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SACRED TULASI
Growing in Wendell / Page 12

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 20

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 22, 2007

Selectboard Handles Hot Button Petitions

BY DAVID DETMOLD MONTAGUE - The Montague selectboard held their briefest meeting in recent memory, clocking in at only 25 minutes, on Tuesday, February 20th. Still, that was enough time for the board to deal with two hot-button citizen petition drives, and approve a second year contract with the Massachusetts Cultural Council for the downtown Turners Falls arts-based economic development RiverCulture project.

As the meeting got started, Richard Kulis, a resident of Gill and a pilot who has used the Turners Falls Airport for many years, approached the board representing a committee of pilots, mechanics, and airport users with a petition with over 150 names demanding the immediate removal of airport manager Michael Sweeney, of Greenfield. Kulis said the group, called the Committee to Save the Turners Falls Airport, had collected the signatures of "100% of the hangar owners at the airport, and 95% of the

pilots who use the airport." A small group of pilots and committee members attended the meeting with Kulis.

Among the concerns Kulis said prompted the group to act are their claims that Sweeney, who has been manager of the Turners Falls Airport for three years, has instituted rules and procedures at the airport which "have limited the access by Turners Falls pilots to FAA mandated safety training, repair services and pilot instruction," which they claim have made the airport less safe for the pilots who use it. The group also claims Sweeney has raised the lease fees for aviation businesses using the airport to "10 times other small airports like Orange," and included a survey of lease fees at seven area airports to support their claim. The group also claimed Sweeney had "made every effort to discourage the local friendliness and 'hangar talk' that is the backbone of every small airport in the world,"

PETITIONS pg 11

RiverCulture to Receive \$35,000 Mass Cultural Council Grant

CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO TURNERS FALLS - The official letter hasn't arrived yet, but the Massachusetts Cultural Council did inform Lisa Davol, cultural coordinator of Turners Falls RiverCulture, that RiverCulture would be receiving a \$35,000 grant to continue their efforts at fostering arts and culture in Turners Falls. Although the project asked for \$40,000, Davol said she was not unhappy about getting almost all she asked for in her application.

"The competition was pretty stiff this year, from what I heard, so I'm quite pleased we got as much as we did," said Davol. But she also pointed out that at least 80 percent of the \$35,000 must be matched by private money and 20 percent can be from in kind contributions. At present she has commitments for about \$27,000 in cash, and feels confident that RiverCulture will be able to raise the remaining money. She also said she was hoping

to match the state grant dollar for dollar, not just 80 per cent of it.

According to Davol, RiverCulture has "lots of exciting plans for the coming year." Among the events the community can look forward to are a series of concerts at the bandshell at Peskeomskut Park, a sculpture park near the canal, a 3-D workshop, a downtown block party, and "alternative" audio or podcast walking tours of Turners Falls. And, of course, the activities such as the art walks, Shea Theatre evenings, Hallmark Museum talks, and events in partnership with the Discovery Center and the Brick House will continue.

The music series will feature double billed band concerts on third Friday evenings from May to August under the new



EMILY BREWSTER PHOTO

Lisa Davol, RiverCulture Project Coordinator

bandshell in refurbished Peskeomskut Park. RiverCulture is also commissioning an original composition from the community band that Davol envisions may become the "Turners Falls song," that schools and community groups can perform on many occasions.

The 3-D Workshops are River Culture member

Jack Nelson's idea. Nelson, an accomplished artist in a variety of media, will conduct the workshops for local sculptors and installation artists. The culmination, it is hoped, will be the creation of a sculpture park on the site of what was formerly the Dubois Garage (now cleaned up

see ARTS pg 10

THEATER REVIEW

Dancing Princesses Make Magic on Sheffield Stage

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - Magic happens on an elementary level when school kids get together on stage. You could see the excitement and anticipation in their eyes as they dispeaked from the wings, waiting for their cue to dance onstage in Rowena Ratanen's adaptation of the Brothers Grimm's *Twelve Dancing Princesses*. There were only ten princesses in the Sheffield School production, on Friday, February 16th, but they were enough to keep the whole school, and the 2nd graders

visiting from Hillcrest, on the edge of their seats, trying to solve the mystery of what discotheque or ballroom those young beauties frequented each evening to dance the night away.

The king, their father, played with



Left to right: Caitlin Poirier, Ian Lang and Alexis Young

admirable patience by an always about to bluster Kolbe Martineau, could not understand why the new shoes the royal shoemaker, the charming Gabrielle Santucci, brought each day to outfit his ten

daughters were always down at the heels by the following dawn, even though the door to their bedchambers was kept securely locked. The royal coffers were going broke, like the Philippines under Imelda Marcos, (and she didn't even wear most of her shoes)! The king felt he had to get to the bottom of the puzzle. Where were those young hussies doing the hustle each night?

All of a sudden, one of the king's guards, Ian Lang, had a thought. What if someone were to stay locked in the

see SHEFFIELD pg 16

PET OF THE WEEK

Built for Comfort



Crystal

Crystal is a one-year-old female domestic medium-hair cat in need of a good home. Crystal has one of those original cat faces that lets you see just how they're related to the lions and the tigers. She's a happy cat, very social and friendly. Crystal is FIV+ and must live as an indoor only cat. We know FIV+ cats that are 16, so with good care they can live long happy lives. If you want the perfect comfort cat, look into Crystal. For more information on adopting Crystal, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

GFMS Students of the Week

Grade 7
Edgar Laboy
Grade 8
Andrew Turban
Andrew Podlesny



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MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS

Library Club Activities



PHOTO: LINDA HICKMAN

MILLERS FALLS - Kory and Zak, both of Millers Falls, recently taught each other some songs on the guitar at the Millers Falls Library Club. Library Club activities include music, crafts, stories, and homework help with Children's Librarian Linda Hickman on Tuesdays from 3:30 - 5 p.m. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Motion Series



PHOTO: LINDA HICKMAN

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, March 3rd from 2 - 3 p.m. Children of any age and their families are welcome.

Salloom to Play the Shea

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - In advance of his March 3rd benefit concert for the Shea Theater, Northampton-based musician Roger Salloom appeared at the MCTV studio in Turners Falls on Friday, February 16th, to talk about his career and play a new song, "I'm In Trouble Again." Salloom, dubbed 'America's Best Unknown Songwriter,' is the subject of an award-winning documentary film by Chris Sautter, who will also be at the March 3rd benefit, to discuss his film, which took top prize at a number of independent film festivals. The film, called *So Glad I Made It*, will air at the Shea Theater on March 3rd as well. All that entertainment in one evening, and proceeds benefit the local performing

arts theater. You can't miss. Worcester native Salloom became regionally famous in 1975 when his song "Gotta Get Outta Worcester" hit the top of the charts in Boston. Before that, he migrated to San Francisco in the mid-60s, where he played the Avalon Ballroom and the Fillmore West with the likes of Procol Harum, Van Morrison, and Santana. He knew Janis Joplin before she got famous, and remembered the Grateful Dead when they were just another band that smoked a lot of pot. He talked about the Diggers Collective and their free stores in the Haight, where you could take food and clothing, and even money from a coin jar, for free. "They were trying to change the world," he said. Or at least make

a little more spare change available. In our area, Salloom is well-loved for his annual free concerts at the Pines Theater in Leeds, and for his club work with the Stragglers. Sautter, who went to college with Salloom, contacted him out of the blue 25 years later to see if he'd be willing to be the subject of a documentary. Two and a half years and 70 hours of filming later, *So Glad I Made It* is the result. Salloom, for all his rock veteran status, betrayed a touching vulnerability in the studio, and his confessional songwriting style wears well with age. His vocals on the chorus of I'm In Trouble Again could have put Roy Orbison to shame. Check out the interview with Salloom for your-

FACES & PLACES



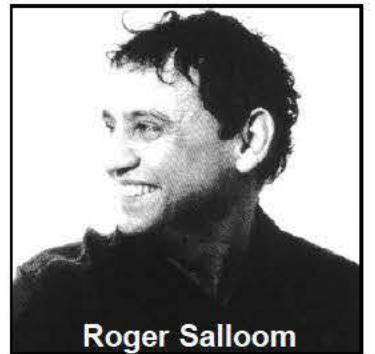
Before and After on Avenue A

The 100 degree day was August 2nd, 2006. The broken shovel was found on February 15, 2007.

PHOTOS BY JO, PEDESTRIAN PERSPECTIVES

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Feb. 26th - March 2nd

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, 26th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 27th

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 28th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 29th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 30th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (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 for meals, Thursday shopping, or med-

ical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

Monday, 26th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 27th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 28th
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 29th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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.

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Erving Seniors Express Hope for a New Center

BY KEVIN FOLEY - In an old elementary school on the Erving side of Millers Falls, a group of senior citizens gathered for a lesson in line dancing on Wednesday, February 21st. The old classroom doubles as an activity space and dining room. During the line dance lesson, stacks of chairs and tables are pushed to the side to provide space. Polly Kiely, director of the Erving Senior Center and the council on aging, feels the first floor of the old elementary school on Pleasant Street is an inadequate space for the Senior Center, and hopes the town will help provide a new building soon.



At the Erving Senior Center, (left to right) Carol Lyman and Norma Charboneau pick up a few line dance techniques from instructor Jeanette Kelley, with Judy Moore keeping in step.

At the February 12th special town meeting, Erving residents approved the use of \$30,000 from free cash to fund a feasibility study for a new senior center. The study will include architectural plans that will bring the final cost of the project into focus. Sixty percent of the project will likely be funded by state and federal grant money. The town's share of a new senior center will likely run between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

Kiely believes a new building would open up many opportunities for the seniors in Erving. "The current space is a great building, but being given the chance to redesign the senior center is a great opportunity."

The current senior center has only one bathroom, which is occupied once a week for a foot clinic. "During the 40 minute foot clinic, no one can use the bathroom. There is another bathroom upstairs, but it is not handicapped accessible," Kiely said.

The senior center's office offers no privacy, according to Kiely. She said that it is difficult to hold a confidential meeting in the office, so she sometimes goes to the parking lot for that purpose.

The entire senior center consists of a total of two rooms and a kitchen that was formerly used as a coatroom. The combined activity and dining room is the space where all group meals and

exercise activities take place, including Tuesday aerobics, the center's most popular class.

"These rooms are not adequate for all of the programs that go on here," said Carole Lyman, a regular visitor of the senior center and an Erving resident for 50 years.

Kiely hopes a new senior center will increase the range of activities the council on aging is able to offer to Erving seniors. "With more rooms, we can do simultaneous events and maybe increase the amount of people who come."

The senior center hosts lunch every day it is open, Monday through Thursday. "When we wait on the tables, there's no room to get through the room," Lyman said. Special meals are also offered at the center on holidays. The holiday meals get so crowded that Kiely is forced to turn some people away.

The proposed site for the new senior center is on an eight-acre lot, adjacent to the elementary school, on Route 63. This town-owned land is also the site for

proposed new senior housing. "If we have the center where we want to have it built, it would be so convenient for the seniors living there," Lyman said.

Kiely thinks that the new location of the center would open up opportunities for seniors and young students to do activities together.

The Greenfield senior center offers a tap-dancing class, which Lyman used as an example of the type of class that the new senior center would make possible. "I wish we could do (tap dancing) down here; the girls would love it."

"It's a great community of seniors; it's a very warm and friendly place," Kiely said. "The seniors) have supported the schools all their life and payed taxes all their life."

