

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2006
January 2007



Volume IX, Issue X

A Publication of the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library, Royalston, Massachusetts

Glad tidings from the RCN. With last month's issue, this newsletter just passed its 7 year anniversary. That's not bad for a free publication staffed entirely by volunteers. A community newsletter thrives on broad community input, so please don't hesitate to share the gift of your news, events, wildlife sightings, musings and milestones through the RCN in the new year. Brevity and wit make especially thoughtful presents. Contact information is always listed on the last page of the newsletter. In this season of darkness, don't hide your light under a bushel.

December 1 Friday

7 pm **First Friday Open Mic** at Town Hall

December 2 Saturday

10 a.m. – noon **Open House** at the Village School

December 3 Sunday

Wheat Weaving Workshops. Learn a traditional harvest art and make a cool holiday gift. Pre-registration necessary. Priority given to members of the Friends of the Library.

1:15 pm workshop begins for weavers who attended last year.

2 pm workshop starts for beginners

December 5 Tuesday **Full Cold Moon**

December 6 Wednesday

6 pm **Live Creche** on the church steps.

6:15 pm **Tree Lighting Ceremony** on the Royalston Common; after Santa's arrival, hot cocoa and cookies in the Town Hall.

December 7 Thursday

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

6:30 p.m. **Monty Tech School Council Meeting**

December 10 Sunday

2 pm **Our Lady Queen of Heaven 50th Anniversary Celebration.** Mass with Bishop MacManus in the chapel followed by a catered meal at the Royalston Community School.

11 a.m. **Royalston F&G Annual Meeting**

2 p.m. **F&G annual Kids' Christmas Party** (Advanced reservation required: 978-249-3004)

December 13 Wednesday

6:30 pm **Holiday Concert** at RCS. Community welcome.

7:30 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society meeting** at Theresa Quinn's home; Holiday Basket packing; please contact Kim MacPhee 249-0946 if you know of someone who would appreciate a basket of goodies.

December 16 Saturday

Hanukkah, an 8 day celebration of light and perseverance, begins.

All Day

Christmas Bird Count: Please contact Dave Small Dave@dsmall.net or 978-413-1772 for information and/or to join a bird watching team.

Dusk – Midnight **The Geminid Meteor Shower** will provide a spectacular light show with a meteor a minute or more, originating in the northeastern skies. Shooting stars should also be visible through Sunday night.

December 20 Wednesday

New Wolf Moon

December 21 Thursday

Winter Solstice

Pilgrims landed at Plimoth in 1620

December 23 Saturday

8 - 11 am **Royalston Post Office Holiday Open House.** Stop by for gingerbread with hot pear sauce and a cup of coffee. (The pears were grown in Royalston by the Willhites.)

9 - 10 am

The Real Royalston Santa will visit Post Office taking requests and posing for photos. Polaroids with Santa \$5.00. Profits will be donated to the Historical Society.

December 25 Monday

Christmas

December 27 Wednesday

11:30am **Senior Luncheon New Year's Celebration** at the Town Hall. All are invited. Free. Call Betty Woodbury at 249-9656 before Monday December 25 to reserve. Delightful, high energy performance by Dorothy Hayden on seasonal themes, music, lunch, flowers and fancy desserts by Deb Nunes and Marie Humblet. This is a collaboration of the Council on Aging and the Royalston Cultural Council.

December 28 Thursday

5 p.m. **Coop Orders Due In**

January 1 Monday

**New Years Day 2007
Japanese New Year 2667**



January 2 Tuesday

Public Schools Re-open following holiday break

7 p.m. Pitch Tournament Royalston F&G all welcome. Pitch tournaments continue every Tuesday in January. Call for info. 978-249-3004.

January 3 Wednesday

Earth at **Perihelion**, its closest pass by the sun this year: 91,399,728 miles (give or take a mile)

8:57 a.m. **Full Wolf Moon**

7 p.m. **Monty Tech SchoolCom meeting**

January 4 Thursday

TBA **Coop Delivery Due**

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** Discuss library support, newsletter, x-culture club, documentary series and other upcoming events. The Friends are an easy place to meet other people in Town.

January 5 Friday

Twelfth Night

7 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall

January 6 Saturday

Epiphany

January 13 Saturday

5 pm **Potluck and Contradance for families.** Potluck begins at 5:00. Dancing begins at 6:00. Contradances will be called by Norah Dooley, and music played by the No Name Band. Donations accepted. Hosted by the Village School Parents Group.

January 15 Monday

Martin Luther King Day

Schools, libraries, post office and government offices closed

January 19 Friday

7 pm **Village Improvement and Historical Society Meeting,** weather permitting at Peter Kraniak's house, corner of Stone and Winchendon Rds. Everyone with an interest in town history welcome. Great desserts. Call 249-7625 for more information.

