heidi Englehardt of Mountain Road. Additionally, Linda Kuklewicz is running unopposed for a two-year seat in Montague being vacated by Deb Bourbeau.

Kuklewicz said she decided to run for the school committee because, "This is a time we have to decide whether we're going to have buildings or teachers. We cannot afford to have both. I'm going to go with our teachers. Teachers are the most

valuable asset we have."

Kuklewicz, a housewife who was born in Turners Falls and had two children attend district schools, said, "Teachers need support. Teachers need materials. Teachers need more help in the classrooms. I don't want any money to go to the buildings. If we don't support our teachers, we're going to lose everything we have."

She said emotions are running high in town right now on the subject of school closings, but, "When you are elected to the school committee, you represent all the villages. People need to put their emotions aside and do what is best for the five villages."

On the issue of school configuration, Kuklewicz said, "If we have to close Montague Center School, the economic picture does not change for the schools. We'll be right back here to close another one next year."

On the Gill side of the



Joyce Phillips

river, Sandy Brown said she is running because, "I believe a good education is one of the most important things we can give our children, and it is very important for our country that we do. Parents are the child's first teacher, and they continue to teach them to maturity." Brown said she would like to explore ways of "getting a larger number of parents involved in district schools," even as chaperones on "one field trip, or baking one batch of brownies for a bake sale."

Brown, who has lived in Gill with her husband since 1984, and whose youngest child graduated from Turners Falls High

see **SCHOOL** pg 11



PHOTO: KEVIN FOLEY

The storefront window of Four Directions Healing Arts, featuring a display by Flore, will soon be joined by many similar window displays as the Avenue takes an artistic turn.

BY KEVIN FOLEY - Turners Falls Storefront windows on the Avenue will be given new life this weekend with displays of local artists' work. The artists who will be showing work include residents of Turners Falls, Montague Center and surrounding towns.

Fostering the Arts and Culture Partnership (FACP) and Turners Falls RiverCulture organized and will host the art displays, which Dee Boyle-Clapp of FACP hopes will have the combined effect of boosting and beautifying the local business district while promoting the see **ART** pg 10

Ghosts of Paper Past

JOHN WILLIS AND TOM YOUNG AT THE HALLMARK MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

BY ANN FEITELSON - Turners Falls Ponder paper. It starts with a tree. Felled, transported, crushed, pulped, sloshed, sieved, bleached, blotted and dried, it is reborn as pristine, inert, blank paper. Then, printed with words, numbers, dates, pictures and statistics, it reaches an apex of meaning: examined, exchanged, acted upon.

But paper is ephemeral, important only briefly. You will throw this away.

Yesterday's news, goodbye.

Discarded paper, shredded and compressed into mammoth bales (six feet



"Swirl" by Tom Young

by three feet by two feet, weighing 700 to 1,000 pounds) is trucked to the Erving paper mill, where it weathers rain, snow, sun and wind, awaiting reincarnation into lowly forms: tissue and toilet paper, paper towels.

The surreal Erving roadside landscape of hulking, bristling bales of scraps -- readymade collages and found visual poetry -- beckoned two photographers, John Willis of Dummerston, VT, professor of photography at Marlboro College; and Tom Young

see **GHOSTS** pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK

Bewitching



Sabrina

Sabrina is a lovely little two-year-old female greyhound in need of a good home. She is always happy to see you and will give you lots of little greyhound kisses to prove it! She is very clever and eager to please. She loves to play with all sorts of toys but her favorite place to be is curled up in your lap. Sabrina has been in a home and is already housetrained. She loves to give gentle kisses and is truly a sweetheart. She is a happy-go-lucky type who enjoys lots of attention but is also content to have her independence. She is assertive and playful with other dogs - with whom she enjoys a good game of chase. She should live in a home with calm, respectful kids over 10. She would do fine in a home with dogs or with cats who have experience living with dogs. For more information on adopting Sabrina, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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April 14th at 2 pm
At the Shea Theater in
Turners Falls

Tickets available at the door
or by calling 863-2281

GFMS Students of the Week

Grade 7
Kyla Kelly

Grade 8
Katarina Palso
Ryan Pelis

The Montague Reporter

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\$20 for 6 months

MONTAGUE LIBRARIES NEWS

New DVD's

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE - Many new DVDs have been recently added to the shelves of the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls and the Millers Falls and Montague Center Libraries. The new titles include *Babel*, *Baby Einstein: My First Signs*, *Barbie Fairytopia: Magic of the Rainbow*, *Blood Diamond*, *Borat*, *Bratz Fashion Pixiez*, *Casino Royale*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Children of Men*, *Cinderella III: Twist in Time*, *Departed*, *Eragon*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Glory Road*, *Go Diego Go - The Great Jaguar Rescue*, *Go Diego Go - Wolf Pup Rescue*, *Guns Germs and Steel*, *Happy Feet*, *Holiday*, *Illusionist*, *Justice League Unlimited: Second Season*, *Lake House*, *Land Before Time XII - Great Day of the...*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Living With Wolves / Wolves At Our Door*,

Peter Pan - Platinum Edition, *Pursuit of Happyness*, *Rocky Balboa*, *Secret - Extended Edition*, and *Sound of Music-40th Anniversary Edition*

Other new movies will be arriving at the Montague Libraries as soon as they are released on DVD. Many other titles are available on the shelves and a huge selection can be ordered from other libraries. Movies circulate for seven days at a time.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 1 - 5 p.m. The Montague Center Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library is open on Tuesday and Thursday 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Motion

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Music and Motion with musician Michael Nix and children's librarian Linda Hickman will be held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, April 7th from 2 - 3 p.m. Children of any age and their families are welcome. The session will include fun interactive songs, puppets, and a variety of musical instruments including guitars and banjo. This free program will be held the first Saturday of each month during February - April. The monthly Saturday series is cosponsored by the Montague Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Mireya Ortiz of Turners Falls created a moose forest scene at the Moose Month Celebration at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, March 31st.

Council, a state agency. For more info: 863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 9th - April 13th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 9th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 10th
Hemoglobin A1C Screening

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Council on Aging
Wednesday, 11th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 12th
Hemoglobin A1C Screening
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 13th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided

FACES & PLACES



DETMOLD PHOTO

Before and After: Denise Edwards gives son Gregory a trim at Ed's Barber Shop at its new location: 74 Avenue A in Turners Falls, which held its grand reopening this week. For a "before" shot of Gregory, see the ad below, which shows him getting his first haircut.

War Tax Resister Info

Information on where your income tax money really goes will be available Saturday, April 1st from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside Green Fields Market in Greenfield. The information is in the form of a pie chart which shows that at least 51 percent of the \$2,347 billion federal budget will be spent on the military.

Pioneer Valley War Tax Resisters (PVWTR), organizers of the event, invites all concerned individuals to join them in offering the flier and other literature. PVWTR will also present several human service agencies with grants as examples of what the military portion of the federal tax could support.

The Montague Reporter

is looking to hire writers to cover meetings, arts, features, etc. Call 413-863-8666 or write to: reporter@montaguema.net

Turners Falls Sports Booster Club's 4th Annual Fundraising Event

A COMEDY SHOW of headliner proportions!

4 hysterical comedians from the best clubs in the Metro areas

Saturday, April 14th
French King Entertainment Center
Tickets: 413-423-3047

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WENDELL Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at 978 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Farewell to Bill Care

BY KEVIN FOLEY - A moment of silence was dedicated to Bill J. Care, lifetime Erving resident and community leader, at the beginning of the Monday, April 2nd selectboard meeting. Throughout his life, Care worked as the Erving fire chief, electric light commissioner, water district commissioner, department of public works commissioner, tree warden and police officer.

"He was one of those bigger than life people," said Tom Sharp, town administrative assistant. "He was a local boy that grew up here and got involved in everything."

Care began working at the fire department in 1951, and became the chief in 1970. He continued working for the community in one capacity or another throughout his life.

"Right up until the time of his death he worked part-time for the town as a police officer, mainly doing detail work," said Sharp. "He will be missed by a lot of people in Erving."

After the moment of silence, the selectboard got down to business and met with the conservation commission to finalize the purchase and sale agreement of the Giniusz Farm, one of Erving's only remaining 19th century farms. "It's a historic moment," said David Brule, con-

servation commission member, as those present at the meeting signed the agreement papers.

The town will purchase the 167-acre farm on Old State Road for \$800,000. Erving will receive a grant for \$145,600 from the state Self-Help Program to reimburse that amount of the purchase price. The rest of the money for the sale was appropriated from the town's free cash.

The deadline for the completion of the deal is June 1st, at which time the grant money will no longer be available.

The Giniusz family has reserved about eight acres around their homestead for the family's continued use, and have placed that land under a conservation restriction as well. The remaining 167 acres, which border an historic cemetery on one side of the road, and encompasses fields, cliffs, and forest on the other, will be designated by the town as permanent conservation land. The conservation commission will be responsible for its management and upkeep. The land will be open to the public from dawn until sunset for various activities such as hiking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Hunting will also be permitted in season. The conservation commission is currently organizing working groups made up of

volunteers to ready the property for public use. The land will be open to the public once the deal is finalized.

Two loop trails will be located on the property. One will be easy and circle through the lower portion of the property, while the other will be a hard trail and circle the cliffs on the upper portion of the property.

Public use of the property will be managed to minimize human impact on the wildlife. Among the things that will be prohibited on the property are fires, camping, motorized vehicles and alcoholic beverages.

Mike Pierce, director of wastewater treatment for the town, informed the selectboard that the Farley wastewater treatment facility will likely receive a notice of non-compliance as a result of a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) inspection of the facility. One problem addressed by the DEP was the confined entry into the control room, which is located underground and has one access point through a small tunnel.

"The town is aware of the problem," said Sharp. "We were hoping to put off fixing it until 2009, but we might have to speed up our time schedule on that one depending on the severity of the letter we receive from the DEP."

Habitat Open House



- KEVIN FOLEY PHOTO

under construction at 55 L Street, on the corner of 2nd Street, in Turners Falls. The open house will be held on April 11th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Following the open house,

BY DORIS MACLEOD TURNERS FALLS - Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity invites the public to come to an open house at the new Habitat home

reception take place at the nearby Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography. The winner of the Habitat kayak raffle will be drawn.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Bicycle Thief

- Wednesday 3-28**
1:10 p.m. Observed brush fire near railroad yard in Millers Falls. Notified Montague police and stood by until fire department arrived.
7:00 p.m. DPW gate open. Checked area all OK. Closed gate.
- Monday 4-2**
4:50 p.m. Checked on vehicle in the French King Bridge rest area. [REDACTED] was arrested on two default warrants.
8:00 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle lock out at Erving Elementary School. Officer assisted with opening the vehicle.
- Thursday 3-29**
1:45 p.m. Received report of larceny of two bicycles from a Pratt Street address. Report taken.
- Tuesday 4-3**
Report of a neighbor dispute at a River Road address. Reporting party was in fear after speaking with neighbor about property lines and children playing.
- Saturday 3-31**
1:10 a.m. Report of a subject throwing up and being loud at a French King Highway address.
12:10 p.m. Observed loose dog on Strachan Street. Located owner and advised of town bylaw

Passport Day at Turners Falls Post Office

The Turners Falls Post Office will host a Passport Day April 7th, during the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This week was chosen to allow travelers to have their passports before summer vacation begins. Passports can take up to 10 weeks to process. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by both parents, and one parent must be present for children between the ages of 14 and 17.