At a recent meeting, Andrew Tessier, chairman of the select-board, agreed with Kiely about the need for the town to back a new senior center. "The seniors have supported many things for the kids, and this is a small token back to them," Tessier said.

Gill Elections

Annual elections are traditionally scheduled for the 3rd Monday in May, this year on May 21st. Positions up for election this year are:

- Selectman, 3 years
- 2 Assessors, 3 years; 2 years
- Cemetery Commissioner 3 years
- Board of Health, 3 years
- Library Trustee, 3 years
- Treasurer, 3 years

Nomination papers are now available at the Town Clerk's office and are due back in the office with signatures by April 2nd, 2007.

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Sundays on the Ice

BY DAVID BRULE

BARTON COVE - If you ever felt you could walk on water, now's the season for it. Once the liquid-solid boundary is passed at 32 degrees, instantly ice crystals form. If that temperature is held below 32 degrees long enough, there you go! You've got water to walk on.

Granted, we all know all too well about ice around here, but how many of us venture out onto the new landscape formed by that frozen water? Luckily enough for those solitary walkers who prefer to meet as few people as possible while out on a ramble, adverse conditions and severe weather is the best time to be out, and the tundra-like conditions on the frozen cove are just fine.

Sunday has brought me to the Cove, for the above reasons. Out on the ice there are a few hardy souls. You don't need to be Polish, Russian or French Canadian to be fishing through the ice in this weather, but it helps. Something in the DNA triggers the ice-fishing urge: a mixture of patience, perseverance and a little madness keeps guys out on the windswept ice on a Sunday like this, waiting for hours for a quarter-pound perch, or bass, or maybe a wall-eye, to go for your shiner!

Standing out here before heading off on my walk into the woods, something brings to mind a winter long ago in the past, maybe 1959, when it seemed like all of Turners Falls was out here on the ice. That year the river froze over from the dam to the French King Bridge and beyond. So one Sunday, down to the river we drove, my father, my sister, and I. The DeSoto was left near the abutment across from Doc Cassidy's, where the Boat Club buildings were, and down the wooden ramp we went, out onto the river, and across to the Cove.

We hadn't gone far before

we saw a dapper gentleman gliding effortlessly by, skating backwards, waving and smiling. My father pointed out Harvey Welcome, locally famous for his flawless skating and performing dog. Easily he sailed by on the bare windswept ice, reappearing with his wife, the couple now waltzing as gracefully across the surface as anyone on the floor of a ballroom. We made our way to the Cove, I was gliding and flopping as best I could on ancient hockey skates, while my sister tripped pertly across in her new high-lace figure skates. Once across, we skated from ice fisherman to ice fisherman, my father seeming to know everyone. Although I can't be sure now, since he talked to anyone and everyone so easily, whether he knew them or not! But it didn't really matter, everybody was eager to talk about the ice, their luck, and the weather.

We explored the Bear's Den on skates this time, instead of in the rowboat we used to keep tied up below the house at the Narrows. There was a blazing fire in the middle of the Cove on a little birch-tree island, where we stopped to warm up and chat some more, while other skaters criss-crossed the Cove or played hockey.

The ice that day was three feet thick, but we knew better than to try to continue up the river through the Narrows. Just the thought of the treacherous currents there and the 140-foot deep dark water was enough to make you want to speed back to the shore and walk home! My father claimed to have skated up the river from Turners to his father's camp just below the French King Bridge one time before the war. We sort of believed him, but didn't care to try it out, just that Sunday!

Back here in '07, a visit to the ice shanties is just my starting point. My afternoon goal is

see SUNDAYS pg 5

CLOSE A SCHOOL, ANY SCHOOL



ILLUSTRATION BY KAREN WILKINSON

Shea Theatre Announces Third Annual New Works Festival

Turners Falls - The Shea Theatre will host its Third Annual New Works Festival, showcasing plays by Massachusetts playwrights, on Saturday, March 10th at 8p.m. The festival has become a major late winter event, featuring new comedies and dramas.

On the evening's bill are *A Mother In My Head*, a comedy

by Christopher L. King being produced by Playwrights' Platform of Boston, and *Sammy's Game* by Christopher Lockheart, produced by the Shadow Box Theatre of Fitchburg.

A Mother In My Head is a humorous peek inside just how much lasting influence mothers

have on their offspring. The Shadow Box Theatre, which typically does shadow puppet productions for children, is adapting its methods for *Sammy's Game*, a very adult life-and-death sport happening in the shadows of an alley.

For reservations, please call 413-863-2281.

Congratulations, Paul and Melinda Godfrey!

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

WENDELL - Congratulations to Paul and Melinda Godfrey of Montague Road in Wendell, the 625th subscribers to the *Montague Reporter*! The Godfreys have chosen a gift certificate for \$62.50 to Deja Brew as their prize.

The Godfreys, who live in a lovely old farmhouse just outside of the center of Wendell, where they keep a flock of chickens in the front yard and a boisterous golden retriever named "Winnie," love outdoor activities. They have lived in Wendell for 14 years and previously, in Leverett, for 20 years. Melinda said they moved one town to the northeast for "more elbow room."

"Wendell has plenty of open space and we like the people. There are just a lot of interesting people in town," she said. "We're always glad to go (to Deja Brew), and it just feels like home here."

The Godfreys met in graduate school at Duke University. A professor in plant ecology at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst until he retired last year, Paul was studying to be a botanist and Melinda, who serves on the Friends of the Wendell Meeting House committee and as an associate member of the Wendell Conservation Commission, a zoologist.

The Godfreys have led nature walks at Fiske Pond, exploring the flora and fauna, which they say is a very interesting area for



Melinda and Paul Godfrey with "Winnie."

wildlife studies due to its great diversity of habitats - including meadow, open lake shore, pine forest and even a spruce bog. The Godfreys' walks helped to spur community interest in the biodiversity of Fiske Pond, contributing to the town's recent decision to purchase the land, and the state's decision to help. Fiske Pond is now permanently conserved for the enjoyment of the community

When not busy in environmental affairs in town, Melinda enjoys reading. She is reading J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* for

the first time. Among Paul's hobbies are photography - two color photos of wild asters taken at Fiske Pond adorn a living room wall.

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GUEST EDITORIAL



Vermont Supreme Court to Hear Appeal of Vermont Yankee Uprate Decision

BY RAY SHADIS

SOUTH ROYALSTON, VT - On March 15th, 2004, the Vermont Public Service Board issued a Certificate of Public Good for the Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (ENVY) Extended Power Uprate, attaching several conditions, including the requirement that an "Independent Engineering Assessment" [IEA] be performed by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The board's order described the IEA as a deep-vertical slice inspection of four plant systems, and cited the recommendations of

New England Coalition expert witness, David Lochbaum.

The board acknowledged public concern for safety and the call for an Independent Safety Assessment [ISA], stating the mandated IEA would satisfy much of the public's concern as well as provide the board with insights on future plant reliability.

The NRC declined to perform an IEA as described by the board and offered instead to include ENVY in a pilot inspection trial designed to improve routine engineering inspections periodically performed as part

of the NRC reactor oversight process. In August 2004, the NRC's inspection team selected 45 components at Vermont Yankee for inspection, albeit only to review designs, drawings, and calculations, not to physically inspect the components. Nevertheless, eight of the 45 components 'inspected' were found to have engineering or design defects, and ENVY was ordered to place them in its in-house corrective action program. By contrast, a single system may have hundreds of components.

On March 3rd, 2006, the

Vermont Public Service Board issued an order stating that while the NRC pilot inspection was not what they ordered; it would serve the same purpose and thus fulfill the conditions of the board's 2004 order for an IEA.

New England Coalition believes the board *de facto* changed the conditions of its order without a hearing on the substance and reason for the change, thus denying the parties their rights to due process - legal argument, discovery, cross-examination of witnesses, the testimony of experts, and so

forth. On Thursday, February 22nd, the New England Coalition is scheduled to appear in a hearing before the Vermont Supreme Court seeking restoration of those rights.

It is the practice of the Vermont Supreme Court to reserve cases of special interest for argument at the Vermont Law School in South Royalston, where this case is scheduled to be heard.

Ray Shadis is a technical advisor to the New England Coalition, an anti-nuclear group based in Brattleboro, VT.

SUNDAYS

continued from pg 4

a walk along the peninsula that sticks out into the river. There's something about the silence and solitude of the towering pines out there, where the pale sun and winter light filters down through the branches. Cathedral-like awe and silence is broken by the occasional faint voice of the persevering kinglet or the lonesome call of a crow.

This walk takes you out along a bedrock ridge that forms the spine of the peninsula. The Cove side of the ridge has two cuts with steep circular sides, one of which we used to call the Bear's Den, and the other the Quarry. Thirteen thousand years ago, this was the site of twin waterfalls, the ridge having formed a barrier over which the



PHOTO BY KEVIN FOLEY

On the ice of Barton Cove, looking towards the Bear's Den

Connecticut had to flow, creating these circular plunge holes. Later on, at some point in time, the river broke through at the Narrows, a quarter mile further out, and the plunge pools became isolated from the river.

These pools came into public prominence when in the 1840's

Professor Edward Hitchcock of Amherst College began collecting dinosaur tracks from the site, eventually amassing over 10,000 prints that can now be found at the Pratt Museum, and in other museums around the world. Out beyond the plunge pools and the eagles' nest and

the fishing shanties is the submerged site of the native peoples' encampments. They arrived on this site at about the same time the twin falls had fallen silent, when Lake Hitchcock waters were already rushing through the gap in the Narrows. Dozens of tribes came to the Falls to fish and camp for the next 12,000 years, the truce grounds only being violated by the massacre perpetrated by Captain Turner's forces in 1676.

Regardless, the sweep of history here might as well be the sigh of the wind through the pines. Yet, you can't help thinking that if there are sacred places in our Hidden Landscape, then something must be going on out here. There's a certain light, a sound in the trees, the lay of this prehistoric land, the lonely boom-

ing of the frozen river that gives the solitary hiker the sharp sense of being in the presence of a benign ancient force.

Be that as it may, the path and the cold keep you moving through the pine grove, out to the point. From there, you can see the rooftops on Carlisle Avenue, the street just across the river. The path leads up around the point, overlooking the eagles on their island, while headlights move along Route 2, and the last fisherman trudges back across the ice, going home. Once back down to my starting point, I take one last trek out to the center of the ice field to watch the sun go down in an orange haze behind the silhouetted steeples of St. Mary's, St. Anne's, and Our Lady of Czestochowa



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THIS WILD PLACE

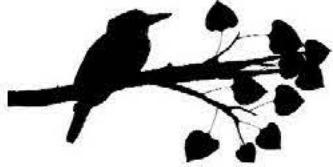


ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

Pre-Spring Cleaning

BY KARL MEYER

COLRAIN - The raccoon met its fate one evening in the warm days of January. I'd pass it at roadside every day or two. The carcass sat undisturbed until recently, first swelled; then deflated. The flesh and fur soon froze as days grew colder. The raccoon died close to its preferred habitat - a small stream. There were barns, and trees, and trashcans in the vicinity too. These are also the haunts of raccoons, creatures out

looking for mates at this time of year.

Highly adaptable and weighing up to 20 pounds or more, raccoons have hand-like paws that make unmistakable prints in the snow. When snatching crayfish or frogs in fresh water, raccoons rinse their prey with those finger-like claws before dining. And though the raccoon's common name derives from an Algonquin word, the "lotor" from its Latin name, *Procyon lotor*, means "a

washer."