January 22 Monday

No School ARRSD; Professional Development Day

January 24 Wednesday

No school Village School; in-service training

January 26 Friday

TBA **Storytelling performance** by RCS students, who are just completing a residency with storyteller Diane Edgecomb, at RCS. Residency funded by A-REF, Royalston Academy and the RCS Parent-Teacher Group.

January 31 Wednesday

No school Village School; parent teacher conferences

Department of Public Works Update

The DPW wishes residents happy holidays and safe driving in the new year. Sailing should be smoother as the recent paving work went without a hitch on Falls, North Fitzwilliam and Brown Roads. Even though November had long strings of days in the 60s and Mt Washington had its warmest November temperature ever recorded (49 degrees at midnight on 11/ 17), winter is knocking. Please be aware that there is a roadside parking ban in effect now until the end of April so that snow plows have room to maneuver. Violators can be towed. Also know that it is dangerous and illegal to shovel snow into a public roadway.



December 8, 2003. Photo: Barclay

Board of Health News

Phil Leger. Chair

There has been an unforeseen delay in hooking up the compactor at the transfer station. The compactor needs three phase power to operate the hydraulic unit. Monadnock Disposal, the company who owns the equipment, had kept a three phase converter in stock, but it was used for another set up. The delay has been in receiving a replacement converter and the wiring for the machine. Once this is complete, the unit will be in service.

Please, when using the transfer facility, use the counter clockwise traffic pattern. This will help with traffic flow. And, please be aware of the exits so that you don't block traffic. Once the compactor is in operation the dumpsters will be moved and there will be more space.

The BOH is looking for a small shed so that the attendant can be located at the compactor. This will facilitate operation of the unit and purchase of stickers. If anyone has something that might fit the criteria, contact Phil Leger at 617-584-9714, Chet Hall at 978-895-6326 or George Vaccari at 978-249-2155.

No change in hours of operation for the transfer station and recycling center this year due to Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Regular hours of operation are: Friday 1pm-4pm and Saturday 8am-2pm. Please give the attendants a break and don't come five minutes before closing.

We have a new attendant and his name is Nicholas Mowrey from Winchendon Road. He is a student at Monty Tech and is in the Marine ROTC program there. Say hi to him next time you are there.

Election Results

During the November 7th state elections, 477 of the 910 registered voters in Royalston cast ballots. Here are the results:

Governor- Patrick, 272; Healy, 148
 US Senate- Kennedy, 297; Chase 158
 Attorney General - Coakley, 302; Frisoli, 141
 Secretary of State - Galvin, 339; Stein, 86
 Treasurer - Cahil, 341; O'Keefe, 82
 Auditor- DeNucci, 301; Wilson, 100
 US House 1st Distinct - Olver, 343; Szych, 100

On the ballot questions, the state electorate said "no" to each, but Royalston was somewhat more divided.

	Yes	No
Question 1: Wine Sales in Food Stores statewide	870,240	1,119,776
Royalston	237	227
Question 2: Nominations for Candidates for Public Office statewide	648,507	1,226,672
Royalston	152	273
Question 3: Collective Bargaining for Family Child Care Providers statewide	898,501	973,534
Royalston	219	210
Question 4: a non binding referendum instructing state representatives to vote for a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of US forces from Iraq. Statewide 139 out of 351 cities and towns put this question on the ballot; all voted "yes"		
Royalston	256	164

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum

As 2007 approaches, it's time to start thinking about the Annual Town Election. It will be held on Monday, April 2, 2007. The following are the deadlines in effect for this election season, along with a list of positions up for election:

The last day to take out nomination papers and/or submit them to the Board of Registrars is Monday, February 12, no later than 5 p.m. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's Office, Whitney Hall, 5 School St., on Mondays, 6 to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The last day to object or withdraw from the election ballot is Wednesday, February 28, no later than 5 p.m.

The last day to register to vote in this election will be Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Special Voter Registration hours will be held this day from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. in the Town Clerk's Office. All Mail-In registrations must be postmarked no later than March 13, 2007.

List of positions on this year's ballot:

Selectman - 3 years; Town Clerk - 3 years; Assessor - 3 years; Cemetery Commissioner - 3 years; Board of Health - 3 years; Library Trustee - 3 years; Constable - 3 years; Planning Board - 5 years; Sewer Commissioner - 3 years; Trustees of John N. Bartlett Fund - 4 positions each of 1 year; Board of Public Welfare - 3 years; ARSD School Comm. - Royalston member - 3 years. Athol positions on the school committee will also appear on the ballot.

Selectmen's News

Andy West, Chair

On November 7th, a Verizon Representative spoke to the Selectboard about the phone problems in town. She said that new equipment has been installed in South Royalston and would be fully activated any day. In the meantime, a patch is in place so that callers in the Village should not experience any more dropped calls. Thanks to those residents from other parts of town that let us know of their persistent phone problems. Verizon has now expanded trouble research to include Butterworth and Bliss Hill areas of Town. Keep the information coming. This has been a great benefit to us all!