There are new regulations requiring a passport for all sea

and air travel to and from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda. These changes became effective January 23rd, 2007. Beginning January 1st, 2008, this requirement will extend to all land border crossings as well as air and sea travel.

The passport process is a one-stop process at the Turners Falls Post Office, as we take photos and process your paperwork. Fees can be paid by cash or check. Passports cost a total of

\$97 for persons ages 16 and older; \$82 for persons younger than 16; and \$67 for renewals. More information can be obtained by contacting the Turners Falls Post Office at 413-863-4727. Passport applications can be downloaded at: www.usps.com/passport to save time. Customers are required to submit a long form Birth Certificate with raised Notary Seal. Short forms will not be accepted.

Easter Egg Hunt

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The Montague Reporter

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Gill's Faithful Servant

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Harriet Tidd died on April 1st. She may have picked that day to play an April fool's joke on the folks in Gill who thought she would live forever. Harriet led a long and productive life. And despite serious health problems, she kept her sense of humor. She was like a good loaf of bread - crusty on the outside but soft on the inside.

After 50 or more years of service to the town of Gill, Harriet retired. In January of 2006, the Friends of Gill sponsored a surprise retirement party for her in the Gill Congregational Church community room. The potluck celebration brought a great response, especially since there could be no publicity, obviously, and news of the party spread only by word of mouth.

Representative Chris Donelan and Senator Stan Rosenberg attended, and presented Harriet with awards. Philip Maddern,



Harriet Tidd

selectboard member, presented Tidd with a plaque honoring her long years of service as town clerk, librarian, finance committee member, assessor, member of the council on aging, historian, and sage. "Sage," Maddern said, "is my contribution to the list."

Prior to working for Gill, Harriet had worked at a bank and served on a government rationing board during WWII. She also worked for the employment service where she met her future husband, George. When Harriet worked part-time as Gill correspondent for the *Greenfield Recorder and Gazette*, her reports were folksy. She kept

people informed of happenings in town, such as who was visiting whom from far off places like Hatfield or Amherst. She took photos of house fires and other events, and wrote the reports as well. If you wanted to know about anything or anyone in Gill, Harriet was the one to ask. She had an incredible memory and used her reporting skills to keep abreast of what was happening in town, officially and unofficially, long after she quit reporting.

At Harriet's retirement party, Senator Rosenberg recalled how he once called the Gill town hall number to ask a question and got Harriet at home. (The town hall number used to ring at her house when she was not at work, as a convenience to the townspeople.)

"She said she was retired," Rosenberg related, "but could answer my question - and she did."

Everyone has a favorite memory of Harriet. When I was in the fourth grade she informed the world that I had reported sighting the first robin that spring. That was my 15 minutes of fame. She once wrote about our dog growing a pumpkin. He liked to bury things, including part of a pumpkin, seeds and all. The seeds sprouted, and the vine produced a pumpkin. Harriet took a photo of the dog with his paw on the pumpkin, and wrote the story. That was his 15 minutes of fame.

Harriet liked to take pictures, but hated to have her picture taken. I took photos during her retirement party without a flash, so that it would not be too obvious. I did what she would have done - anything - to get the picture. Forgive me if it's a little blurry.

Harriet and George moved into a remodeled former Methodist Church on Cross Road when they came to Gill in the early 1940s. They owned and rode horses. I came pedaling as fast as I could, down hill, on Center Road one evening at dusk as they were out riding. The

APPEARING BEFORE CONGRESS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IS TORTURE!



THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW AGAINST IT!

KWILKINSON '07

bike's noise, skidding over loose gravel as I passed, spooked their horses. I never dared tell Harriet that it was I who had done the dirty deed.

George loved farming and kept a milk cow. He'd sit on a milk stool watching a Surge milking machine, powered by a vacuum hose hooked to his Ford automobile engine, milking his cow out in the pasture. Harriet may have milked her too, but no

one ever saw her doing it. But I'm willing to bet she could, without a milking machine.

Harriet spent a short time in Quabbin Health Care before going to Athol Memorial Hospital, where she died, according to her good friend, Beverly Demars. It seems fitting for Harriet's funeral to have taken place in the center of the town she loved, and in the same church where Gill townspeople gathered

to celebrate her retirement and, today, to celebrate her life. Harriet was a feisty woman who will be sorely missed by us all.

We welcome your letters
Montague Reporter

24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Save the Date for Soldiers Memorial Groundbreaking

Due to the large number of contributors to the Soldiers Memorial Renovation fund, including the many residents inside and outside the village of Montague, businesses, societies, veterans organizations and the Montague Elks, we can now commence plans for the groundbreaker for the new memorial on Memorial Day, May 28th, 2007.

Special thanks go to Joan Cramer, Vice President of the Greenfield Savings Bank, whose name was inadvertently omitted in last week's *Montague Reporter*, for her part in securing the \$13,000 recently donated to the renovation fund by the bank.

In partnership with veterans agent Leo Parent, the trustees have been making plans since last Memorial Day for this year's ceremony, which will commence at 10:30 a.m. with a parade forming on Second Street, proceeding down Avenue A to the Memorial.

Plans are for a Color Guard from Westover Air Force Base to participate, along with the Montague Elks, VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Turners Falls High School Band.

Participating in the ceremony at the memorial will be speakers from the VFW, the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans, Montague selectboard, a reading by Charles Peterson of *In Flanders Field*, a placing of the wreaths, the Montague Elks 11th Hour ceremony, and playing of "Taps" by Donald Girard.

We are very proud to have Kathleen Belanger, whose son Sergeant Gregory Belanger died for his country in Iraq as our main speaker. Kathleen Belanger has done so much for us during this renovation project that we will be hard pressed to thank her adequately. Every veteran in this community owes her a debt of gratitude.

We are asking the public to please turn out and support us on Monday, May 28th, to help us honor all of the men and women who have given so much for all of us, and to help us break ground for your new Soldiers Memorial.

- Art Gilmore
Millers Falls

American
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as of 4/4/07

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Casualties in Iraq
as of this date

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Wounded in Action 30,046

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Human Race for Peace is Still on...

BY FLORE

AMHERST - Were you aware about two important contemporary figures stopping in Amherst last week? One was Rigoberta Menchu, a native of Guatemala.

What do we know about this remarkable woman?

Have we been aware of her constant struggle for peace?

But the public knew. As she appeared carefully walking towards the Johnson Chapel's podium at Amherst College last Thursday, everyone stood up, applauded, giving her a prolonged ovation.

Who is Rigoberta Menchu?

Besides being the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, she was also elected a UNESCO goodwill ambassador. Born in Chimel, Guatemala, her ancestors were native Quiche-Maya.

Her country includes 13 million indigenous residents, or 42% of the population.

There has been a continuous campaign during Guatemala's 36-years of civil war to bring global attention to the human rights violations inflicted on the people by the military there. Rigoberta Menchu has taken to heart, throughout her life, the fight for ethnic and cultural values in respecting the rights of indigenous people.

After witnessing some of her family members being killed, she joined several activist groups, among them: (CUC) the



Rigoberta Menchu

Committee of the Peasant Union.

In 1982, while in exile in Mexico, she founded: the United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition (RUOG).

Her present intentions are to run for Guatemala's presidency in September, 2007.

The subject of her talk was intentionally aimed at the overwhelmingly young crowd. Her subject: "The healing of communities torn by racism."

"We all can make change, but the young, you, have the adequate energy to do so!"

According to the ancient Mayan Calendar, Menchu said, "We are experiencing a zone of confusion called 'The No Time.' This leaves us kind of up in the air, in some sort of perplexed reality."

If we are to emerge from it, we have to find a secure balance between our materialistic life values and our soul life.

"Hold onto the Earth for answers. Talk to the trees; they have the knowledge."

Another influential visionary of our time dropped by Amherst last weekend.

His name is Ralph Nader!

Well known among concerned Americans who see in him a beacon for their hopes and a model of integrity similar to that provided by our early forefathers.

Though he carried out two impressive presidential campaigns, his message was not embraced by the voting majority.

The occasion of his informal, special appearance at the Amherst Cinema last Sunday? The signing of his new book, *The Seventeen Traditions*.

And the introduction of the premiere showing of his biopic film, *An Unreasonable Man*. The film is a superb and timely documentary, retracing all the obstacles Nader and his advocacy group, Nader's Raiders, had to face on so many important issues. Remember? It was Nader's work that is credited for basic improvements in road safety, like the installation of car security belts and air bags. He has also worked to advance health care programs, tax and social reforms, civil and constitutional rights, fought against pollution, water waste, and nuclear power.

Produced by "IFC First Take," this documentary is being shown under an exclusive limited engagement at the Amherst Cinema. It should not be missed under any circumstances!

For the film's schedule call 413-253-2547.

For further info about the documentary, check: www.anunreasonableman.com.

Betty Williams at Peace Jam

BY DAVID DETMOLD
CHICOPEE - In 1976, Betty Williams, an "ordinary housewife" from Northern Ireland shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mairead Maguire Corrigan, another "ordinary housewife." These two are credited with helping spark a movement, at first predominately made up of women, who marched in Northern Ireland to call for an end to "the Troubles" between the Irish Republican Army and the British provisional forces attempting to maintain order in the six British controlled provinces that make up Northern Island. Thirty years later, Williams joined Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberto Menchu this week to address a conference of over 200 students from throughout the Northeast at Elms College in Chicopee, at Peace Jam Northeast.

Williams gave the opening address on Friday, March 30th. She said during the past 10 years, Peace Jam, an organization that works to bring the work and teaching of living Noble Peace Prize recipients to a new generation, has worked with over half a million youth, and spawned over 300,000 service projects around the world. Among the other Nobel laureates now working with Peace Jam are Oscar Arias, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the Dalai Lama.

Williams, a Catholic, told the crowd about a day that was "burned forever" on her brain, a day when she was driving home from her mother's house, stopped to light a candle at a Belfast church where, out front, the IRA

had opened fire on a British Army foot patrol. She found a young British soldier lying in the street in a pool of blood, with his intestines on the ground, cradled him in her arms, and said an act of contrition in his ears. "This was a human being sent by God wearing a uniform I hated, I abhorred." As he died, "four or five Catholic women came out of the crowd and started beating on me." Williams asked the students at Peace Jam, "If we can't have empathy as Catholics or Protestants, Jews or Muslims, what kind of humans are we?"

She was moved to take action on August 10th, 1976, when British provos opened fire on an IRA getaway car, killing the driver, causing the car to careen into a crowd of passersby, killing three children, Joanne, John and Andrew Maguire. "I see them everywhere I go," said Williams. Their aunt, Mairead Maguire Corrigan, joined with Williams to organize a canvass of the neighborhood and a peace march of both Catholic and Protestant women to the children's gravesite (10,000 strong, braving physical violence from the IRA, who called the women dupes of the British) and, a week later, another march with 35,000 Belfast residents of both faiths, demanding peace. Larger rallies followed, and the movement grew.