Ultimately everything in nature is cleansed and recycled. On a recent morning I passed that dusty raccoon. A crow was determinedly trying to pull flesh from the fur-covered bones. The bird paid little attention to a passing car. Last fall I'd noticed another wild-recycler visiting the roadside here - a lone turkey vulture would huddle, brazenly close to the road, chewing a carcass of unknown origin.

As recyclers, few large raptors are more adept than turkey vultures. These graceful, gray-brown gliders with wingspans reaching six feet, arrive in our area about the time the maple sap begins flowing. This is not coincidence. Though turkey vultures have fine eyesight and are adept at spotting carrion from the sky, one of their keenest senses is smell. They literally find dead and dying meals by following their noses. And like the sugar maple, they depend on a daytime thaw to help those scented juices get flowing. That's one reason why, from late-November to mid-February, you won't see the half-tilted, gliding wings of turkey vultures patrolling the heavens of Franklin County: frozen food has no scent. If they can't smell it, they're less likely to find it.

Our vultures will reappear in Franklin County any day now. Once temperatures reach into the forties you'll see them stacked up - sometimes by the dozens, in rocking flight along Connecticut River ridges toward dusk. They are magnificent soarers. All wing, with short tails, their silhouettes tip back and forth on the gentlest updraft. At this early season you may see sixty or more of these tilting scavengers as they skirt late-day hillsides above Greenfield before heading to night roosts.

Watching carefully, you might note that they travel in



Turkey Vulture Gliding on an Updraft

loose sets of three and four birds - courtship and family groups - bonding in preparation for the mating and nesting of spring. Their courtship flight, in April and May, is a true celebration in grace from a bird that most people look on as ghoulish, lazy, and unclean. Though nearly eagle-sized in silhouette, turkey vultures weigh a mere four pounds. They are all feather and soar. Watch a lone vulture and you'll rarely see it flap those ponderous wings - it carefully harbors precious energy until it has discovered a kill. But courtship flight is another matter altogether.

With luck, you may find yourself up along a hillside where warming breezes and rising pulses set vulture courtship in motion. Males follow females in soaring and diving pursuit. The raptors twist and plunge, dive and veer, hurtling toward the earth from hundreds of feet up. They shoot out ponderous wings like deployed parachutes, breaking free-falls with an audible pop. Then, the birds turn and rise on labored strokes to heights that permit them to begin the dance anew. The pageant is brilliant in its grace; astonishingly precise in execution. At times just inches separate the birds from each other, from the arching branches they skirt, and from collisions as they tumble toward earth.

This grace will lead to a pair

of eggs deposited on a mere scrape of a nest on a cliffside, log, or the bare ground come May. The young will be fed regurgitated carrion brought by the parents. It's all about recycling for these scavengers, who reportedly swept north across the Great Plains by the hundreds of thousands, cleaning up the ghoulish slaughter of millions of American bison perpetrated by European settlers of the West.

The Latin name scientists use for the turkey vulture is *Cathartes aura*. *Cathartes* translates to "purifier." Their contributions go largely unheralded.

Cooling thought: Ever notice the tiny lights on your appliances and chargers lit after you turn off the lights? Each blink represents a tax on you and the planet. It is wasted electricity - known as vampire power. It's estimated this waste, built in by manufacturers and billed by your power company, equals 5 - 10 % of a household's energy use. Put out the vampire blinks: pull plugs, flick off switches, attach power strips to cut phantom current - and unplug rechargeable appliances you won't use the next day. A new gadget called the Kill-A-Watt is available. Plug any appliance into it and it will tell you how much power is pure waste.



MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: February 23rd - March 1st

Barton Cove Eagles: 7A-8A Daily 2P-3P Daily 4P-5P Daily 12P-1P (Sunday) 1130A-1P (Tuesday) 10A-1P (Wednesday) 11A-1P (Thursday)	1030 pm Prevailing Winds	Denise Dipaulo 6:30 pm GED Connection #29 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (Live) 10:30pm The Well Being "Trauma and Recovery" 11:30 pm Windchanger 7/25 #2
Friday, February 23 8:00 am On The Ridge: Springfield Sportsmen's Show 8:30 am Montague Selectboard 2/20/07 9:00 am How to Do The Montague Reporter Sudoku Puzzle 9:30 am Montague Update: Ted Graveline 10:00 am View and Vision 6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #8 6:30 pm How To Do The Montague Reporter Sudoku Puzzle 7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 2/13/07 10:00 pm Rev. Carlos Anderson	Sunday, February 25 8:00 am Roger Salloom Interview 8:30 am Sheffield Elementary School presents "The Dancing Princess" 9:30 am The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery" 10:30 am An Interview with Steve Alves 11:30 pm Prevailing Winds 6:00 pm Wind Changer 7/25 #2 6:30 pm Coffee House Series: Falltown String Band 8:30 pm On The Ridge: Springfield Sportsmen's Show 9:00 pm Valley Idol 11:00 pm Mass Wilderness: Winter	Wednesday, February 28 8:00 am GED Connection #29 8:30 am The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery" 9:30 am Windchanger 7/25 #2 6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #8 7:00 pm GED Connection #30 7:30 pm Sheffield Elementary School presents: "The Dancing Princess" 9:30 pm Roger Salloom Interview 10:00 pm Prevailing Winds
Saturday, February 24 8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #8 8:30 am How To Do The Montague Reporter Sudoku Puzzle 9:00 am GMRSD meeting 2/13/07 12:00 pm Rev. Carlos Anderson 7:00 pm Roger Salloom Interview 7:30 pm Sheffield Elementary School presents "The Dancing Princess" 8:30 pm The Well Being: "Trauma and Recovery" 9:30 pm An Interview with Steve Alves	Monday, February 26 8:00 am Wind Changer 7/25 #2 8:30 am Coffee House Series: Falltown String Band 10:30 am On The Ridge: Springfield Sportsmen's Show 11:00 am Valley Idol 1:00 pm Mass Wilderness: Winter 6:00 pm What's Happening With The Eagles 7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live) 9:00 pm Discovery Center: "Tracking The Wily Coyote" 11:00 pm Montague Update: Denise Dipaulo	Thursday, March 1 8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #8 8:30 am GED Connection #30 9:00 am Sheffield Elementary School presents: "The Dancing Princess" 10:00 am Roger Salloom Interview 10:30 am Prevailing Winds 6:00 pm How to Do The Montague Reporter Sudoku Puzzle 7:00 pm Montague Select Board 2/20/07 7:30 pm Montague Music Train 1/15/07 9:00 pm Peoples Harvest: Pavilion Music
Tuesday, February 27 8:00 am What's Happening with The Eagles 9:00 am Discovery Center: "Tracking The Wily Coyote" 11:00 am Montague Update:		

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Music Provides Welcome Relief at Alternative Learning Program

BY ALI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - Students in the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) at Turners Falls High School are tapping into music.

Two Yamaha acoustic six-string guitars and an electronic Yamaha keyboard were purchased for students' use through a grant from the Gill-Montague Education fund earlier this year.

The instruments are used as incentives for completed work, for tutorial learning and to supplement student projects. Christopher Klosson, a teacher in the ALP, noted the value of these instruments for his students. "The incentive to have time with the instruments is particularly meaningful, because they provide some other outlet for students to explore: both musical skills and coping mechanisms," he said.

Teachers notice that students are far more motivated if such incentives are available, because they appreciate the opportunity and recognize it as an earned privilege.

Klosson commented on how students connect around music

and how it plays a large role in their culture. He said many students say they would like to learn to play an instrument, but have stayed away from traditional band and chorus classes.

The Alternative Learning Program seeks to create a supportive community where students who struggled in regular school programs can develop academic mastery, independence and a sense of belonging. Most students in the program have used the keyboard since its purchase, and many have played the guitars. The instruments are in use daily, often muted and with headphones to keep from disrupting other students.

According to Klosson, 11 out of 12 ALP students use the



A.J. Cook, a sophomore at Turners Falls High School, plays a keyboard recently purchased for the Alternative Learning Program.

instruments on a regular basis. One student even comes into school early to play one or both instruments. "It really helps him to get ready for the day, to get grounded and settled," the teacher said.

Some students have picked up the instruments for the first time through the program, while others bring their previous knowledge to the classroom. Some share their skills by

teaching other students how to play.

A.J. Cook, a sophomore, has benefited from the purchase of these instruments and enjoys playing them two to three times a day. He said he had a guitar and keyboard at home, and enjoys making up his own songs. Having the opportunity to play music at school has helped him academically.

"It can give you new ideas about how to do something," he said. He smiled as he said he tries not to think about playing music while he does his schoolwork, so he won't get sidetracked. "But when I finish," he said, "it's the only thing on my mind." He said knowing there is a treat at the end encourages him to work more efficiently.

Klosson and his students have also worked to incorporate the use of the instruments into class assignments. "We have worked on elaborating the visual organizer called Freyburg's Pyramid, which is about short story development. We played keyboard, guitar and drums to depict the different parts and the progression of those parts to a resolution," he said.

"Projects that combine reading and writing with art or music can help many students concentrate on the meaning of what they read," he said. Drawing on individual interests and talents, group projects enable students to demonstrate their collective interpretation of a text, and engage their classmates in discussion and analysis. "Our English and U.S. History classes allow opportunities to use instruments to learn particular tunes or create original music to accompany original lyrics, poetry or presentations," he said.

Before these instruments were purchased, students demonstrated an interest in playing guitar when one was available. However, the use of personal instruments was limited. With the instruments purchased specifically for the program, students have been able to expand their use.

"Many students struggle daily with academic, emotional and social factors," Klosson said. "An opportunity to play a little music as a coping strategy for handling their stresses is a very valuable role these instruments provide for our students."

Turners Falls High School Second Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 9 - First Honors

Julie Auger
Nataliya Buhakova
Danielle Dolhenty
Matthew Garber
Ashley Gibson
Jeremy Nicoll
Olivia Nicotra
Carlyn Perry
Sergiu Placinta
Cayla Pollard
Tam Roberts
Christopher Shattuck
Melani Sicard

Sarah Underwood
Alex Westfall
Matthew Wozniak

Grade 9 - Third Honors

Eric Bastarache
Kayla Breor
Hannah Brown
Emma Butynski
Lucas Foley
Mackae Freeland
Oengus Gallagher
Abeni Hession-Davies
Samantha Horan
Yaritza Torres
Heather Willor

Grade 9 - Second Honors

Juliana Aprileo
Jill Bernard
Daniel Cruz
Megan Grimard
Jacob Lapean
Jacob Lewis
Kathleen Rinaldi
Dustin Rivard

Grade 10 - First Honors

David Bennett
Lacy Cardaropoli
Samuel Colton
Theodore Dunbar
Joshua Gammon
Anne-Marie Grant
Atma Khalsa

Kimberly Nelson
Sara Pease
Nicholas Skarzynski

Grade 10 - Second Honors

Amy Baxter
Nicholas Clark
Ashley Costa
Christian Drew
Eric Dumas
Nadezhda Filobokova
Tyler Hagmaier
Jodi Hallett
Christopher Humphrey
Charlotte Parody
Jeremiah Wawrzyniak

Grade 10 - Third Honors

Joseph Auger
Emma Banning
Brandon Breault
Adam Felton
Tranae Gallagher

Allison Giknis
Amber Henry
Kelsey Kane
Erin Kelley
Shamari Kelly
Susanna Khasonova
Joseph Rinaldi III
Olga Samokhina
Whitney Sanders
Lindsey Wilson
Samantha Wondoloski