"I was able to take the



Betty Williams

awful anger I felt and turn it into something positive, and break the cycle of fear," said Williams, recalling those weeks. "Fear is contagious. It cripples communities. Courage is also contagious. It releases communities. The women of Northern Ireland got out in their hundreds of thousands. It took us 30 years," but finally Irish Republican political leader Gerry Adams sat down to inaugurate a power sharing agreement last week with Protestant leader "Ian Paisley, may God have mercy on that man, that's the devil incarnate. He gets behind the pulpit and preaches hatred." But all men are capable of change.

Williams said it took 850 years after the Brits invaded Ireland to begin to see the glimmer of peace. She predicted America would have 1000 years of strife to contend with, in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. But she emphasized peace in Northern Ireland did not come from armies, nor from the politicians, but from the common people, in their thousands, working hard and continuously for peace.

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Elinor Lipman Wows Women's Club

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

SOUTH DEERFIELD - The 110-year-old South Deerfield Women's Club hosted prolific writer Elinor Lipman whose book *Then She Found Me* is ready to hit movie theaters in film form. Bette Midler and Colin Firth are cast in the movie, also starring Helen Hunt, who directed the film.

The South Deerfield Women's Club, headed by president Bonita Conlon, meets once a month from September through April as a social club. They raise money to fund projects such as scholarships, community meals or helping people in need. The recipients do not necessarily need to be residents. The group also participates in projects such as planting flowers on the town common, greeting new residents or marching in parades. The club invites a guest speaker once a year, on different subjects. Usually the public is invited - men included.

Then She Found Me had been optioned for a movie so many



PHOTO: JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
Author Elinor Lipman

years ago that Lipman thought Hollywood had forgotten all about her book. She was pleasantly surprised to learn it was finally going to hit the silver screen.

"When I saw the screenplay, I said, 'Gee, that's different than the book,' but then I read the play and I liked it," Lipman said. "I emailed her (Hunt) and told her how much I liked it."

Lipman read a few pages of her latest novel, *My Latest Grievance*, and discussed her writing process. The author said that her novels were usually about serious subjects written

with a bit of humor.

"I don't use an outline," Lipman said. "I just start with an idea to see where the characters lead me. Then when I have four or five chapters written, I go back and re-write, polishing it a bit and send it to my editor. Sometimes she will tell me, 'Forget the first few chapters, the story really starts with Chapter Five.'"

Lipman stressed that a writer should not argue with their editor. "It's the editor's job to advise you. If she tells you the story starts on Chapter Five, you need to start with Chapter Five."

Lipman also offered words of wisdom about controlling agents. "Be pleasant, but don't be intimidated. I had an agent who told me that I was such a pleasure to work with because of my soft voice and pleasant manner."

Lipman spoke about requests for blurbs by would-be authors.

"I know how it is to be on the other side, asking someone to write a blurb," the author said. "But sometimes the manuscript they send me is so bad that I have to refuse."

I first met Lipman when introduced by author Suzanne Strempek Shea. Lipman's soft voice, ready smile and pleasant manner were evident then, as they are now. I have written articles covering her appearances at the Greenfield Public Library and at the Brattleboro Literary Festival. The article and photos of Lipman, Malachi McCourt and Saul Bellow appeared on the front page of the Brattleboro edition of the *Town Crier*. Recently, Lipman was kind enough to write a blurb for my memoir, *Jep's Place; Hope, Faith, and Other Disasters*. She mentioned the memoir, in passing, during her talk at the

South Deerfield Women's Club, a gesture characteristic of her.

Lipman has written nine novels. Her popular novel, *The Inn at Lake Devine* deals with the subject of prejudice, written with her typical subtle humor, giving the reader a feeling of satisfaction that justice has been done at book's end.

In the question and answer period, Lipman gave writers advice on queries, writing, looking for an agent and dealing with editors. She offered encouragement shaded with words of caution that not everyone is a writer, but acknowledged that practice often spells improvement. She frequently employed humor during her talk as well, making the evening both informative and entertaining. "Be sure to see the movie," elicited the biggest laugh.

GUEST EDITORIAL



Monologues Revisited

BY SHARON MELLOR HORTON

TURNERS FALLS - In an article reflecting on my experience viewing the *Vagina Monologues* at the Shea Theater earlier this month, (*MR V #22*), I suggested that people could contribute to public awareness on sexual assault by delivering "vagina monologues" of their own. Here is my own contribution, a description of my firsthand experience with recovery from sexual assault. My purpose in telling my story is twofold, to raise public awareness on sexual assault, and to lend my voice to the issue for the sake of victims who have not found their voices yet.

My recovery story is best expressed with a metaphor from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Like Ebenezer Scrooge, I have been visited by three ghosts - one from the past, one from the present, and one from the future.

The ghost from the past represents the memory of the date rape I sustained in 1978. Accompanying this memory is the memory of my having been accused of provoking the attack. "You must have asked for it,"

they said. This accusation contributed to my internalizing the blame, instead of placing it on my perpetrator where it belonged. Consequently, years passed before I recognized the fact that rape is never justified, or even deserved. In the meantime, self-recrimination stalled my healing process.

The ghost from the present is the reminder of my ever-increasing ability to overcome the debilitating effects of rape. Looking back at my journey of emotional healing from this trauma, I see that my ability to overcome is directly related to my ability to internalize the truth of the fact that no one deserves to be raped. It is this ability to overcome which gives me the voice to share my story and the impetus to express my opinion on the issue of sexual assault.

The ghost from the future represents the possible consequences of going public with my opinion. A consequence that I never could have imagined was being "hit on" by an acquaintance who read my first article. Being "hit on" triggered some of my previously held beliefs such as, "You shouldn't

tell anyone what happened to you," and "The rape was your fault." The impetus to express my opinion was temporarily interrupted by these false beliefs, but was soon recovered thanks to my increasing ability to challenge them.

The process of my recovery affects me in three ways. First, I am haunted with the memories associated with the attack, including the memory of my having been accused of wrongdoing. Second, I am compelled to help raise public awareness by telling my story. And third, I am sobered by the reality of the unpredictability of public response. In conclusion, my recovery from rape is an ongoing process. I am affected for life.

Editor's Note: Anyone seeking help dealing with issues of sexual assault or harassment should call the Montague Catholic Social Ministries at 863-4805, the Salasin Project at 863-4806, or the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT) in Greenfield at 772-0806.

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: April 6th -- 12th

Barton Cove Eagles:
7A-8A (Daily); 12:30P-5:30P (Friday, Thursday); 1P-5:30P (Saturday, Sunday); 130P-5:30P (Monday); 12P-5:30P (Tuesday); 10A-5:30P (Wednesday)

Friday, April 6
8:00 am Over The Falls: Deb Kats & John Ward
9:00 am Velocity
9:30 am Coffee House
Series: Pat & Tex
LaMountain, Russ Thomas, Joe Graveline
11:30 am Greenfield High School Field Hockey
6:00 pm Nasa Destination Tomorrow #14
6:30 pm Kidz Art #4
7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 3/27/07
10:00 pm Rev. Carlos Anderson: "A House Divided"

Saturday, April 7
8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #14
8:30 am Kidz Art #4
9:00 am GMRSD meeting 3/27/07
12:00 Rev. Carlos Anderson: "A House Divided"
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love"
7:30 pm Montague Update: James Rourke
8:30 pm Coffee House
Series: Pat & Tex
LaMountain, Russ Thomas, Joe Graveline
10:30 pm Profiles In Courage

Sunday, April 8
8:00 am The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love"
9:00 am Montague Update: James Rourke
10:00 am Coffee House
Series: Pat & Tex
LaMountain, Russ Thomas, Joe Graveline
12:00 pm Profiles In Courage
6:00 pm Montague Update: Pam Hanold
7:00 pm Over The Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
8:00 pm Discovery Center: Live Bald Eagle With Tom Richardi
9:30 pm Coffee House
Series: Katie Clarke Band
11:30 pm Rev. Carlos Anderson: "Shalom"

Monday, April 9
8:00 am Montague Update: Pam Hanold
9:00 am Over The Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
10:00am Discovery Center: Live Bald Eagle With Tom Richardi
11:30 am Coffee House
Series: Katie Clarke Band
6:30 pm Montague Update: David Lovelace
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)
9:00 pm Velocity
9:30 pm Coffee House
Series: Fall Town String Band

Tuesday, April 10
8:00 am Montague Update: David Lovelace
8:30 am Velocity
9:00 am Coffee House
Series: Fall Town String

Band
6:00 pm GED Connection #35
6:30 pm Kidz Art #4
7:00 pm GMRSD (Live)

Wednesday, April 11
8:00 am GED Connection #35
8:30 am Kidz Art #4
9:00 am Source To Sea
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #14
7:00 pm GED Connection #36
7:30 pm The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love"
8:30 pm Discovery Center: Live Bald Eagle With Tom Richardi
10:00 pm Rev. Carlos Anderson: "A House Divided"

Thursday, April 12
8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #14
8:30 am GED Connection #36

9:00 am The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love"
10:00 am Discovery Center: Live Bald Eagle With Tom Richardi
11:30 am Rev. Carlos Anderson: "A House Divided"
6:00 pm Over The Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 4/9/07
9:00 pm Coffee House
Series: Pat & Tex
LaMountain, Russ Thomas, Joe Graveline
11:00 pm Valley Idol

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Three Cheers for Indomitable TFHS Cheerleaders

BY ALI URBAN

Turners Falls High School's cheerleading coach Kerri Brown remembers the annual Bartlett High School Cheerleading Tournament as her favorite competition when she was a cheerleader at TFHS. This year, at the 26th annual competition in Webster, MA last month, the current high school team was excited to nail a third place win.

"There are hundreds of cheerleaders surrounding the gym," recalled Brown, who has coached the cheerleaders for the last two years. "The energy of the crowd is indescribable, the hospitality of the school and the coaches are amazing, and the DJ provided music enough to make anyone get out of the bleachers and dance."

The win was especially important to the team this year, after they lost a number of members for various reasons after preparing their routines. One week before the competition, the team was practicing six days a week for about four hours a day. Two days before they were set to perform, they lost two more members, leaving them with only ten for competition.

"I kept thinking to myself, how am I going to break it to

the kids?" Brown said. She didn't know what the team was going to do. She went to practice that night and had a meeting with the team. "There was no stopping them!" she said. "They were determined; they were dedicated, and they would not let themselves, their teammates or their school down. This team was incredible."

At TFHS, cheerleading seasons are divided into football season and basketball tournament season. Brown explained that the two are very different. Football cheerleading is more relaxed and the focus is mainly the excitement of putting together the school's Booster Day and Thanksgiving Day rallies. "The students really love that time of year - it is the beginning of a new school year with some new teammates and some new ideas," she said.

Basketball/tournament cheerleading, however, is "the cheerleaders' season." The team does cheer for the basketball



Photographed left to right are TFHS cheerleaders: Aimee Shattuck, Mercedes St. Marie, Danielle Delbentey, Sarah Underwood, Brittany Senn, Shelby Sayer, John Wong and Shanna Clark. Not shown are Sam Horan and Cassie Kazar.

team, however sometimes members find it difficult cheering in a confined area on the bleachers. Tournament season is what the participants look forward to all year.

"This is their time to shine, and instead of them cheering on their peers in other sports, their peers are cheering them on," Brown explained. "Tournament involves gymnastics, dance, personality, jumps, routines and a lot of competition."

Even though they lost some teammates, they were still able to perform the dance routine they created, along with the pyramids they worked so hard on. After many hours of practice and emotions and teamwork, their efforts paid off and they came out with a third place.

Freshman cheerleader Sarah Underwood was pleasantly surprised with the win. "When the awards were being given out, all the teams had to go out on the mat," she explained. "We really didn't think we would get anything. When they said third place goes to Turners Falls High School, no one really reacted. Then it sunk in and we all jumped up!"

"It felt like we had won first place because we went into the competition not knowing what the other teams had or what to expect. We were really proud that we got our stuff together and actually did it," Underwood added. She said that without determination, the team wouldn't have gotten as far as it did. "We wanted to try so hard, we kept going for it, and it

worked," she said.

Although the team did not participate in any other competitions this season, last year they competed at UMass Amherst, where they took home second place. The team is also hoping to compete this fall and is considering summer camp at Bartlett High School.

Brown said that cheerleading is not often considered a sport. "Cheerleading is no longer standing on the sidelines, shaking your pompoms and yelling "Sis boom ba" in your bobby socks," she commented. "It now involves intense dance, aerobic, gymnastic, cardio, strength and a full body workout."

She thinks that cheerleading is great for kids, along with all other sports. "I think it gets kids involved. It teaches them to work together, builds confidence, and it gets kids off the streets," she said.

She added that there was no "I" in team with their group. "They were confident, dedicated and truly loved the sport of cheerleading," she added. "No matter what had happened the week of competition, the feeling of victory made everything worth it."

Gill-Montague Gala Tickets On Sale Now

BY CORI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS-Tickets are on sale now for the third annual Gill-Montague Gala, featuring The Gregory Caputo Big Band and his show "Velocity."

The Gill-Montague Education Fund in partnership with "Phil D." of radio station WIZZ 1520 AM will present the gala Saturday, April 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the state-of-the-art theater at Turners Falls High School

Admission is \$20. Tickets are available at Scotty's Store in Turners Falls, World Eye

Bookshop in Greenfield, Turn it Up in Northampton, Turn it Up in Brattleboro, Vt., or by calling Sandy at Turners Falls High School (863-7218).

Underwriters for the gala are Hillside Plastics Inc., Construction Monitoring Services Inc. and the Montague Elks Lodge #2521.

The Gill-Montague Education Fund is a non-profit organization established to raise funds for students' enrichment through the academic, arts and athletic programs.

Get your tickets today!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Breaking and Entering

Thursday 3-29

4:24 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at the Franklin County Tech School. The boys locker room was entered. Cash was stolen. Under investigation.

9:30 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Davis Street address. The apartment was entered through a kitchen window. Jewelry was missing. Report taken

Saturday 3-31

3:14 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle theft from Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Vehicle later recovered in Holyoke. No damage.

6:40 p.m. Report of an assault at a Bernardo Drive address. All parties were

advised of options. No charges were pressed.

Sunday 4-1

11:58 p.m. Report of a larceny at an Avenue A address. Found to be a Rent-A-Center situation. Rent-A-Center recovered their merchandise.

4:36 p.m. Report of trespassing at a Greenfield Road address. Subject was placed in protective custody.

Monday 4-2

3:57 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering behind the Turners Falls Pizza House. Officer saw someone climbing through a window. Found to be a resident. All OK.

8:37 p.m. Report of a narcotics violation at a 4th Street address. Caller

reports smelling marijuana. Report taken.

Tuesday 4-3

11:35 a.m. 911 hang-up call from a G Street address.

██████████ was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and intimidation of a witness.

7:34 p.m. Report of a weapons violation at a 4th Street address. A child had a pellet gun. Officer spoke with mother. She did not know child had gun. Took child in house.

Wednesday 4-4

10:05 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a 2nd Street address. A vehicle was entered. \$90 in cash and other stuff were missing. Report taken.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Police Station to be Masonry Construction

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, April 2nd, fire chief Ray Godin reported to the selectboard on progress at a joint meeting of members of the Turners Falls fire department prudential committee and the Montague police station building committee with architect Brian Humes and members of the selectboard and finance committee on March 29th. Godin said after revising the space needs assessment for the proposed new police station, to be built adjacent to the Turners Falls fire department on Turnpike Road, the building committee has asked Humes to design a masonry building similar in style to the fire station, to encompass a little less than 12,000 square feet, to meet the needs of the police department, and to include a training room, emergency control center and a dispatch center both departments would share. Godin said he had been in touch with town counsel to get started on an agreement between the town and the Turners Falls fire district identifying responsibilities and owner-

ship of the land and joint use areas of the building. After the meeting, Godin said the fire district is planning to donate to the town a triangular area of land between the fire station and the midpoint of the closed section of Montague Road, abutting land owned by the Diocese of Springfield. The town is considering purchasing additional land from the Diocese along that section of Turnpike Road.

Tables for the Pub

Ed Tolzdorf, owner of the Millers Pub on Main and Bridge Street in Millers Falls, came before the selectboard with a request to put two tables on the sidewalk in front of the bar, with three chairs at each, for daytime seating, April through October. The tables would be for food, not drink, and would be brought inside at 9 p.m. at the latest.

Pat Allen asked, "The idea is not that people would go out there and have a cigarette until one in the morning?"

Tolzdorf replied, "I'd rather not have that. They'd probably find it too convenient. They'd

probably go out and smoke more."

Building inspector David Jensen said the consensus was that the tables would be located "on the brick, in the general vicinity of the tree." Jensen said a policy needed to be clarified about who gets to use the tables, "bar customers, building customers, anybody?"

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the tables and umbrellas, if any, should not impede pedestrian access on the walkway, the curb ramp, or the canopy of the trees themselves. The board agreed to the request, with the proviso that brand advertising not exceed 20% on umbrellas that may top the tables, and that a policy statement for who may use the tables be clearly posted.

Ramp for the Rendezvous

Emily Brewster came before the board with a request to license town property to construct a wheelchair access ramp to the Rendezvous Bar at 78 3rd Street in Turners Falls which Brewster and three partners plan

to reopen this summer. She asked permission to use a strip of land parallel to 3rd Street about 60 inches wide and stretching from the property line about twelve feet west, along with a strip of land perpendicular to 3rd Street to bring the ramp to the sidewalk, about 60 inches wide and 48 inches long. The ramp would not interfere with access to the municipal parking lot that abuts the bar. Some shrubs would be removed; a nearby tree would not be harmed; the bar owners would undertake new landscaping to replace the shrubs, and to reseed grass. The board agreed to the request, with a three-year renewable license, at \$100 per year, and with insurance coverage as stipulated by the town's provider. Brewster said the ramp would be built out of ipe, a sustainable hardwood, with a cement transition to the town sidewalk.

Ray Zukowski announced the police department has received a Homeland Security grant to purchase a pair of night vision goggles, at the cost of \$5,000.

Chris Couture has volun-

teered his services to the town to clean and seal the fountain at Peskeomskut Park, which is in poor condition due to oxidation. The board gratefully accepted his offer.

During the current year, the capital improvements committee adopted a policy to allow the superintendent of the department of public works to exercise his discretion to take advantage of bargain sales to purchase equipment or vehicles for the department without specific town meeting approval. The lump sum appropriated this year was \$90,000. This year, the capital improvement committee recommended a \$75,000 amount, but wanted to make sure a policy was in place to ensure oversight of the program. The policy will require the superintendent to come back to the board to sign off on purchases of major equipment, and to update the capital improvement committee about how the money was spent the previous year. The sum will also be available to the DPW superintendent to make needed repairs to equipment.

Police Building Committee Update - # 4

SEEKING FUNDING POSSIBILITIES, OFFICE FURNITURE

BY PAM HANOLD

TURNERS FALLS - On Thursday, March 29th, the Montague police station building committee held a combined meeting with architect Brian Humes and members of several town boards. Present were Police chief Ray Zukowski, Turners Falls fire chief Ray Godin, Captain John Zellmann, Dave Gedron, Walt Kostanski, Deb Radway, Jay DiPucchio, Pam Hanold, and Patricia Pruitt of the MPSBC committee. Pat Allen (in addition to Pruitt) of the selectboard, Les

Cromack (capital improvements), John Hanold (finance committee), and Joe Janikas (fire district prudential committee) were also in attendance.

Copies of an updated space needs assessment were distributed. After the last meeting with the architect on March 16th (see update, *Montague Reporter*, V#24), Zukowski and Humes continued to work on the proposed building layout, coming into this meeting with an additional cut of around 1,000 square feet. We once

again went page by page, room by room through the document. Part of the discussion was explanation by Humes, part of it was input from townspeople as Humes sought feedback saying, "It is the community that dictates the building."

Once again, Zukowski had continued talking with his officers and staff and suggested more consolidations of functions and space.

In one area we agreed that one unisex restroom for up to 50 people in the in the public

lobby off the Training and Emergency Operations room (which will double as a Community Room) was not enough, and added back a second one, hoping they would be side by side to share plumbing.

The second part of the meeting involved giving Humes specific directions for the actual building plans. We discussed and agreed that we had cut as deeply as possible, while maintaining our current police operation. Janikas formally expressed the support of the prudential committee to move

forward with the plan.

We then discussed some trade-off construction questions. Humes was directed to assume a masonry exterior like the fire station, which looks very good after 30-some years, contingent on our seeing a comparison of higher initial cost for masonry construction and lower maintenance and replacement costs, versus lower initial costs for wood frame construction. We also asked him for the same kind of figures on other potential cost see POLICE pg 9

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Turtle Culvert Installed on Main Road

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - The Main Road construction project is grinding on. F&J Construction, of Ludlow, installed a bypass culvert to temporarily divert the brook south of Upingill Farm to enable them to excavate, remove the old culvert, and install a new one.

The construction company chose to do the work in the winter when all good turtles are asleep in their beds, so that they did not have to post a guard as the job specifications required. A snug bed, in this case, is a spot under the edge of a stream where the turtles can lodge themselves securely to avoid being swept away. In warmer weather, the guard is charged with escorting turtles safely across the road, away from turtle squashing construction machinery. If the construction company had chosen to do the work in spring, when young boy tur-



Excavator Joe Fernandes of F&J Construction inspects progress on the box culvert beneath Main Road for the safe passage of wood turtles, a species of special concern in Massachusetts.

bles' thoughts make their hearts go pitter-pat, and they scamper off in pursuit of their lady loves, it could have complicated construction of the already complicated culvert even more. Culvert construction during turtle wandering time would have required more turtle guards than con-

struction workers. Joe Fernandes, F & J's excavator operator, said he has not seen a single turtle on the Main Road project all last summer, not that he really cares.