Grade 11 - First Honors

Alix Ackerman
Samuel Johnson
Stephanie Joly
Colby Lavin
Corey Leveille
Zachary Little
Dawn Miner
Molly Perry
Danielle Sullivan
Alexander Tufano
Alice Urban
Gina Varuzzo

Erica Zajac

Grade 11 - Second Honors

Lara Ames
Katie Christenson
Abbey Daniel-Green
Krystal Ducharme
Brittany Mazor
Kayla Pecor
Michael Radzuik
Mercedes St.Marie
Alexander Stevens
Katlyn Vear

Grade 11 - Third Honors

Kara Bassett
Christopher Broga
Nieka Burt
Nicole Duncanson
Katherine Eddy
Walter Fitzpatrick
Amanda Golembeski
Jennifer Jason
Samantha Lacosse

Shayna Langknecht
Carissa Lee
Stephanie Ollari
Tenzin Soepa
Kevin Thomas

Grade 12 - First Honors

Laura Babij
Krista Bascom
Nichelle Cocco
Nicole Couture
Michelle Dame
Richard Gallagher
Benjamin Garber
Elizabeth Giknis
Jenna Lapachinski
Daniel Leveille
Holly Phillips
Julianne Rosewarne
Christopher Seymour
William Shattuck IV
Aimee Shattuck
Haley Trenholm
Laurn Zellmann

Grade 12 - Second Honors

Katelin Bailey
Shanna Clark
Julianna Felton
Jason Grimard
Jesse Lucas
Valeriya Shumilova
Ashleigh St. Peter
Lauren Tela

Grade 12 - Third Honors

Miichael Bartos
TimothyDowd
Anne Fish
Alysia Galbraith
Chris Krzykowski
Cheri Poirier
Scott Rau
Kaleigh Shaw
Devin Togneri
Gladitza Velez
Sean Voudren

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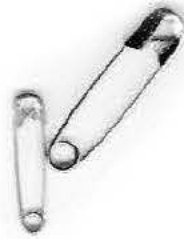
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--Trish Crapo
Leyden



Embracing Reverence

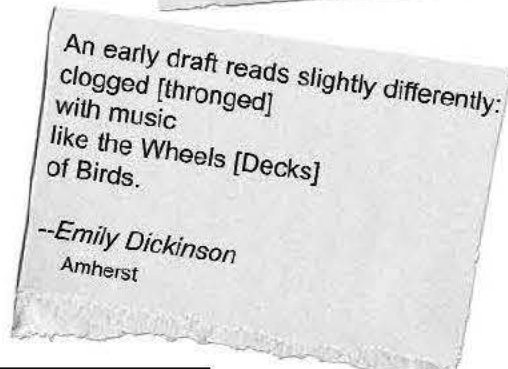
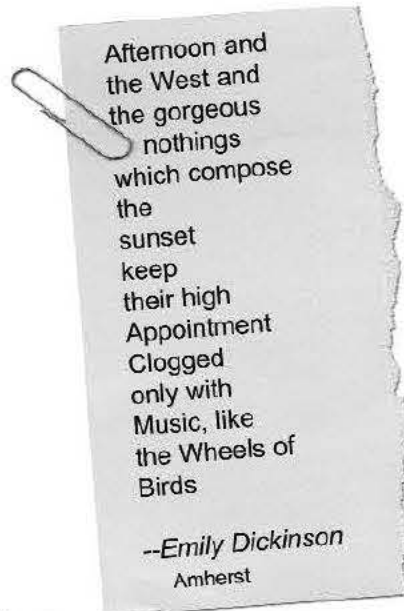
There is comfort in the temple again.
Sublimation puts me face down
arms forward, palms up on the floor.
Now the incense is unlit and even in the concrete
the deep voice of the ancient temple drum
echoes behind the bones in my breast.
The Buddha from the jungle
is bright orange in my third eye
and you have just lifted your arm,
from around my shoulders.

--Al Miller
Montague Center

Mercy

My throat is a clenched fire,
an arson's match. All day long I have
watched a huge porcupine
like a pile of coal or a burnt stump
move about the yard in the cold rain
eating apples, satisfying the
soft, needy underside she protects,
and I think I know what it is
to cause anguish to those who touch you,
to forage alone, and to crave
sweet mouthfuls of mercy.

--Mark Hart
Shutesbury



These Are Tourists

If luck is with you you cross the border quickly
like in that movie where lasers
shoot out of the Oracle's eyes if your soul
isn't pure enough and you
haven't been practicing your sprint.
The purest souls have seen their horses die
and have a sense for the temporal.
The purest souls pick nervously at their skin
which, too, will fall back into the world.
Some people, you will only see in rooms,
as they exist only for you to see in those rooms.
They are like cardboard cutouts of movie stars
advertising a film, except with more dimensions
and sweat glands and advertising
their social skills and communicable diseases.
Hold out your hand to the man offering you money.
If his palm embraces you as an equal,
so be it. If he touches your fingers gingerly,
he doesn't respect your palm the way it deserves.
Here, you cannot be by yourself alone.
Alone only factors in in a room full of others
wearing half-sleeved shirts.
You cannot do any number of things
that you can do in dreams,
including inhabiting another body that slowly takes in flames
the way porous fruit takes in vodka,
including breaking your teeth on an unripe avocado
and having them regenerate into functioning fangs in a matter of seconds.
If you worry, do not worry.
If you go long enough,
you will remember to miss your home
and pull the cord to get off just in time.

--Jeannie Hoag
Amherst

DON'T CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF MY CORNFLAKES

Don't call in the middle of my cornflakes. If I answer the phone in the middle of eating my cornflakes, it means I am not top priority to myself. If I don't answer, it means I am a bull-dog for my own priorities, like the dutiful secretary who won't let anyone in to see the boss. (Soggy cornflakes are no good; and cereal and milk are expensive.)

Don't call in the middle of my cornflakes. The moment the milk hits one flake, is the moment when time stands still, so I can examine it. That's the moment when the "do not disturb" sign gets hung on the door of my soul. Indeed, I should hang it more often. But this moment, brought to me each morning, is a reminder of the sanctity of all the others.

Don't call in the middle of my cornflakes. Some say a person's money management is the best indicator of his or her priorities in life. I say a bowl of cereal is the best indicator. After all, the amount of money that will pass through my hands in a lifetime is variable, but the number of occasions I get to spend with my bowl of cereal is predetermined at birth.

Don't call in the middle of my cornflakes. I am paying attention to my cereal and milk.

--Sharon Mellor Horton
Turners Falls

A-10s over Bear Mountain

I live on a mountain that
Looks at Bear Mountain
I can't see old Bear—the trees have grown
Back so tall but not
So tall, refusing anymore to give us glory, theirs, a second
Time around or third or fourth or fifth...

These non-Euclidian angle slopes, stunted prone, worn to the gritty gumline
These low ogives not really mountains, not like when Bear reared and roared
and Crunched the sky like god's teeth
In the old days when the god of humans had teeth, life unplumbable
Unplunderable at any price

These non-Euclidian crease-warps no mountains anymore seen
At rise five hundred
Feet or hands or seconds or minutes or years straight up
How those gone jagged daggers would flash bat stab
Snap like old Bear
At these pesky flies.

--Bob Ellis
Wendell



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

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno,
Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

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What's This Do

I put a red chair into a bottle
and my whole personality bloomed.
If light weighs a lot, I weigh a lot,
I weigh a batholith, an intrusion.
I displace only an empty shell.
Only two wooden boards.
I could cantilever out my arms.
Two people is great, is a fringe benefit,
is a moonlight stand, an organ
orange because of sunlight.
Silver sphere above my brain,
I miss snow forts.
I miss the galaxy's perspective,
busy reading the fault line.
I miss everything whirring
on the highway, Massachusetts.
At two you pummeled me skinny.
My weight weighed five pounds,
it was a light shift. It was the heart
of the house: a sibling placed back
inside the belly. Jut out from the coastline,
cool down in the summer, go back
to the pepper garden. Long underwear
for the baby, for the old brain, the self
I don't forget, an igneous moment in my head.

--Seth Landman
Northampton

Juggler's Meadow

The gate swung
the wind around
grass shooting at
its posts. My veins
are like plans.
My hands frame
the fence
as in scripture
sung through the door.
Just enough
to remember
my friends by,
I hear them clapping
as I nail the pickets
to the rails.
Wonderful, they say
as I attach the steel
hinges and swing
the gate. A cardinal
rides a guy wire
sunward, punctures
the empty sky.
In reverse, my life
fills with meaning.
Lately the air has
been fetid. The hatch
atop the sky
has blown closed.
The cardinal
rides back.
For a while,
my palms push at
one another but I feel
weak and short
of breath and
forget the way home.

--Alex Phillips
Lake Pleasant

Man mows the field

tucking grass in for approaching winter.
His dirt knows him, his rusted machinery,
his slurred step. It sleeps with him
when not in the field, amongst kith and kin.
Sometimes they share thoughts
over breakfast, how the weather
moistens them on the way to their work,
one to beat back weeds, the other
to feed them. It's all the same--
it just needs to be done.
As they march off to day's day
green hair from the field's angel
inches up. Dead for centuries,
even his winged bones are restless,
his fingernails hold back
the trees' urge to crawl
off to a nice woods for a nap.
Work lives everywhere,
never having to commute,
or even to say "hello,
now get to work,
all of you."

--Ed Rayher
Northfield

Homeless

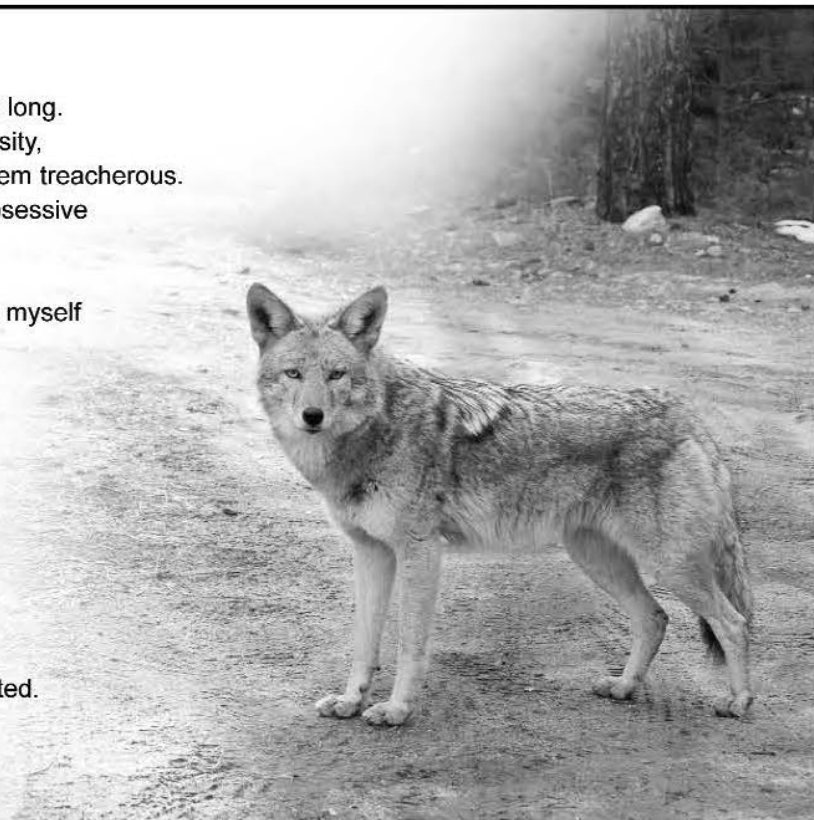
I've been gone alone in the woods too long without shoes or anyone. The
carpet is torture, the empty house full of noise. I can't comprehend my
telephone. All my lovely dirt has fallen off. Today I said lamp and was lost,
so I ran right over and hid in your greenhouse under the succulents. Their
tendrils hung down through the table slats and saved me. I was slowing
down my heart. A bird crashed in and landed on my knee. A finch. Eye to
eye we had a moment, something in us dying each time a car raced by.
We thought of the squirrels we saw outside hoisting entire grilled cheese
sandwiches up a tree. They could never quite do it and never stop trying.
We're ashamed. The bird and me. How we trust our certitude. Our thickly
peopled inertia. Our little machines and homogeneity. How we disappear
each day into the world. How we arrive again with our groceries and smile
in fear of all the missing suddenly back from some war and lounging on
the couch, who never should have come home.

--Andrew Michael Roberts
Northampton

Of Being Internally

a wild dog
makes the day at work long.
makes forests a necessity,
makes the highway seem treacherous.
makes the thoughts obsessive
waiting for a walk
waiting for the moon
rushing home to get to myself
kneeling down
head on ribs
so that breath of body
flows
eyes closed
to get to eternal
before time takes this
and the healing
floats to the rocks
of my earrings
for when i am separated.

--Heather Willey
Wendell



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CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Al Miller lives on a farm in Montague Center with his wife Suzanne, their dogs, Shetland sheep, highland cows, chickens and turkeys, in a great neighborhood.

Mark Hart lives with his family in Shutesbury. He has a private practice of psychotherapy in Amherst, is the guiding teacher for the Bodhisara Dharma Community, and is an adjunct religious advisor at Amherst College. "Mercy" was first published in *Runes: A Review of Poetry* Dec. 2006 and was a runner up in their annual poetry contest.

Heather Willey resides in Wendell where she develops her art, music, and language. The words are often transferred in the artistic process of composing two-dimensional work as well as in artistic film. This poem is from her work in progress, *Some People Say*.

Ed Rayher, poet, printer and publisher, runs Swamp Press in Northfield, producing fine letter press handmade books of poetry in limited editions. He has a MFA in poetry from UMass Amherst as well as a doctorate in philosophy.

Trish Crapo lives in Leyden, MA. Her poems have appeared most recently in *Southern Poetry Review* and *Bark* magazine. Her chapbook, *Walk Through Paradise Backwards*, was published in 2004 by Slate Roof. She writes a regular fiction review column for *The Women's Review of Books* and offers manuscript consultation from her office in Greenfield. She is writing a novel.

Seth Landman lives in Northampton, MA. He spends his time watching basketball and writing poetry. He never wanted to live in western Massachusetts, but he has

grown to love it.

Andrew Michael Roberts is the author of *Give Up* (Tarpaulin Sky Press). He teaches writing as a Juniper Fellow at UMass Amherst, where he coordinates the UMass Visiting Writers Series and the Juniper Summer Institute for Young Writers.

Jeannie Hoag lives in Amherst, where she attends the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers.

Alex Phillips lives in Lake Pleasant and is the author of the chapbook *Under a Paper Trellis*. He directs the Juniper

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of *The Poetry Page*: **Klondike Sound, Carlin Barton, Harry Brandt, Ron Bosch and Mary Drew, Michael Farrick, Michael Muller.**
If you would like to underwrite next month's *Poetry Page*, contact the Montague Reporter.

Institute for Young Writers, a summer UMass creative writing program, and is Assistant Director, of The Dean's Book Course at UMass.

Emily Dickinson lived from 1830-1886 in Amherst, MA. She wrote nearly 2000 poems, which were published and cherished decades after her death.

Sharon Mellor Horton of Turners Falls is a mother, a naturalist, and a student of Dialectical Behavior Therapy - the inspiration for the poem printed here.

Bob Ellis, who lives in Wendell, meditates, splits wood, hunts, writes, draws and paints nature, sometimes all on the same day.

ARTS
continued from pg 1

at the corner of Third Street and Canal. "I'm really looking forward to developing a sculpture park and to working with other artists to make a positive contribution to the town," said Nelson.

The date for the downtown block party has yet to be fixed, but the plan is to cordon off one of the downtown streets and throw a free and gigantic public party (complete with bands, food and refreshments) to celebrate the arts and culture in Turners Falls. At this point, Davol is hoping it might be part of this spring's Crabapple Festival, which she hopes will expand. "The idea," said Davol, "is to make Turners Falls a destination that people will return to year after year. What I'm hoping is that people will say, 'Oh, yeah - the Crabapple

Festival, we've got to go to that again!"

Another project for this coming year builds on the Historic Downtown Walking Tour, which originated with an informational pamphlet prepared with the help of local residents and historians some years ago, and has been conducted as an actual tour of the Avenue for many years on an annual basis by library director Sue SanSoucie. Now, in addition to a newly printed brochure, the walking tour will expand to include a podcast excursion of alternative sites in Turners Falls.

Davol is hoping folks will come forward to narrate their own tours of their favorite places in Turners. "It might be a back-alley tour, or a guide to a secret spot along the river, or something maybe even more offbeat and quirky," said Davol.

Davol is also excited about a planned Creative Economy

Conference to be held on April 10th at the Shea Theater in Turners. The conference, sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, will bring a variety of economists, town planners, and artists together from all over the state to discuss the economic impact of the creative economy and to see how other towns can successfully integrate it into their economic strategies. "When you have a community that is fostering the arts, you also have a community that is fostering business," noted Davol. "Arts and culture do put a positive spin on the town, making it an attractive environment for business, although this approach may not be a successful approach for every town. Economists will discuss many aspects of the approach, and assess its practicality." More than 100 participants are

expected to attend.

In addition to the conference, RiverCulture intends to hire an economic consultant to measure the impact of local arts events on businesses and residents. Davol also said RiverCulture wants to work to help foster the acquisition of town-owned buildings by private investors who will turn these properties into artists' live/work spaces.

It's not just Davol who is excited about the ongoing and planned events. Artist Jack Nelson, a member of the RiverCulture steering committee said, "I'm really happy we got another year of support. I'm sure we'll have another very successful year." Eileen Dowd, also a member of the steering committee, said she was "overjoyed" at the news of the award. "It speaks to everyone's hard work, community spirit, and especially to Lisa's hard work."



1st Annual Montague Community Variety Show

Call for Performers: The 1st Annual Montague Community Variety Show will take place on Sunday, April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall, Montague Center. In celebration of the creative strength and energy of the entire town, performers of all ages are invited to share their music, magic tricks, dance acts, spoken word, family skits, baton twirling, comedy, etc. Performers are encouraged to sign up early to guarantee time on stage.

Proceeds this year will benefit the Turn Children Education Fund. To sign up or for more information, call 367-2483 or e-mail dradway@verizon.net.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Car Egged on Pleasant Street

Wednesday 2-14
8:00 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Route 2. Found vehicle off roadway. No damage.

Thursday 2-15
9:50 a.m. Report of near collision, car vs pedestrian on Semb Drive. Operator called and reported incident. Unable to locate pedestrian.

Friday 2-16
8:20 a.m. Received call from Erving Paper Mill stating an employee had made threatening comments towards his boss. Went to Orange District

Court for no trespass order. Went back to Erving Paper and served no trespass order in hand and escorted employee off the property.

Monday 2-19
7:38 a.m. Report of domestic assault and battery at a High Street address. Todd Muthig of Mechanicsburg, PA was arrested for domestic assault and battery.

10:30 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Pleasant Street address. A car had been egged overnight. Report taken. Officer assisted with photos.

www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

Arts, Culture, Recreation in Turners Falls

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Trouble at the Pub

Thursday 2-15
8:10 p.m. Report of several males in a fight at the Millers Falls Pub. Subjects were gone on arrival.

Friday 2-16
7:58 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 7th Street at T Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and a motor vehicle lights violation.

Saturday 2-17
12:43 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident with property damage on Millers Falls Road across from Scotty's. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, a number plate violation to conceal ID, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, failure to operate within marked lanes, speeding, and no inspection sticker.

12:54 a.m. Report of a larceny at the Millers Pub. A purse had been stolen. Report taken.

Sunday 2-18
11:30 p.m. Walk-in to station reported seeing something burning in the doorway of 87

4th Street. After investigating, a 14-year-old juvenile male was charged with disorderly conduct and vandalizing property.

5:46 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a 7th Street address. Male and female involved in an argument. Found to be verbal only. Peace restored.

Monday 2-19
11:40 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday 2-20
12:35 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Warner Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

2:36 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny in the alley near 5th Street. Reporting party states that he sold a car and the buyer wasn't paying for it. Report taken.

4:38 p.m. Report of a larceny at an East Main Street, Millers Falls address. Reporting party states he believes someone is going through his mail. Report taken.

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Remembering the Father of our Country

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - For many years, February 22nd was the great February holiday. It marked the birthday of the father of our country, George Washington. The first celebration that was noted was at Valley Forge in the winter of 1778, when an army band serenaded their chief.

He became the wise father, bigger than life in body and spirit, and so portrayed. In our rather desperate era, sorely lacking in charismatic leaders endowed with wisdom. We may wonder how as chairman of the Constitutional Convention he managed the four-month session in the steaming Philadelphia summer of 1787, which produced our Constitution.

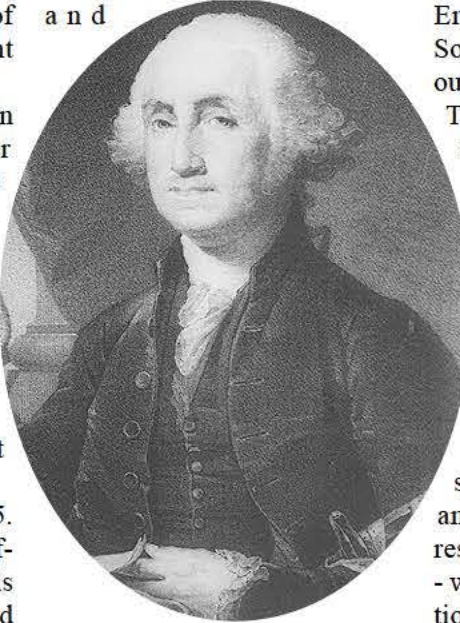
The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, added immediately as it was ratified, was not formed by or for quiet times. Setting up a new form of gov-

ernment by states with varied interests and convictions with little financial help seems almost impossible. But without the commitment of the states to an effective central organization, the squabbles between them and the encroachment of European powers might destroy them.

Catherine Drinker Bowen in *Miracle at Philadelphia*, her meticulously documented and eminently readable story, includes instances of Washington's very presence in the Convention hall keeping the main object in focus. The delegates trusted him. Hadn't he served as commander of the army without pay?

George Washington was 55. He had experience and self-control, and, according to his contemporaries, his plans and judgments were well thought out. In his younger days he had surveyed western lands for

Lord Fairfax. He had been an officer in the English army, and, as every schoolchild should know, he had been with redcoat General Braddock's army at their defeat by the French and



Indians at Fort Duquesne. Years later, when he assumed leadership of the

army of rebels, he did so under the Washington Elm in Cambridge, MA, and for years the Virginian of modest dignity and wealth held together an army that never exceeded 20,000 men, made up of New Englanders, New Yorkers, Southerners and others, without sufficient food or supplies. The victories they enjoyed and the defeats they suffered are familiar to all, among them Trenton, Valley Forge, Saratoga, and Yorktown. And finally, the setting up of a new nation, where church and state were to be separate, where the people - well, at first only some of the people - should vote for their leaders, and human rights - albeit reserved for a minority at first - were nonetheless a consideration.