The science and art of culvert design has occupied the time of engineers and scien-

tists far longer than town officials ever thought possible, perhaps because it was a cost plus job. A culvert needs to be shallow enough to allow the turtle to waltz through, which means a fish may not make it through the shallows. Narrow culverts mean deeper, swifter waters, which fish love, but the turtle can't navigate through swift water. He then may go across the road and end up looking like a pancake griddle with six handles after a truck runs over him. Turtles do not like culvert roofs too low, perhaps fearing that a rare black Gill leopard might be lurking in the shadows. They needn't fear. This culvert roof is high enough to allow a horse to pass through

at full gallop. Before opening the culvert to turtle travel, the concrete floor will be paved with a native gravel bottom so as to duplicate the stream bed and not startle turtles with an alien appearing concrete. We take better care of our turtles than we do of our homeless; they sleep on concrete pavement without any gravel at all. In closing I must include Ogden Nash's famous poem:

The Turtle

The turtle lives 'twixt plat
ed decks
Which practically conceal
its sex.
I think it clever of the turtle
In such a fix to be so fertile.

GRISWOLD continued from page 1

and Buckland." Since then, Griswold spent five years working as a traffic manager for C&S Wholesale Grocers, before retiring last month. She recently became a member of the Gill finance committee, getting her first look at

the Gill budget making process.

"This is perfect timing for me," said Griswold. "The selectboard position opened up completely unexpectedly. I know the procedures. I just need to catch up with what's going on in town."

Griswold lives on Walnut Street with her husband of five years, Michael, who

worked for the Boston and Maine Railroad for 32 years as an engineer. She moved to town six years ago.

She said, "There is a need in town for people to step up and serve. It's something I enjoy doing. It is a very challenging time for the town financially. A lot of difficult decisions need to be made."

Griswold, born and brought up in Chicopee, said she enjoyed living in Gill. "It's a very nice town." She said the people at town hall had been supportive of her, encouraging her to run.

"We need to get the attention of the folks in Boston," to help solve the town's fiscal crunch, Griswold said.

POLICE continued from page 8

benefits, like energy-saving features other stations have used.

Humes will get back to us with plans in the next week or two. Those will include a storage out-building providing inexpensive unheated bulk storage and sheltered car parking.

The committee moved on to a short action checklist. The purchase of adjacent land from

the Diocese of Springfield, of which the station will use 1 3/4 acres, is in the hands of the selectboard. The agreement covering the trade of land for use of the shared space between the town and the Prudential Committee will be worked out by the attorney, as we both the town and the fire district use the same firm. Several people will start moving on their contacts to check out additional funding sources. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio will be asked for his expertise on grants

and funding as he is, in the words of Radway, "the best around."

The committee will start meeting weekly as of April 12th, and continue looking for ideas to keep costs low. Zukowski suggested installing a "Texas inmate" initial telephone system in the cells. It is a collect calling system that allows inmates to make as many calls as they want, while eliminating the need for an officer to be present. Dispatch can cut the system off as need be,

and the company gives a percentage of the collect cost to the station.

Anyone who knows of any funding opportunities is invited to call someone on the committee. In the same vein, my dream is to find a corporation moving to new quarters that might like a tax write-off for the donation of their good quality, lightly used office suites. If anyone spots such an opportunity, make my day and call me at 863-4477. There's at least a cup of coffee in it for you if it is a good catch!

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GHOSTS

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of Charlemont, professor at Greenfield Community College and Massachusetts College of Art in Boston.

An exhibit of photographs Willis and Young took in Erving, working together weekly for almost four years, is now on view at the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography in Turners Falls in a collaborative exhibit titled *Recycled Realities*, through June 17th. The Erving paper mill provided, said Young at the opening of the exhibit, "a motherlode of subject matter. Every time we went, we saw something new." According to Willis, "Everything turns up in those bales."

The photographs of paper are printed on paper, of course, adding another, ironic, afterlife to the paper mill's detritus. When we look at these photographs, probing their bizarre juxtapositions and numerous cultural references, we again invest meaning in paper, this time in what slipped through our fingers, the ghosts of paper past.

Though we usually only see one copy of a magazine or newspaper, each number was



*A photograph from John Willis' collection
A View from the Rez, at the Hallmark Museum*

printed in multiples. Trial runs, overruns, misprints, abandoned for recycling, repeat in these photographs of photographs like a broken record -- a face, the same face, face, face; or a hand, hand, hand, reaching but not finding, reaching again, still not finding, reaching....

See something once, you may find meaning; see it repeatedly, meaning dislocates. Look for a pattern in the repetition and you may find meaning anew. These shifts from meaning to meaninglessness, from ugliness to beauty, back and forth, are the disquieting subject of these photos of photos.

The scraps that Willis and Young snatch from the dust-

bin of history, like a foursome who posed with a Model A, have been torn, worn, distorted, and distressed, evincing the violence of oblivion. In one photograph, ripped

curling into a shape that resembles a knot of wood. Paper retains a memory of its organic origins: shreds of paper burst from their constraints like roots and tendrils; its rippled edges part gently, like lettuce. In other photographs, the bales become a landscape of glaciers, with caves and crevasses.

As Willis and Young explained in their Saturday evening lecture at the Hallmark School of Photography, they have collaborated since being introduced 20 years ago. A previous shared project was photographing the abandoned Northampton mental hospital. Locked into unheated buildings in winter, they took photos of the dent a patient's head left in a pillow, of the one-inch deep scratches fingernails left in cement walls.

The two photographers find stimulation in addressing the same topic and reflecting on it, learning from each other and influencing each other. Though the subject matter in their shared projects is difficult and disturbing, their artistic communication and support offers a comforting model for an artistic life. The solitary artist may have gone the way of celluloid film

and darkroom chemicals. Shared vision and collaboration is the art of the future -- and the present.

There are actually three equally complex exhibits at the Hallmark Museum. *Recycled Realities* is just one of them. Tom Young also exhibits deeply personal photographs, "both scary and hopeful," having to do with both pregnancy and life-threatening illness, titled *Timeline*.

John Willis also shows *A View from the Rez*, pictures of the Oglala Sioux on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, who live, he said, in "the poorest county in the richest nation in the world." Photography is his way of understanding people, but he doesn't merely document what he sees; he is working to improve understanding on many levels. For five years, he has been bringing together students from Vermont, the South Bronx, the Navajo and the Sioux for cross-cultural photography workshops. As he leads viewers to appreciate diversity, he also takes from the Lakota lessons on the importance and breadth of family connections.

These are epic exhibits. 

ART

continued from page 1

artists' work.

"Some stores were using windows for storage, and it didn't look so great," said Lisa Davol coordinator of the RiverCulture project. "We thought it was a good opportunity to put up displays in stores that were not utilizing their window space, while showcasing local creative talent."

"Both RiverCulture and Fostering Arts are all about helping the local economy," said Boyle-Clapp. "It's a really good way to attract attention to local businesses."

All of the art that will be on display will also be for sale, according to Boyle-Clapp. Each window will contain an artist bio, website (if the artist has

one), and contact information for representatives of FACP and RiverCulture who will organize sales of some of the work.

"We're going to start hanging some work this weekend. It should all be ready by Monday," said Boyle-Clapp. "Most of the stores will keep the display up until April 10th, some will keep them up longer. If people are interested they should go down soon."

On April 10th a statewide creative economy workshop will be held at the Shea Theater, which will attract a lot of people from out of town to Turners Falls, Davol said. Part of that day will involve a walking tour of Turners Falls, where public art is already on display in a number of locations, and artist studio walking tours are becoming a regular feature of down-

town life.

All of the stores on the Avenue were receptive to the idea of having art displays in their windows, according to Boyle-Clapp. "Every store I have asked has said yes. For a while I was worried we weren't going to have enough stores; then I was worried we wouldn't have enough artists. But it worked out pretty well."

"The FACP had been working on getting art in storefronts for quite some time," said Davol. "We thought we'd like to have them try this in Turners."

The stores that will be participating are: Arnie's, Pipione's Sports Shop, Tognarelli's, Direct TV and their adjacent storefront, Chinatown, Regal Modular Homes, Ed's Barber Shop, the Crocker Building and Suzee's Laundromat. Suzee's is

located on Third Street, around the corner from the Avenue.

At 112 Avenue A, Four Directions Healing Arts is no stranger to the art display idea. They have kept local art in their storefront window almost since the day they opened, and will do so this month independently of FACP or River Culture's assistance.

The artists whose work will be displayed are: Joe Landry, Laura Garrison, Pam Kinsmith, Darryl Bellou, Bruce Kahn, Janice Sorenson, Amy Borezo, David Brothers, Beverly Phelps, Emily Brewster, Joy Friedman, Edith Hunsberger, Jaye Pope, Steve Earpe, Gloria Kegeles, Peggy Davis, Nina Rossi, Paul Teeling, Diane Clancy, Susan Elkin, Leni Gaudette and Donna McGee.

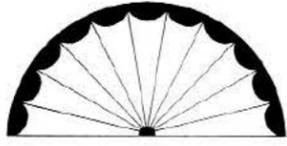
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Easthampton and Pittsfield have hosted similar displays in the past. Easthampton holds a downtown art display annually and Pittsfield has an ongoing program that allows artists to use space in some of the buildings downtown to work on their art.

Boyle-Clapp used the Easthampton and Pittsfield models to help organize the Turners Falls displays. "She was able to visit those places and take ideas from them," said Davol. "She's amazing. She did it all really quickly too."

If local artists wish to get their own work displayed in a future event, they should contact Boyle-Clapp, at: boyle-clappd@gcc.mass.edu, or Davol, at: info@riverculture.org.





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SCHOOL

continued from page 1

School, formerly served on the Gill finance committee. "Even though I dealt with budgets, I'd like to try to look at what is the best way to educate a child developmentally. My emphasis would be first the child, then the family, then the teacher, then the community, and lastly the facility."

On the issue of school configuration, Brown said, "I attended the public forum, and I have paid close attention. I have my own ideas. I would like to wait to express them until I have a chance to work with the entire committee. I value everyone's opinion and hope the school committee can work together as a group." On the issue of intra-district choice, Brown said, "I would look at all the pluses and minuses for Gill and Montague and hope to reach consensus with the school committee for the good of all the children."

The other candidate for the open three-year seat in Gill is Heidi Englehardt. Englehardt, who moved to Gill in 1991 and has a 13-year-old son at Gill Elementary, is making her first run for local office. Regarding the school committee, Englehardt said, "There needs to be some changes in the way everyone is thinking. There are decisions that need to be made in order to create equity in the schools. Cutting teachers and programs is cutting the education for our children. I know that closing schools is hard, but the bottom line is if you don't have enough money to run the district, there need to be changes."

Englehardt said she appreciates the education her son Shawn has received. "Gill Elementary is a small school with wonderful teachers. The teachers are wonderful throughout the district."

Englehardt said elementary school reconfiguration issue was the issue that motivated her to run. "I decided not to be a parent that sits on the sideline, but to get involved. I'd like to



Linda Kuklewicz

"I don't want any money to go to the buildings. If we don't support our teachers, we're going to lose everything we have."

- Linda Kuklewicz

see competition between schools diminish. If we have a K-5 in Montague and a K-5 in Turners Falls, will it foster competition? What school buildings need the least amount of repair? Buildings are buildings. We need to rally together to be the best district we can be."

Englehardt said she was not against moving the Gill 6th grade to the Great Falls Middle School, but "the only thing that concerns me is have 10- or 11-year-olds riding the bus with the seniors."

Over in Montague, Steven Palso, a machine technician at Hillside Plastics who said he moved to Turners Falls with his family from the Albany area in 2001, not only for the small town life but also because he had heard so many positive things about the GMRSD schools, said he decided to run for a three-year seat on the school committee because he was concerned about the issue of funding for the schools.

"I have a child at Hillcrest, a child at Sheffield, and one at the middle school," Palso said. "I've been watching the fighting (at the school committee meetings), and I want to have my

voice heard. I want to get in there and try to make a judgment of what is best for the whole town of Montague, not just for the village of Turners Falls or the village of Montague Center."

On the issue of closing an elementary school, Palso said, "We just voted down a Proposition 2½ override (for \$600,000 for the schools) last year, and now we're looking to fill an \$800,000 budget gap. I believe we need to close one of the schools to fill the budget gap, but I'm not sure which one to close. I would lean toward closing Montague Center, but without seeing the official numbers, I can't say which way I would go."

Kelly Gobiell, a native of Millers Falls who now lives in Turners, said having three young children coming up through the GMRSD schools (one entering pre-K next year, one in pre-K, one in Kindergarten at Hillcrest) influenced her to decide to run for school committee because, "I want them to have a good education. We need to focus on all of our students. What's going to



Sandy Brown

give them the best education? We need to also focus on what's going to create an incentive to attract students from other districts to our schools. It has to be more than just the high school."

Gobiell, a UMass grad and a teacher with a masters in education from Springfield College, attended school at Montague Center as a child, and subsequently worked there as a classroom aide. She now works at Hillcrest Elementary's pre-K program as a paraprofessional, a temporary job she said runs



Heidi Englehardt

through the end of the year. Next year, she said she will seek a fulltime job as a teacher, at one of the school districts in the area.

Though she has spoken at recent hearings in favor of closing Montague Center school and consolidating elementary education at the Hillcrest and Sheffield campus, as a candidate for school committee Gobiell took a more measured approach to the subject of reconfiguring the schools. "I hope we could figure out a way to keep all the schools open. I want to see what configuration would benefit every single one of our students. I am definitely looking toward the quality of education. If we brought all our students together, would that equalize education for all? Would it help MCAS scores? We really need to look at this. Bringing students together would allow for more collaboration between staff and teachers. We need to broaden our horizon."

Joyce Phillips, who stepped down from the school committee last year after serving for twelve years, said she decided to tip her hat back into the ring this year because spending time in the audience at committee meetings gave her a new appreciation "for the frustration people are feeling." She said her goals for the school district have not changed. "I want to provide the very best education for the students of our district. Some of the issues being focused on are undermining the education of our students. We have to come together as a community to

ensure the very best education for all of our students."

Phillips said the tenor of the debate around school closing has been a problem in itself for the school committee. "People have been set aside; they feel insulted. The members of the school committee have brought this on themselves. They have been disrespectful of each other, the staff, the administration, and the community."

Phillips added, "Everyone has opinions. What's missing is a respect and an acceptance of differences. We need to work together to find the best direction." She said she had been hearing for months from people in the district asking her to run again. She decided to do so because, "Education matters to me. It's not a cliché. Our students deserve the very best."

On the issue of school closing, Phillips said, "From the very beginning, I have said the best place we could be in would be to close Montague Center School and use Hillcrest and Sheffield as an elementary campus." She said the reasons for doing so are clear: "Cost effectiveness and ADA compliance." Phillips concluded, "Budget matters. It matters."

Phillips, who works at the Greenfield office of transitional assistance, worked with others to revive the Gill Montague Education Fund in 2004, which provides supplemental curriculum enhancing grants to GMRSD students. She has been instrumental in the group's fundraising efforts through her work producing the annual GMEF galas.

Phillips, Gobiell and Palso are all running for the two three-year seats currently occupied by Montague's Kociela and Colton, who are running as incumbents for the same seats. Kociela and Colton are on the record as supporting a December 19th, 2006 vote to close part of Hillcrest School and expand the Montague Center School to a K-5 elementary school. Before voting for

see SCHOOL pg 12

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SCHOOL

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that elementary school configuration, Kociela had previously supported a motion to close Montague Center and consolidate Montague elementary education at Hillcrest and Sheffield. That motion failed to gain the eight votes needed to close Montague Center. Colton joined fellow school committee members Mike Langknecht and Ted Castro-Santos in opposing the closing of Montague Center on November 28th, 2006.

Colton said he decided to run for school committee again because, "We are at a point where we're starting to deal with issues of substance, issues of equity." Colton, who is a historian for the U.S. National Park Service, where he works developing school curriculum, is a former classroom teacher with six years experience on the GMRSD school committee. He has served in an elected or appointed capacity on Montague boards, including the library trustees and the



Steve Palso

petition to close down a school in another part of town. That would be inconceivable in an integrated school district."

Colton spoke of a decision four years ago to "draw hard boundaries" around the population of school children from different parts of Montague, so that children from Turners could no longer attend school at Montague Center, as they had for about 30 years before 2003. In the past, the population of special needs students, and students living in poverty, had been more evenly distributed to the different elementary schools; now they are concentrated in Hillcrest and Sheffield, to the detriment of the students, he said. "Federal law says we have to break up that concentration. We're ending up with an understanding that policy probably hasn't worked. There have been voices in the district urging against that."

At the March 27th school committee meeting, Phillips said she had been present at a meeting of school administrators in 2003 where a decision was taken to end the practice of busing students from Turners Falls to Montague Center, as a cost saving measure. Colton, also present at that meeting, opposed the move to end busing of Turners students to Montague Center; Phillips had supported it. On March 13th, Sheffield principal Chip Wood announced to the committee that No Child Left Behind mandates will require the GMRSD next year to bus students who would otherwise attend Sheffield to other district elementary schools that have openings for them, if their par-

"We just voted down a Proposition 2½ override last year, and now we're looking to fill an \$800,000 budget gap. I believe we need to close one of the schools to fill the budget gap."

-Steven Palso

ents choose, at district expense, because Sheffield is an underperforming school according to federal guidelines. Superintendent Sue Gee said the district will be forced to set aside \$51,000 to pay for busing those students, who at this point will only have a choice to go to Gill Elementary, unless openings are created for them at Montague Center. Wood said the rate of students living in poverty attending Sheffield School is now more than 50%, while the rate of students in poverty attending Montague Center has fallen to 26%. Colton said in 2003, before busing of students from Turners to Montague Center was discontinued, the rate of students in poverty attending Montague Center was 37.61%.

Colton said if re-elected, "My focus would be as it has always been, on the most vulnerable members of our community, the young learners who pass our way just once."

On reconfiguration, Colton said school choice should be a major factor in determining the committee's decision. "The district is currently losing \$1 million annually in school choice out. That figure has increased by a quarter of a million dollars in just the last year. Four years ago, the same number of students choiced into district schools as choiced out. According to surveys taken during the course of the elementary school reconfiguration group's work over the last two years, the biggest factor in parents deciding to choice their stu-

dents out of the district has been because of the unstable elementary school issue. Parents responded to surveys saying they wanted longer grade span schools, and smaller more responsive schools. The campus model does not meet those criteria."

Colton said the proposal to expand Montague Center School "has the greatest promise for fiscal responsibility for the district. Not only will it produce an educationally sound system, but it has the most promise of financial reward. Parents are leaving and finding what they want. The elementary grades are critical."

Kociela, the current chair of the GMRSD school committee, has also served six years on the committee. She said she decided to run again because, "I want to see things through. We're in a very difficult place."

Kociela, who has lived in Montague for 20 years, said, "I've been working for the school district for many, many years, since Montague Center added a third grade when my daughter was in second grade (Kaitlyn is 21 now). There has always been friction around Montague Center. But I've never seen it at this level

can come together."

Kociela, who works for the Northwest District Attorney's Office, highlighted positives in recent decisions the school committee has taken. "We did decide to move Montague 6th graders to the middle school. We moved forward with amendments [for town meetings in Gill and Montague to consider] on intra-district choice, which has been talked about for years. These are very significant steps."

She said the committee is actively looking for an interim superintendent, and the choice was made to go for an interim superintendent to allow the committee leeway to "seek the best fit. This is such an important position, at such an important time."

On the topic of reconfiguration, Kociela said, "At this point I am looking toward the task forces to tell us what the building needs are in each of the schools. I'm a one step at a time person. I know for some people this is a clear choice. It's not for me." Kociela also said, whatever decision is finally made to close or expand elementary schools, "I truly believe we can make any-



Kelly Gobiel

historical commission, for the last 25 years. Colton has children in middle school and high school.

Colton said, "I want to see the district opened up in terms of intra-district choice. By doing so, we would share resources, and children at all schools will be assured of a baseline for education." Currently, Colton said, "We have schools being protective of their particular identity, self-isolating. This has been injurious for children." He said this has led to the point where, "The PTO from one school initiated a

"There has always been friction around Montague Center. But I've never seen it at this level of dissension. I am trying to think really carefully about how we as a school committee can exert leadership to bring the factions together."

- Mary Kociela

of dissension. I find it really distressing. I am trying to think really carefully about how we as a school committee can exert leadership to bring the factions together. I still hold out hope we



Mary Kociela

thing work." Kociela, whose daughter graduated from TFHS, and whose son is a senior there, said she intended to work with groups forming between school districts to press the state legislature to improve state funding for the schools. "We've got to find a way to fund the public schools so we can get about the business of providing a quality education," Kociela said.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Will the Real Heimlich Please Stand Up?

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm presuming there actually was someone named Heimlich who gave his name to the maneuver for helping people who are choking. Am I right?

Yes, there actually is a Heimlich - Henry J. Heimlich, MD, who was born 87 years ago in Delaware. In 1974, Dr. Heimlich published findings on what became known as the Heimlich Maneuver. Since then, the method has saved about 50,000 people in the United States alone.

[Personal note: I met Dr. Heimlich and worked with a team on the initial program to educate the public about the maneuver. A day after our group

learned the technique, one of my co-workers saved a boy who was choking on an ice cube.]

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

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

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

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

Wrap your arms around the victim from behind. Bend the person forward a bit. Place a fist - thumb side in - above the navel and below the rib cage. Grab your fist with your other hand. Thrust your fist in and up as if you were trying to lift the person. Repeat this movement until the blockage is coughed out.

If a person with a blockage is unconscious, there's a different procedure. Place the victim on his or her back. Straddle the victim's hips and press your hands - one on top of the other - into the abdomen above the navel and below the rib cage. Use the

upward trajectory you would use on a conscious, standing victim. Repeat until the blockage is removed.

If you're alone and choking, use your fist in the same way you would on someone else, but bend over a railing, chair back or similar support to help you press your fist inward.