As the first president of the United States, Washington launched a republic. After two

terms he retired to his home at Mt. Vernon, but before leaving office he gave his best advice in a farewell address, that might be tailored to any time. Build strength and unity in our nation. Stay neutral in the affairs of others. Govern with honesty, even-handedness and benevolence. The address was never delivered as a speech, but was published in the *Philadelphia Daily American Advertiser* of September 19th, 1796.

Washington died on December 14th, 1799, a true man of the 18th century. The very magnitude of his material work and influence in our nation's founding has obscured the understanding and intelligence that made him a great leader. Two hundred years later his wisdom is there for the reading. We can join the band at Valley Forge and serenade the father of our country on his birthday.

PETITIONS from pg 1

through what their letter to the selectboard characterized as "rude, arrogant, or combative," behavior to airport tenants and their guests.

Sweeney was present at the meeting with members of the airport commission, who have been publicly supportive of his efforts to modernize the airport, extend the runway, and update hangar lease fees to improve airport revenues. In response to the petitioners, Sweeney told the selectboard, "I have no ability to speak to this issue as yet."

The selectboard told Kulis they would take the matter under advisement, to determine whether a discussion about the petition for Sweeney's removal should be conducted under executive session (with the public and press excluded) at a future meeting.

Under Massachusetts general law, town boards may go into

executive session to discuss the reputation or character, rather than the professional competence of a single individual, or to consider the discipline or dismissal or hear complaints about a public official or employee. The individual involved may require that the meeting be open.

Pilots from the Turners Falls Airport brought similar concerns to the selectboard almost one year ago. At the time, the selectboard asked them to put their complaints in writing, which Kulis said the pilots did, to no effect. He said his group had written to the airport commissioners about their concerns, and had brought their complaints to the FAA as well.

Turning to the other hot button petition in town, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio asked the board if they would like to reconsider their vote to place a non-binding question about closing the Montague Center School on the

townwide ballot for the May 21st election. Since the G-M school committee voted on February 13th to rescind their vote to partially close the Hillcrest School, Abbondanzio wondered whether the board would like to rescind their vote to put the non-binding question on the ballot.

The board had voted to place the opinion question about closing Montague Center School on the ballot on Monday, February 5th, in response to a petition brought forward by former selectboard member and former highway department clerk Ed Voudren. That petition sought a binding ballot question to close Montague Center School by September 1st, 2007. The petition was signed by more than 1100 local residents, 900 of whom were registered Montague voters.

"My preference would be to leave it right there," said Pat Allen, of the non-binding question on the town ballot.

Board member Allen Ross concurred. "I see the long term plans for configuring the schools as a multi-year issue. Getting a sense of how the people of town feel about various school configurations would be useful."

Board chair Patricia Pruitt said, "The school committee voted to revisit the question," of which school to close. "The referendum question is asking for a particular school to close. The school committee is still not doing what these folks are asking them to do."

Pruitt also spoke of receiving phone calls from residents of town, who may have agreed with the intent of the petition, but were "very unhappy that the leadership of the referendum process - the person representing them - is not someone they wish to be representing the town of Montague about the schools."

Before adjourning, the board heard from RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol, who report-

ed the town had recently received word of approval from the Mass Cultural Council's Adams Arts program for the second year of the Turners Falls arts-based economic development initiative. The town applied for \$40,000 for the second year of the Adams grant, and received approval for \$35,000. Davol said less than \$2,000 remained to be raised on the local level to supply the required 80% cash match, but said the RiverCulture project was committed to raising the full amount needed to fund the initiative's proposed \$80,000 budget for the coming year's arts awareness activities, which will include a sculpture garden on Canal Street, a concert series at the bandshell at Peskeomskut Park, a downtown block party, the commissioning of an official song for Turners Falls from the community band, and business recruitment.

(For more on RiverCulture, see page 1.)

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Tulasi Grows in Wendell

BY MARA BRIGHT - You can find a taste of India right in Wendell, thanks to the efforts of Clara Sarr and Nora Gurley, who grow and market tulasi locally. Not yet a household word, tulasi or tulsī is the Sanskrit name for sacred or holy basil, a medicinal herb native to India. In the Hindu tradition, Tulasi is a forest diety with the power to repel negative energy. If you circle around the plant, which in India grows to be the size of a large bush, it is said, Tulasi will absolve you of your sins.

In India people place tulasi plants on their altars, hang it in their houses and chant to it while watering, planting or picking it. Caring for the plant is a sacred task, a way of strengthening your devotion.

Clara spent her childhood in and around gardens. Her mother, Nina Keller, is an avid gardener and seed saver, so it was natural for Clara to have similar leanings. In high school she was drawn to environmental studies, and she immersed herself in ethnobotany and sustainable agriculture in college.

When she ordered her first tulasi seeds three years ago, Clara began her relationship with the plant. Coincidentally, Nora was at the same time in India at Amachi's ashram. When she returned, she brought back tulasi seeds, which she saw as important for planetary healing. The two women collaborated, and the result was a garden boasting two varieties of tulasi.

Clara continues to be mainly interested in the healing properties of the plant, while Nora is exploring the spiritual properties. The women save seed and note that over the course of three seasons, tulasi is acculturating itself to Wendell. "I'm learning so much about the plant by saving seeds," Clara said.

Last summer Clara and Nora grew 200 plants in different gardens, one a spiral garden



Clara Sarr, left and Nora Gurley grow and market tulasi. Here they display some of their products inside Sarr's Wendell farmhouse.

inspired by Nora's trip to India. In Wendell, tulasi grows to be knee to waist high and has wonderfully fragrant purple flowers. Clara enjoys crafting with plants and in particular loves tulasi's beauty, its heavenly smell and its healing aspects. Tulasi is an adaptogen, meaning its uses cover a broad span and its benefits adapt to whatever the body needs. It functions as an immune system booster, helps with asthma, hepatitis, bronchial issues, headaches, clearing the head of toxins or congestion, and promoting calm. It can be beneficial for tumors, diabetes, radiation poisoning, chemotherapy and malaria.

Clara prepares the leaves and flowers of the plant as a tea, which she sells fresh in the summer and dry in other seasons. She makes two tinctures, one with grain alcohol, the other with glycerin for people who want to avoid alcohol. Tulasi is one of the ingredients in a skin salve Clara crafts for all-around use, including irritation, abrasion and dryness. The other ingredients in the salve are calendula, comfrey, echinacea and chickweed. She sells tulasi seed, and is looking into buying equipment to make essential oils.

Still a small-scale business,

selling locally and by word-of-mouth, Clara accepts orders by phone (978-544-9849) or email (itstotallytulasi@gmail.com). Clara grows and processes other medicinal plants for sale - motherwort, calendula, nettles, mint, yarrow and feverfew. Nora sells products at Amachi's gatherings.

When she's not tending her new baby, Clara works as a cook, preparing healing foods for a breast cancer survivor. Tulasi tea has been a key ingredient in her client's healing, Clara said.

Clara's enthusiasm for tulasi keeps growing. Besides being with the plant in the garden, she enjoys making the products. "It's so gratifying to get feedback from people. People have called us to say tulasi's changed their life."

Education and outreach are part of the work Clara and Nora are committed to as well. Some of Nora's proceeds have gone toward building a house in India destroyed by the tsunami. Clara has donated money to help rebuild a house destroyed by a flood in Senegal.

Clara envisions growing medicinal plants, including tulasi, in Turners Falls at the common gardens. She requests that gardeners call her if they want to share a plot.

TFHS Swimmers Earn Ribbons at Western Mass. Tournament

BY CORI URBAN

AMHERST - The Turners Falls High School varsity boys' swim team came home from the Western Massachusetts Swimming Tournament on February 17th at the University of Massachusetts with three ribbons and two school records, while the varsity girls' swim team came home with three ribbons.

Swimmers and relay teams finishing in the top 12 were recognized. Those finishing in first through sixth place received medals; those finishing seventh through 12th received ribbons.

The three boys' relay teams that finished in the top 12 were:

Tim Carlisle, Sunny Lucas, Adam Bastarache and Chris Krzykowski finished seventh in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:51.85. This is a new school record.

Krzykowski, Chris McMahon, Sam Johnson and Lucas earned an 11th place in the

400 free relay, with a time of 3:42.85, breaking another school record. Carlisle, Johnson, Matt Garber and Bastarache finished eighth in the 200 free relay.

All three relays have qualified for the State Swim Meet at Northeastern University in Boston on February 24th.

The only Turners Falls swimmer to earn an individual ribbon was Jennifer Jason, who garnered an 11th place in the 500 free.

Two TFHS girls' relay teams earned ribbons:

Katie Kuklewicz, Jenna Lapachinski, Molly Perry and Jason finished 12th in the 200 free relay. Kuklewicz, Ali Urban, Jason and Lapachinski finished ninth in the 400 free relay.

Turners Falls High School is the only Franklin County public high school with a varsity swim team. Karen Greene of Montague is the head coach; Nancy Yankowski of Turners Falls is the assistant coach.

Bluefish Swim Team Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Montague Parks and Recreation Bluefish swim Meet, from Saturday, February 17th, against the Clark Sharks from Winchendon, MA. It was a 282-133 victory for the team.

First Place Individual Winners:

Erin Williams (Girls 11-12) - 50 Free, 50 Fly

Chris Jennison (Boys 13-14) - 50 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast

Tess Tashjian (Girls 15 & Over) - 50 Free, 100 Breast, 100 Free

Matt Byrne (Boys 11-12) - 100 IM, 50 Breast, 100 Free

Jaime Byrne (Girls 7-8) - 100 IM, 25 Breast, 50 Free

Brett Miner (Boys 7-8) - 100 IM, 25 Back, 50 Free

Emi Gregory (Girls 11-12) - 100 Free

Marion Vielmetti (Girls 11-12) - 50 Back, 50 Breast

Malcolm Hatch-Crosby (Boys 9-10) - 50 Free, 50 Breast

Sarah Kaczinski (Girls 9-10) - 50 Back, 100 Free

Daniel Cloutier (Boys 7-8) - 25 Free, 25 Fly

James Dolan (Boys 9-10) - 50 Back, 50 Fly

Dominic Carme (Boys 6 & Under) - 25 Free, 25 Back, 25 Fly


Sahaley Dupree (Girls 7-8) - 25 Free, 25 Fly

Robert Rinaldi (Boys 7-8) - 25 Breast

More Swimming News

Meanwhile, Kaitlyn Kociela, a former TFHS swim team star, now a junior at Eastern Connecticut State University, achieved her personal best time of (20:03.42) in the 1,650 freestyle, to come in 15th place at the 2007 New England Division II-III Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, on February 16th

-18th at the Swasey Pool, in the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Kociela also earned points for her performance in the 500 Freestyle, coming in 17th with a time of 5:47.55. Kociela, who also contributed to three of her team's point-winning relays, was accorded All New England honors for her strong showing.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Is Bad Breath, Like, a Geezer Thing?

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I was wondering if older people get bad breath more than younger folks.

I could find no direct correlation between aging and halitosis, which is the fancy term for bad breath. However, I'm going to take a couple of educated stabs at the issue raised in this question.