For all you parents, grandparents and babysitters, here's what you do if an infant younger than one year old is choking:

Sit down and rest a forearm on your leg with your palm up. Place the infant face down on your forearm with its body tilted downward toward the head. Strike the middle of the child's back gently with the heel of your hand. Repeat until blockage is



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

removed. If this technique doesn't work, hold the infant face up on your forearm with the body tilted downward toward the head. Place two fingers on the infant's breastbone and press inward quickly. Again, repeat until successful.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.

A HOLISTIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Spring Cleaning in Your Body

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - After months inside a house closed against the storms and chill of winter, when spring arrives there's an urge to throw open the windows, clear out the stale air, and shake the rugs free of dust. Our bodies need this no less than our living spaces.

The beginning of a new year, spring carries the energy of growth and movement. Moving out of our winter cocoon, we feel surges of life: our bodies want to move, our creative minds envision projects for the coming months. We plant seeds in both the earth and our lives. It is also an opportunity to look at old patterns with new awareness, as we move from the confines of winter into the opening of spring.

In Chinese medicine, spring is associated with the Wood element and the Liver organ (capitalized because there is more to it than just the actual organ; each organ is linked to a color, taste, emotion, and various other characteristics). A healthy Liver is like a young tree sapling, strong yet flexible, with solidly rooted and smoothly flowing energy. When the Liver is aggravated, its naturally smooth and harmonious movement becomes congested, leading to, for example, tension, stiffness, headaches, anger, frustration, irritability, and depression.

As plants grow slowly at the



beginning, so also it is important for us to follow a thoughtful unfolding of our own energies. Herbalist Leslie Tierra writes, "Spring's new growth must be nurtured and allowed to occur slowly according to your own individual energy and needs. If you suddenly change from winter's quietness to full outward activity, then you can feel ungrounded or uprooted."

We also need to take care in the change in temperature. Although we northerners are more than ready by April to retire our long underwear and heavy socks, our internal fire is still low from the long hibernation. Continue to dress warmly, and wrap your neck to shield it from the winds that blow the winter away. (Chinese medicine maintains that wind at the back of the neck penetrates the protective energy of the body, lowering our resistance to illness.)

To build that internal fire, keep eating warm foods. Add more green vegetables, steamed greens, and some salads to your

diet to help move sluggishness from the digestive system. If you have pets, you'll notice your dog or cat nibbling on new grass; they know that spring greens are good for them. Limit raw fruits, which are cooler in nature; avoid heavy rich foods (oils, fats, nuts, dairy) as these congest the Liver.

Cleanses and fasts, to flush out and eliminate toxins and wastes that have accumulated over the months of less activity, are a great way to shift into the new season. Both are beyond the scope of this article, but there is plenty of information available through books and local practitioners of herbal medicine, nutrition, and alternative medicine.

When the liver releases toxins, we can feel irritable as the toxins try to make their way out of our bodies. Twisting yoga poses help our bodies cleanse by creating heat and releasing the liver. Yoga teacher Erich Schiffman writes that twists "wring out your body and thereby assist in releasing enormous amounts of tension. When you then release the twisting, wringing-out action, and the musculature relaxes again, that area becomes flooded with nutrients. This is both deeply cleansing and deeply nourishing."

Let the fresh energy of the season rejuvenate your spirit and bring lightness to your step. Spring-clean your body to clear

your mind, smooth your emotions, and give you a new lease on life.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga

teacher in Greenfield. For previous articles, and to offer topics of interest for this column, visit her website, www.jennychapin.com.

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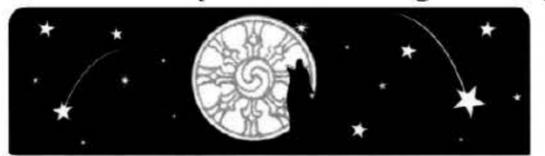
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JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XXVII

Potatoes and Strawberries

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - The clay soil that slowed the passage of water to the well made the heavy farmland very productive when conditions were right. But in spring, the fields were usually wet during planting, often delaying it. The farm was mostly lowland with clumps of cattails in the pasture, and cranberries growing wild in the swamp across the brook. If we'd wanted to grow rice, the farm might have been perfect. Problem was, seeds often rotted in the ground in a wet year. Then, when the surviving seeds spouted, the sun sometimes baked the fields as

the weather turned hot and dry. But other years, under ideal conditions, the heavy soil produced a bumper crop, keeping my father's dreams of prosperity alive. We raised a variety of vegetables, but after hoeing and weeding all summer, whatever we chose to raise always seemed to be selling for about three cents a peck.

Pa liked Katahdin potatoes. We cut the seed potatoes so that there were at least two eyes on each piece. As we set the seed potatoes along the furrow, invariably someone would say, "It must be Joe's birthday - we're planting potatoes."

Everyone would laugh and we'd go back to planting. After a few years, it dawned on me

that Pa was probably planting potatoes by the phases of the moon. Or maybe it was just coincidence. Still, it was nice to be remembered. But I longed for a birthday party.

Pa didn't believe in celebrating birthdays or in giving gifts, even at Christmas. But I liked to think that he was honoring me by planting potatoes on my birthday. He may have, but I never knew, for sure. Perhaps I did not ask, so as to keep the illusion alive.

We grew strawberries as a cash crop, first on a sandy hill at the far end of a meadow, and later on a lower meadow. We sold boxes of berries door-to-door. But strawberries don't bear a crop until the second year. With the endless battle against witch grass, weeds,

bugs, fungus, mold and disease it was hardly worthwhile, and Pa eventually gave it up. We continued to raise berries for our own use, preserving them for winter. None of the kids were at all sad to see the end of our having to go door-to-door peddling.

Most of the housewives were kindly. But some shrews would dump the berries into a bowl before buying them to see if the big ones on top were hiding small ones underneath. Pa told us to always put a big strawberry in the bottom of the basket, so the housewife would exclaim at the pleasant surprise. She would then tell her neighbors about it and we'd sell an extra basket, or two, the next time.

Often customers would ask if the berries were "native." I never knew what to say. I dodged the question by saying we raised them on our farm. Irene said she answered "yes." But my older sister Gladys always said, "Oh, no, these are imported berries," so the housewives would think they were expensive foreign commodities. Unfortunately, Gladys's ploy did not increase

her sales.

When strawberry season was over, we picked wild low bush blueberries to sell to stores. It took five or six of us picking, to earn what Ma earned working in the Keith Paper Mill. With merchants offering us so little, we often preserved those berries, too. Ma made jam in a long process of boiling the fruit down to thicken it. Keeping the stove going on hot summer days made the kitchen unbearably stifling.

A neighbor told Ma about a new product called Certo. Ma bought some of the jelling agent, probably from the Raleigh man, who came around each month peddling household products out of the covered pickup bed of his little truck. Certo cut the hours of preserving to a matter of minutes, plus the fruit went farther. Ma regarded the product as a godsend, and was grateful for the blessings that came her way. She would have nominated the inventor for sainthood, along with the Raleigh man.

... continued next week

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Sudoku By Willy White
Here are the answers to last week's puzzle.

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3	2	6	8	5	7	9	4	1
9	8	4	2	6	1	5	7	3
8	9	1	6	7	2	3	5	4
5	6	7	1	3	4	8	2	9
4	3	2	5	9	8	1	6	7
2	5	9	4	8	3	7	1	6
6	4	3	7	1	5	2	9	8
7	1	8	9	2	6	4	3	5



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Montague Parks & Recreation Department

MPRD would like to remind everyone that they are still taking registrations for the following spring youth sports programs: Tee Ball (Ages 4 - 6), Rookie League Baseball (Grades 1 & 2), Rookie League Softball (Grades K - 2), and Senior Girls Softball League (Grades 3 - 6), and the Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run Competition (Saturday, April 28). For more information, and to receive a Spring Programs Brochure, call MPRD at 863-3216.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 6TH

Rt. 63 Roadhouse: *Equalites & Green Thumb* - open reggae, ska rockin - come to dance! 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH

Rt. 63 Roadhouse: *Catamount*, classic and southern rock. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Common, Wendell Jay Mankita and Peter Siegel perform. Proceeds to benefit the Chicken Coop School. 8 p.m. Open Mic begins at 7:30, open mic sign-up and info. visit www.wendellfullmoon.org. Admission is \$6 to \$12 at the door, kids 6-12 \$2; under 6 free.

Montague Bookmill Spring Concert Series. Adam Sweeney and Eric alan of Amity Front. 8 p.m. \$7.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10TH

Massachusetts Cultural Council "The Role of the Creative Economy in Your Downtown." A one day workshop on the role of the creative economy in a community's downtown revitalization effort. Presenters include: Joe Thompson (Mass MOCA), Clyde Barrow (Policy Studies at UMass Dartmouth), Jason Schupback (ArtistLink) and Meri Jenkins (John & Abigail Adams Art Program, Mass Cultural Council). At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH TO 14TH

The Country Players presents: *A Few Good Men* by Aaron Sorkin, directed by Richard J. Martin at The Shea Theatre. 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday. Call and reserve your tickets now! 863-2281 ext. 1

FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Evolve* - keyboard and drums. 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse: *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*, full band all electric. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Adam Bergeron and Robby Alan Roiter. Adam Bergeron plays inspiring improvisational classical piano. Robby Alan Roiter plays intricate improv-based jazz guitar. Arrive early for couches, armchairs, and to browse the books. \$10 cover. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH



Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Adam Sweeney & Eric Alan of the ever-popular Amity Front. Arrive early for couches, armchairs, and to browse the books. \$7 cover. 8 p.m.

Concert - Travis LeDoyt with his All Star Nashville Band. A rousing night of non stop music, Orange Town Hall auditorium, Orange. Show time 7 p.m., doors open 6:30 p.m.

68th Season Pioneer Valley Symphony Brass and Brahms Under the direction of Paul Phillips, featuring Eric Berlin, trumpet soloist performing the Alexander Arutiunian Trumpet Concerto. Program also includes Jean Sibelius' Karelia Suite and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 At Greenfield High School. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Concert at 7:30 p.m. 773-3664.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina* - rock. 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse: *James Montgomery Blues Band*. Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. 9:30 p.m.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: John Coster. "Coster... is a songwriter of uncommon sensitivity and eloquence. His graceful [guitar] style spans lyrical pop and rock dimensions and with the right breaks, Coster could become a national figure." - Steve Morse - Boston Globe. \$10 cover. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH
Deja Brew, Wendell: Classical Piano with Adam Bergeron. 7 - 9 p.m.

MONDAY APRIL 16TH
Valerie Dee Naranjo performing an inspirational concert of Native American Singing and West African Marimba from Ghana. Joined in part by Jazz Pianist Barry Olson. At Four Rivers Charter School. 7 p.m., sliding scale \$7 - \$15. Info. call 648-9793.

Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Avenue A, 6 to 9 p.m. Info. 863-4441.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH

Wine and Beer Tasting at the Pushkin, Greenfield. All proceeds to benefit Hospice of Franklin County. Includes wine, beer, music and hors d'oeuvres. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. 774-2400.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH

TO 22ND
Arena Civic Theatre presents: *The Crucible* directed by Catherine King at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Tickets \$12.50 general, \$10 for Senior Citizens & Students. Available at World Eye Bookshop and at the Door. Call 863-2281 x3 for reservations. Friday & Saturday's performance at 8 p.m. Sunday performance 2 p.m. Continues April 27th to 29th.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

4th Annual Growing a Green Community Fair Sponsored by the Greenfield Business Association. Featuring displays and samples of environmentally friendly products, food, music and services. At Franklin County Fairgrounds. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 774-2791. Free admission.

The Echo Lake Coffee House: a night of poetry, 7:30 pm. Open mike, followed by readings/performance by two hyper-political, feminist poets, Lenelle Moise and Arjuna Greist. Arrive by 7:00 pm to sign up for the open mike. Admission: \$12/\$10 seniors.

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Reverend Billy and the "Church of Stop Shopping" Gospel Choir & "Not Buying It" Band. Rev. Billy and his Church of Stop Shopping will be appearing at Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday at The Church, 120 Main Street, Brattleboro, 3 p.m. Suggested donation of \$10 at the door, though no one will be turned away. More information about Rev. Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir www.RevBilly.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND
The 1st Annual Montague Community Variety Show at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall, Montague Center. Performers are encouraged to sign up early to guarantee time on stage. Proceeds to benefit the Tum Children Education Fund. Sign up or for more information, call 367-2483 or dradway@verizon.net, MCs Brendan Taaffe & Marina Goldman

ONGOING
Exhibit: John Willis' and Tom Young's "Recycled Realities and Other Stories" at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Haunting and surreal, series of black and white images invite viewers into a vast paper landscape at Erving Paper Mill. Also images from photographic projects: "View from the Rez" and "Timeline".

HAPPY FEET FREE FRIDAY FILM
The final Montague police - Montague Elks sponsored free movie of the winter season is "Happy Feet" (1 hour 40 minutes), on Friday evening, April 6th, at the Sheffield School auditorium, at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Free.

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- 4. BLADES OF GLORY** PG13
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MATINEE 12:15 3:15
- 5. WILD HOGS** PG13
DAILY 6:45
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15
- 5. SHOOTER** R
DAILY 9:15
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 3:15
- 6. FIREHOUSE DOG** PG
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound
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- 7. GRINDHOUSE** R
DAILY 7:15 in DTS sound
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SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH
Signs of Early Spring. Discover the early signs of Spring. Some hands on activities and take-home items that can bring Spring inside your window. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Something's Fishy. Join Refuge staff to learn about the life cycle of a fish and some of our local species. Geared towards all ages and will include building a fish mobile. 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH
Sustainable Forestry Practices in the Valley. Pioneer Valley Institute presents a talk by Jay Healy, owner of Hall Tavern Farm in Charlemont and former state legislator and agricultural commissioner. This talk is also part of the Great Falls Discovery Center's Woodlot Management for Landowners

Series starting this spring and running through the fall. 7-9 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH
Educators Workshop: Turtles. Educators who attended the Turtle Symposium will discuss forming an educators working group for habitat stewardship education. Resources & develop activities discussed. 5 - 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH
Very Cool Vernal Pool. Refuge staff show what's so special about vernal pools and explore the creatures that make vernal pools their home. Geared towards young children, will include art activity. 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH
Montague Plains Field Walk with Tim Simmons, Restoration Ecologist, Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Held at the Montague Plains, Montague 6:30 p.m. For ages 10 and older. 6:30 p.m.

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THEATER REVIEW

"Into the Woods" at NMH

MUSICAL SATIRE OF FAIRY TALES DELIGHTS

BY SUDI NIMMS

GILL - All of us wish for something. But as the old adage goes, be careful what you wish for. You just might get more than you bargain for. This lesson is woven into the lively and humorous musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, *Into the Woods*. The cast and crew at Northfield Mount Hermon School did a particularly lovely job of bringing this delightful work to stage last weekend.

Playing to sold-out crowds, the Tony Award-winning *Into the Woods* begins with several familiar faces from Grimm fairy tales expressing their desires. Cinderella (the charming Rebekah Wickens) wishes she could go to the three-day festival at the palace. Jack (steadfast Martin Shedd), prior to the beanstalk, wishes his cow (and best friend) would give milk.

The baker and his wife (Broadway-bound Spencer

Hattendorf and talented Ashley Storrow) wish for a child. Rapunzel (chipper Katie Jones) longs to get out of the tower. Her mother, the Witch, (comic and convincing Emily Jacke) wants to keep her daughter safe. Little Red Riding Hood (perky Sonny Farnsworth) wishes to bring her grandma some bread and sweets, and thus raids the bakers' goodie.

The adept and poetic Narrator (multifaceted Daniel Owings) guides us on our way as they all journey "Into the Woods" to find their hearts' desires. Calamity and hilarity ensue as these characters and their antagonists wend their way through the woods to their unknown and bizarre futures. They meet each other as they wander the forest floor and their stories intertwine.

Most striking about the cast is that every single player showed immense talent and promising careers in theater, if indeed that is *their* wish.

Some favorite numbers included Nicholas Epstein as Little Red Riding Hood's nemesis, the wolf. Bearing a striking resemblance to Nathan Lane in comedic timing and stage presence, his "Hello, Little Girl" garnered many laugh-out-loud moments. As it is true there are no small parts, only small actors, Epstein brings big things to his cameo role.

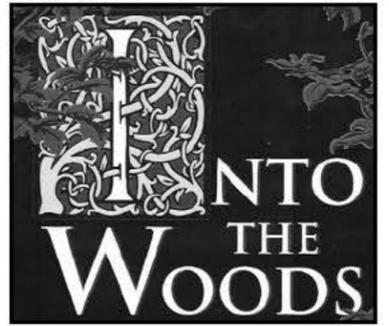
Little Red Riding Hood sang "I Know Things Now" after being released from the wolf's belly. That experience brought her from childhood to a jaded young lady in one swallow. And Farnsworth played every innuendo beautifully.

The two quite charming princes -- one for Cinderella (Bill Ward) and one for Rapunzel (Hayden Johns) -- gestured broadly in sync as they described their "Agony" at having their heart's desire so close,

but just out of reach. (The reprise in Act Two brings more hilarity as they shoot for new princesses to conquer -- if it just weren't for those pesky princess wives from the first act.) Resolution and happily ever after moments mark the end of the first act, leaving the audience to wonder at intermission what Act Two could possibly hold in store.

Well, since Jack killed the Giant from atop the beanstalk, the Giant's wife has come down to wreak havoc on the town's inhabitants, find her husband's murderer and get revenge. This revelation involves all the characters' lives and they blame each other in the clever, "Your Fault".

At the end of the evening, it is apparent that everyone has to take risks on their own path through time, and face what may be waiting for them in the woods of life.



The show's Broadway premier in 1987 won three Tony Awards and ran for 764 performances. Another Tony was awarded in 2002 for best revival of a musical.

The NMH production was directed by David Rowland and Sheila Heffernon, who have been collaborating at the school for 25 years. Assistant director was class of '07's Naomi Shafer. Splendid costume design by Sharon Weyers and scenic design by Charles Raffetto.

The talent of everyone involved brought life to the stage and will continue to in years to come. It was a college-level performance. Should you have a chance to catch a show at NMH in the future, take advantage of it. It will make your path through the woods a brighter one.

Bright Venus

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - April 2007 brings promise of lovely spring nights, made more glamorous by the planet Venus. On this Thursday, the planet will set about 10:30 p.m., after having spent the evening sliding down the western sky. It will not share brilliance, for the glorious moon will not rise in the east until Venus has set beyond the far horizon.

This most beautiful and brightest of our fellow spheres leaves indelible memories. It was undoubtedly the evening star that my mother introduced to her children from her second story porch in a Springfield suburb. Venus was the brilliant light that made a moonlike path on the ocean off Islamorada in the Florida Keys for some of my family. As it gains in brightness this spring, it will offer some fabulous viewing to folks here in the rural parts of Montague, who have a hilly western horizon beyond the river uncluttered by city lights.

It seems crude to put schedules to beauty, and indeed it is a lucky combination of time and circumstance that creates the memorable. Current newspapers and almanacs carry alerts of nights full of potential. Every night offers a bleak escape from the turmoil of the day, or some scene worth checking out.

Last week a waxing moon near the zenith lighted the Earth with brilliance. It penetrated the bare black tree limbs and buried itself in brown ground. It bounced off the barn roofs, traced silver paths through the fields, and reflected a twin in the pond like a crooked orb. It lit the sky above the undulating hills and 'shined out the little stars.' Bright Venus near the horizon paid her little heed.



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Maui Ocean Center: The Wonder Aquarium

BY FLORE

As soon as I returned to Montague after winter months away, I was greeted warmly by "We missed reading your articles!" So, here I am, faithful readers, keeping *um bon equilibre* (steady as she goes) on the still occasionally icy ground!

Wondering where I played hooky? Hiding as a mermaid?

Right on Maui, referred to as "the Garden of Eden," one of the floating beautiful islands of Hawaii! Apart from the luscious vegetation, I discovered, along with daughter Garance, one of the most fascinating spots in the world. Located in Ma'alaea Harbor Village, the Maui Ocean Center opened on March 13th, 1998.

It's an unusual aquarium designed to take its visitors on an unforgettable journey through a sea of life. Visitors explore its wonders through a 54-foot long transparent acrylic tunnel!

Imagine being inside a 750,000-gallon opening, standing on the ocean's floor?

Ever dreamed to come eye to eye with reef sharks? Here is your chance!

There is an ancient belief by Hawaiian elders that sharks are *Na'Aumakua*, in other words, "deified ancestors, God like."

An interesting note and delicate attention: When a shark is brought to or released from the aquarium to the open seas, he is blessed by one of the cultural advisors from the Maui Center...

Surrounding you, you will encounter friendly stingrays, tropical fishes displaying awesome colors. Fragile Moon Jellyfishes, a science fiction reality!

It's just like being in the sea's belly, walking amongst its rich marine life. *Incroyable!*

The Center attracts 400,000 eager visitors, islanders and foreigners annually. The staff have combined breathtaking environmental and educational material, linked to this fantastic aquatic experience, presenting hundreds of species not found anywhere else in the world in their natural habitat. What would take normally several lives for us to explore, is revealed to us naturally in a few hours.

At the entrance of the

Marine Mammal section stands a quote from well known French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, reminding us to save and nurture this extraordinary legacy: "People protect what they love!"

For sure, our aquatic world is endangered, as well as our Earth. Al Gore rang the alarm bell recently in his superb documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. Long before him, Rachel Carson in her *Silent Spring* raised similar concern.

In the marine world, unbelievable specimens are still endangered.

For instance: the Hawaiian Monk Seal and the fabulous Green Sea Turtle, who subsist on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands for food, reproduction and shelter. These sandy atolls are spread out at a distance of 750 miles. Let's hope the Maui Ocean Center will spark a better understanding and responsibility on our part for protection of these irreplaceable undersea treasures, to enable us, and our children, to continue to wonder and respect all forms of life, on our Earth and in the water kingdom alike.

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