Many older people have dentures. If they don't fit correctly or are not cleaned often, they can collect food and bacteria; both can lead to bad breath.

Dry mouth (xerostomia) is a condition that allows dead cells to accumulate in your mouth creating bad breath. Most xerostomia is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging. More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands.

The following are causes of

bad breath:

- Any food stuck in your teeth. It will decay and give off an odor.
- Some foods such as onions, garlic, spices and herbs. They contain substances that create bad breath when digested.
- Alcoholic beverages. Alcohol, itself, is odorless, but many alcoholic beverages contain ingredients that leave a tell-tale odor.
- Periodontal (gum) diseases and canker sores
- Diseases of the lung, kidney, liver, stomach and pancreas.
- Sinus infections, strep throat, tonsillitis and mononucleosis.
- Smoking. This dries the mouth and causes an odor of its own.
- Severe dieting.



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

Here are some ways to prevent bad breath:

- Brush your teeth after you eat.
- If you wear a denture, clean it at least once a day.
- Floss daily or use another interdental cleaner such as a high-power electric toothbrush.
- Brush your tongue, which can collect bacteria and food particles.

• Drink water to moisten your mouth.

• Chew sugarless gum. It stimulates saliva production and collects debris.

• Buy a new toothbrush several times annually.

• Get a dental examination.

Mouthwashes and breath-fresheners of all kinds mask odors for a while; they are not preventives. Many antiseptic mouth rinses, however, have been accepted by the American Dental Association for their therapeutic benefits and also have breath-freshening properties. These rinses kill the germs that cause bad breath instead of simply hiding halitosis.

At times, most of us worry about having bad breath. It's no surprise that there are so many products out there to combat the problem. But, those of us who

worry about it usually are doing something to prevent it. Bad breath is found more often in people who neither know nor care that they have it.

This brings me to a condition worth mentioning. There is a psychiatric condition called "delusional halitosis." This is linked to depression. One patient with this delusion used up to a tube of toothpaste every four days.

I read another study that demonstrated that the people who try to smell their own breath tend to think their breath smells worse than it does. Best advice I found was to ask a family member or good friend to give you an accurate assessment.

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

A HOLISTIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER

Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) occurs when the median nerve, which runs from the forearm through a narrow, rigid passageway of ligament and bones at the base of the hand (the carpal tunnel), becomes pressed or squeezed at the wrist. The median nerve controls sensations to the palm side of the thumb, index, middle, and part of the fourth finger, as well as impulses to some small muscles in the hand that allow the fingers and thumb to move.

CTS symptoms usually start with pain, weakness, burning, tingling, or itching numbness in the hand and wrist, radiating up the arm. Fingers may feel swollen even though no swelling is apparent. A person may wake up feeling the need to 'shake out' the hand or wrist. As symptoms worsen, decreased grip strength can make it difficult to form a fist, grasp small objects, or perform manual tasks.

CTS is often the result of a combination of factors that increase pressure on the median nerve and tendons in the carpal tunnel, rather than a problem with the nerve itself. There may

be a localized cause, such as trauma or injury to the wrist, or the development of a cyst or tumor in the canal, or a more systemic cause, such as hypothyroidism or fluid retention during pregnancy. The principal cause is not "what we do with our elbows, wrists, or hands - it's what we don't do. By not engaging the shoulders and by disrupting the load-bearing capacity of the body, our upper limbs and extremities do not have access to the nuanced muscle power and biomechanical interaction required to stay healthy," (Pete Egoscue, Pain Free, 1998). Functional posture is bilateral, the weight distributed equally left to right, the load-bearing joints in vertical alignment, with horizontal lines running through those joints.

Judith Lasater, Ph.D., a physical therapist and yoga instructor for nearly 30 years, says that CTS healing really comes down to two key factors: awareness and postural alignment. "Because CTS is often made worse by improper alignment, yoga can be an aid to prevention and cure."

A 1998 University of



Pennsylvania study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that twice-weekly yoga classes for eight weeks significantly reduced pain and improved grip strength for those with carpal tunnel. The researchers propose that yoga helps because it eases the compression of the affected nerves, improves blood flow, and creates better joint posture.

Sandy Blaine, a yoga instructor who runs CTS preventive yoga workshops, says that combating mild to moderate CTS symptoms is primarily a matter of "counteracting the repetitive movements that created them. That means stretching out the upper back, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, and wrists."

Lasater highlights Mountain Pose as a key posture. "It brings awareness of the perfect standing position, which can then be transferred to the sitting posi-

tion. When you sit or stand with the perfect spinal curves, you minimize the strain on the soft tissues of the head, neck, and arms which can lead to CTS." In addition, simple backbending poses "help counteract the forward-looking and forward-reaching posture many of us adopt when we sit all day at a desk."

Alternative therapies include massage and shiatsu, for stimulating blood flow, reducing edema (soft tissue swelling), and improving tissue health of the hands, wrists, arms, shoulders, and neck; Feldenkrais, a form of movement re-education

which teaches people how to move their bodies more efficiently to improve their coordination, reduce joint stress and muscle strain, and improve flexibility; and acupuncture, helpful for reducing edema, and relieving neck pain, shoulder stiffness, eye strain, and headaches, symptoms commonly seen with CTS.

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.jenny-chapin.com.

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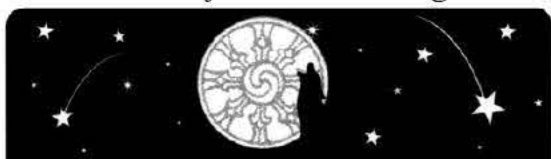
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JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XXI

Ma Goes Through the War

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - The next evening Ma began to tell us about getting caught in Poland by WWI.

"We have such a happy time. But war breaks out. Now, I was afraid the fighting comes to us. I tell my Mama, I want to go back to Ameryka before winter storms make the ocean rough. But she says, 'Stay, stay. Winter is far away. It is just a border fight; it will soon be over - you'll see.' I stay another year. But the war gets worse and worse."

Back in the U.S., her husband, now called "Frank", had all but given up hope of seeing Ma and Mary ever again, since she had no way of contacting him to inform him they were alive and well. Ma said she made up her mind. It had been over two years since she'd seen Frank, and she decided she was going to Holland to get on a ship to America, war or no war. Her parents were aghast.

"How will you get to Holland to board the ship? The Army has taken over the

railroads. You can't take a two-year-old baby, and travel on army trains filled with soldiers. It's crazy. You are just a girl. You'll never get through the fighting alive."

But, Ma was not to be deterred. She gathered what possessions and food she could carry, pinned her remaining money to her corset and got ready to leave.

"Leaving my village was very hard to do," Ma said. "Everybody is crying."

She knew there was a good chance her family would be killed in the war. And there was a greater chance she and Mary would be killed going through the fighting. But even if they all survived the war, both Ma and her parents knew in their hearts that they'd never see each other again. Her father could not bring himself to come out of the house to give his blessing or even to bid farewell.

At the depot, there were no civilian trains running. Rail car after rail car stood filled with Polish troops. Ma came to a rail car where a soldier stood on the platform between cars. She asked if she could come aboard.

He reached down to help them up.

"Where are you going?"
"To Holland, and then to Ameryka."

"To Ameryka? Are you crazy? There's a war on." He shook his head. "You would have to go through the battle lines - through the fighting - to get to Holland. Go back to your village, foolish woman."

But they were already aboard with their bundles.

"The train whistle makes a toot," Ma said. "And the train starts. I feel scared. Nothing but soldiers on the train. I think about what Tata says about soldiers going crazy."

The soldier found them seats. He asked Mary's age, and then showed them photos of his wife and children. Other soldiers crowded around, showing

photos of their families, and wanting to hold Mary. They shared food and blankets. After many starts and stops, and long waits, the steam train arrived at a town near the front. Artillery

fire rumbled in the distance. An Army officer spotted Ma and Mary. "You - get off the train."

- Continued Next Week

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Cars Off the Road

Wednesday 2-14

4:10 p.m. Alarm at Walnut Street residence, open door. All checked OK.

Thursday 2-15

7:28 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on Main Road, car into utility pole. No injury.

8:35 a.m. Report of medical emergency at the post office on the Mount Hermon campus, canceled on route.

10:29 a.m. Medical assistance given to West Gill Road resident.

11:10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with 911 hang up call on Burrows Turnpike Road.

3:10 p.m. Restraining order service on North Cross Road.

Friday 2-16

12:15 p.m. Car off of the road at Main Road and West

Gill Road, no injury.

1:31 p.m. Medical on the Mount Hermon Campus, canceled upon arrival.

Saturday 2-17

12:37 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on South Cross Road, car into a tree.

charged with possession of marijuana.

1:03 p.m. Alarm at Gill Elementary School, set off accidentally by fire department.

Sunday 2-18

2:50 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Dole Road with injury.

Monday 2-19

9:15 a.m. Assisted Northfield Police with motor vehicle accident at Gill Center Road and Route 10, with injuries.

Sudoku

Here are the answers to the Feb. 8th puzzle

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

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Friday, Feb. 23rd:
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Saturday, Feb. 24th:
Hit n' Run Classic Rock

Sunday: Peanut Night

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Erving Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, section 40 will hold a Public Hearing at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA on Monday, March 5, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 1) Request for a Determination of Applicability for construction of a parking lot at 83 State Road.

Erving Conservation Commission - David Brule, chairman

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Vagina Monologues performed by a cast of GCC students, staff, faculty and community activists to raise money & awareness to end violence against women & girls. GCC campus performance 7 p.m., Stinchfield Lecture Hall, main campus. Friday's performance is sign interpreted. Amherst College students will join GCC performers for a matinee performance at The Shea on **March 4th**, 2 p.m. Tickets: GCC Bookstore, World Eye Bookshop and the Montague Bookmill. \$4 for students/limited income and donation of \$10-\$20 for others. Info. 775 1141.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH
 Native American Stories and Songs in the Yurt with Loril Moondream and Peter Whitefox: Lori Moondream learned tales told by her Apache grandparents and elders on other reservations. Peter Whitefox uses animal skins and his fabulous sense of humor to add drama and fun to the presentation. At Northfield Mountain Recreation area, Route 63, Northfield. Ages 5 and up. Pre-registration required. 7 p.m. Call (413)-659-3714

Ode to the Beat Poets Gala at Leverett Crafts & Art. Wine Tasting, Art Exhibit and Auction, Poetry & Jazz. LCA, Barnes Gallery, 13 Montague Road, Leverett. 8 pm. Black beret, black turtle necks and dark glasses encouraged. (413) 548-9070.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Stone Coyotes*, Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD TO 25TH
 Ja'Duke presents *Peter Pan* at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Info. and reservations 863-2281 ext. 2. Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH
 Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages. \$7-\$10 per family. Simple dances with easy instruction geared for little feet. Held on the last Sunday of each month. 4 - 5 p.m. Includes a light snack.

The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *Dead River Rough Cut*, 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Symphony Choral Concert Alexandra Ludwig, choral director. Featuring the PVS Chorus, Northfield Mount Hermon Select Women's Ensemble and Springfield College Singers. At Second Congregational Church, Court Square, Greenfield. 3 pm. 773-3664

Annie Hassett, veteran folk singer/guitarist performs at the Old Town House, New Salem, as part of the North Quabbin Center for the Performing Arts



Sunday, March 4th, Henry The Juggler - juggler show at The Greenfield Center School, 71 Montague City Road. Refreshments to follow. 773-1700 or www.centerschool.net. 1 p.m., FREE

"Serendipity Series." 4 p.m. \$10 adults, 12 and under free. www.1794meetinghouse.org or (978) 544 5200 for info & tickets.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH
 Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Avenue A. 6 to 9 p.m. Information 863-4441.

A Night of Spoken Word at Deja Brew, Wendell. Open Mic 7 to 8 p.m., guest readers 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

UNTIL FEBRUARY 27TH
The Interconnectedness of Things, an exhibition of photographs by Jean Stabell of New Salem, on display at Haley's, a mile west of Athol center on Route 2A.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND
 Snowshoeing Under the Egg Moon. Explore how to best navigate at night, share inspiring quotes from literary lovers of the

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moon and stars, take a short "solo" walk by the moonlight and maybe even try hooting like an owl! At Northfield Mountain Yurt, Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. For ages 12 and older. 6:30-9 p.m. (800) 859-2960.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND & 3RD
 Pottery & More Seconds Sale Sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center. Held at Greenfield High, 1 Lenox Avenue, Greenfield. Friday 6 to 9 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 772-6811 for information.

Mohawk 30th Annual All-School Musical- Thoroughly Modern Millie At Mohawk Trail Regional High School auditorium, Route 112, Buckland. 7 p.m. 625-8371

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD.
 MarKamusic, a high-energy, multi-national musical ensemble performs Latin music with Andean roots performs at The Full Moon Coffee House in Wendell. Proceeds benefit The Montague Reporter. 8 p.m. with open mic beginning at 7 p.m.

Benefit event for The Shea Theatre: *An evening with Roger Salloom*, 730 p.m. film documentary *So Glad You Made It - The Saga Of Roger Salloom, America's Best Unknown Songwriter*. Followed by a talk with filmmaker Chris Sautter. At 9:30 p.m.: live concert featuring Roger Salloom. Advance tickets \$10, \$12 at the door.

Opening reception for local artists on display at Green Trees Gallery in Northfield, 5-7 p.m. *Apex to Zenith*, a panoramic collection of over 35 regional artists will be on view thru March 25th Artists: include Dan Brown, Beverly Phelps, Nayana Glazier, Barbara Milot & Daniel Putnam. www.greentreesgallery.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH
 Hallmark Institute of Photography open house. Beginning at 12:30, 27 Industrial

Boulevard, Turners Falls. Info. call 863-2478 or http://hallmark.edu

The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *The Ruling Class*. Peter O'Toole asserts that old saw: the mad are sane and vice versa. Food and drink available at The Lady Killigrew. 7 p.m.

Classical Piano by Adam Bergeron at Deja Brew, Wendell. 7 to 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 5TH
 Greenfield Community College Presents, Visiting Speaker & Multimedia Presentation: *Men, Masculinities, and Media* featuring Jackson Katz, Ed.M., Creator of "Tough Guise" at Noon, Stinchfield Lecture Hall. In this multimedia presentation, Katz illustrates how mainstream media images -- from sports, television, Hollywood film, advertising, and music video -- help to promote violent masculinity as a cultural norm. This event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Men's Initiatives Committee. For more information contact Lewis Bosler (413) 775-1276.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH
Argentina: Hope In Hard Times - film showing at 7 p.m. in the Social Sciences Studio, Room 115, in G.C.C.'s East Building. Discussion & refreshments to follow, free. This film is part of a series on "Culture, Ecology, and Sustainability," sponsored by the Human Ecology Department at Greenfield Community College.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH & 8TH
 Auditions for the Hampshire Shakespeare Company: *King Lear* and *A Comedy of Errors*, 6 to 9 p.m. at Hartsbrook School, Bay Rd. Hadley. Prepare a one- to two-minute monologue from a classical play, preferably Shakespeare. For audition appointments or info. call (413) 585-5769 or jhaneykidwell@yahoo.com. Actors must be 18 or older www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH
 Spring Gardening Symposium at Frontier Reg'l High School. www.wmassmastergardeners.org

UNTIL MARCH 18TH
 Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. *Face to Face: Portraits from Fifty Years*, photographs by Douglas Kirkland.

Upcoming at the Discovery Center
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
 Friends Coffeehouse: Katie Clarke Band. Held in the Great Hall. This is a fundraiser for programs put on by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. 7 to 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND
 Nature Activity: Build A Bird Feeder. Join Refuge staff to learn about natural materials we can use to make a bird feeder. 11a.m.

UNTIL MARCH 31ST
 Stephen Gingold's Nature Photography. Explore the world of nature, both at a landscape scale and focused at close range for details, through the eyes of Stephen Gingold as you see his photographs in this special exhibit.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD
 FREE Ice Fishing Class. Join MASSWildlife's expert angler, Jim Lagacy, for an ice fishing class and field experience. He will cover equipment basics, techniques, fish identification, and angler ethics. Pre-registration required; space is limited. Please call to reserve 863-3221. All ages are welcome. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH
 Accessible Birding. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join the Hampshire Bird Club on this excursion to investigate bird life at wheelchair accessible and lively birding locations in the Connecticut River Valley. Binoculars and scopes are available for use as well as other assistive technology such as portable folding chairs, large print field guides, monopods, and listening devices. To register or more info. call (413) 545-5758.

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3. NORBIT PG13 DAILY 7:00 9:30 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. MUSIC & LYRICS PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. HANNIBAL RISING R DAILY 6:45 9:15 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. NOTES ON A SCANDAL R DAILY 6:30 9:00 DTS sound MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. GHOST RIDER PG13 DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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SHEFFIELD
continued from pg 1

princesses' bedroom all night long to observe their behavior? Selflessly, he offered his services for the task.

The king bethought himself on this proposal, and decided to come up with a further incentive. Whichever lucky lad could manage to stay up all night and see what sort of fancy footwork his daughters were up to could choose whichever princess he liked the best to marry, and inherit his kingdom. In an era of male primogeniture, what else can a monarch do to escape the royal pain of daily cobbler bills?

A plucky herald, Austin Hurley, who boasts the declamatory skills of a young Demosthenes and is a total stranger to stage fright, (even when his royal proclamation gets tangled upside down), journeys to the village square to tell the commoners about their big chance to play "Who Wants to Marry a Princess?"

The farmer, James Adkins, boasting a beautiful white moustache and puffy eyebrows to match, is ready to jump at the chance. So eager, in fact, he begins singing "Tomorrow I'll Be King," one of many charming numbers written for the production by Rantanen, (who accompanied her young scholars on piano) half a beat ahead of the rest of the cast. Unfazed, Adkins said, "Oooh!" and stuck out his tongue, and waited for the next verse to come around before joining in right on time, keeping up neatly all along with the dance steps choreographed for each musical interlude by Maddie



Jonathan Rawls as the Returning Soldier and Brooke Martineau as Princess Leona find their destiny in *The Dancing Princesses*

Poppke, a Greenfield High School senior. Poppke said it was "really fun" working with the Sheffield kids over the last four or five weeks.

Unfortunately, none of the villagers could manage to stay awake in the princesses' bedroom long enough to spy out their late night dancing secrets, win the prize, and walk off with the king's ransom. So the king sends his herald even further afield, asking foreigners from distant lands, once he gets his twisted scroll set straight, if they might like to try their luck solving the mystery of the dancing princesses in the "Kingdom of Faraway." The foreigners sing a sprightly reprise of Tomorrow I'll Be King, with its unforgettable coda, "A half a brain is all you need to turn into a king." Could George W. have seen this play already?

At each of these occasions, as

the herald interests a new batch of potential suitors, the play's mystery is deepened by the arrival of an old woman, Riley Howe, begging food or water. But the villagers, and the hunters, fishermen and merchants from far away are all too agog with the chance to become prince for the price of one night's insomnia to be bothered coming to the aid of an old beggar woman. Yet all fail when it comes to the test of staying awake to spy out the dancing princesses's secret. Hmmm....

And so it goes until a weary soldier, played with aplomb by Jonathan Rawls, returns from the war. (You can tell he is walking a winding path through the forest by the *papier mache* boulder and single birch tree that appear stage right.) Like many a returning military man over the centuries, he is weary of life, and despairs of fitting in again as a civilian.

"I'll never make it back home," he tells the sober audience of wide-eyed grade school students. He raises his water flask, and utters a mirthless toast. "Here's to a short and uneventful life."

Yeah, right. Every Hillcrest second grader knows better than that. The old beggar woman reappears, and as soon as the soldier offers her a reviving drink of water, she transforms into a good fairy, willing to aid him to his just

reward, because, "You are the only one who has shown compassion and kindness to a stranger."

She gives the soldier a cloak of invisibility and specific instructions about how to outwit the sneaky princesses and solve the mystery of their late-night hi-jinks. This considerably revives his spirits

"A minute ago I felt my life was over," he cries, like a besotted lottery ticket buyer given one big break. "It must be my destiny!"

He hot foots it to the Kingdom of Faraway, where whom should he bump into but Princess Leona, played by Brooke Martineau (could she be any relation to Alana?), who looks bewitching in a long pink satin gown with glittery chiffon sleeves and collar, and gold braid. All the costumes looked great, and enough praise for this cannot be heaped upon seamstresses Pat Ryan and Jeanette Gallagher, and the students who helped them.

Rawls and Martineau sing a duet, "A Second Chance," but that little number did not really prepare the audience for the poise and purity of Martineau's delivery on her succeeding number, a torch ballad called, "My Heart Shall Choose My Destiny." This young lady can sing! And before the song was over, everybody in the auditorium knew it. As she cast her spell, mothers leaned close to catch each word. Her song reawakened memories of their own girlhoods, while the men in the crowd recalled the princesses they had once courted and loved.

In the clarity of her delivery, and the soulful quality of her stage presence, Martineau recalled a young, (very young) Judy Garland, and no doubt she has an equally illustrious career ahead of her, beginning with her

very next appearance, in *the Crucible*, with Arena Civic Theater, at the Shea this April. She was the standout of the show.

Turns out Princess Leona is tiring of the little game she and her sisters play on their father and their would-be suitors each night. What good is dancing all night, if you never get to marry your man? But the other royal lassies are having none of this 'time to settle down' nostrum. They like dancing all night, and plan to keep it up indefinitely.

Needless to say, before the curtain falls, the soldier, with the aid of magic, unlocks the riddle of the young ladies all-night revels, wins the heart of Princess Leona, and saves his prospective father-in-law from racking up any more cobbler bills. What else but a happy ending could be in store for an upstanding young soldier who helps an old woman in distress, and gains a second chance?

Anybody who is thinking about cutting student theatricals out of next year's school budget, be warned! The curse of the Brothers Grimm will be upon you if you do. Student plays are simply the best things going, for theater lovers of any age. Go see one if you doubt my word. The sight of all those eager, proud faces up on stage will melt the heart and blunt the pencil of the most callow budget-cruncher. After all, every child deserves the chance to be an invisible soldier, or a shining princess, or a king with an emine-trimmed coronet.

Loud applause followed, as Rawls took the hand of Princess Leona. Too bad. I'd been secretly rooting for Adkins, the farmer with the wigged out moustache and eyebrows, to win the contest. He seemed like a natural prince, to me.

But Tia, a visiting Hillcrest second grader in Mrs. Oakes' class, was thrilled with the play, and happy with its outcome for Princess Leona. "I like the princess in the pink dress the best," she confided, as the lights came up and the applause died down.

Of course you do, my dear.



Princess Leona's song even soothed the savage beasts at Sheffield School.

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