The Board is preparing to accept bids on the **reconstruction of the wood gate and posts at Riverside Cemetery**. The gate, located on School Street, allows access to the upper part of the cemetery. If you are interested in bidding, contact the Selectmen's Office for preliminary information, 978-249-9641.

Please remember that **permission for all temporary signs** (including political, event, fundraising, and advertising) must be requested from the Board of Selectmen. There have been a number of signs displayed recently without permission.

Royalston residents are once again eligible to receive money for home improvement through a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The **money is available to help low and moderate income residents make improvement to their homes**. For more information, call the Selectmen's Office at the number above.

Coming Soon! Watch for Selectboard meeting minutes to be posted on the Royalston website www.royalston-ma.gov. The Royalston Board of Selectmen wishes everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!

Break in

A breaking and entering was reported at 45 NE Fitzwilliam Rd on Saturday, November 18. Residents of a small town need to look out for each other. Don't be alarmist, but if you notice a suspicious vehicle anywhere in town, please jot down the license plate number. If you later hear that there was undesirable activity at the site, phone the plate number into the police: 249-4211. (Of course, emergencies should always be reported immediately through 911.)

Royalston Luncheon Club

The Royalston Luncheon Club has a rather flexible format during the winter months since lunch plans are canceled if the roads are bad. There are two special holiday events planned: the pre-Christmas dinner on December 20th and the New Year's Celebration, Wednesday, December 27th. Weather permitting, Chinese auctions are planned for December 6th and January 3rd; Blood pressure clinics (open to the general public) are slated for December 13th and January 10th; and Brown Bag distribution dates include December 27th and December 31st. For additional information, contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00am - 8:30pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

979-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you:

Lorraine Casinginho for movie donations

Ashley Berquist for help processing books and lots of other things

Amber McCassie for help processing books

Janet Bettey for audiobook donations

Emma Finocchio for help around the library

Yolanda Brousseau for donations of books and DVDs

Need Computer Help?

Don't know how to send e-mail or set up an e-mail account? Do you download things and they disappear? Do you know what download means? If you would like help, from the basics to the advanced, you can get one-on-one help at the library with your laptop or one of our computers. Just call the library to set up an appointment.

Download Music, Video, and Audiobooks and Gain Access to 140 Databases

Boston Public Library is offering an eCard to all residents of Massachusetts over 13 years of age from communities whose libraries are certified; Royalston is certified. What this means is that you can sign up for an eCard and download music, movies, and books to your computer, ipod, or mp3 player plus use the extensive databases to search for information, all for free. The eCard is valid for 6 months after which time you have to go to the Boston Public Library or Metro Boston Library Network location, show valid ID and upgrade to a permanent library card. To obtain a card go to www.royalstonlibrary.org and click on the link to Boston Public Library eCard or go to <http://www.bpl.org/general/circulation/whererecard.htm>

Shop at the Library this Holiday

Looking for something local to give this season? Pre-registered participants can come to the library's wheat weaving workshop and learn to braid a traditional love knot or fertility symbol, a perfect gift for a Royalston romantic. For the literary on your list, how about the Royalston Shakespeare Company's Hamlet t-shirt or DVD? Rockers (and Robt. Altman fans) may enjoy the "Born in a Small Town" DVDs, featuring cameos of 100s of Royalston residents backed with a 80s soundtrack. A new crop of sheep mugs has arrived, adorned with original artwork by Patience Bundshuh. Finally, don't forget the fabulous poster of local nature photographs by Noah Siegel. All items are very reasonably priced and benefit the Friends of the Library.

Documentary Series Upcoming

Looking ahead to the winter, we are planning to have a series of three documentaries shown and narrated by the producers: Werner Bundshuh, Liane Brandon, and Boyd Estus. Each will discuss the production details of his and her work before the screening. This series will take place during late February into March. Look for details in the February newsletter and on the library's website.

Artist Exhibit at the Library

During the months of January and February, paintings done by the late Royalston resident, John Burton, will be on display at the library. Several people from town will loan us pictures for this exhibit. John was a resident of Royalston for 18 years and a long time member of the Cultural Council. He organized the first Royalston Dinner Theater (Royalston Follies).

Holiday Reading (and snacking)

We have displayed many holiday books so that you can cook that perfect meal, create that perfect gift, escape from the stress, or just browse for ideas. Don't forget that we also have over 45 magazine subscriptions, lots of holiday music on CDs (other music for all ages too), and books-on-tape and CD to get you to your destination or soothe you while you work around the house. And remember, on Saturdays during the month of December, we offer light refreshments for your enjoyment.

Give Royalston's Kids the World: Presenters Needed at Cross Culture Club

Calling all residents with experience of other cultures. The Friends of the Library need you to informally present during Cross-Culture Club, an afterschool gathering for children on Thursdays at the library in February. Presentations last about one hour and the group size is rarely larger than 12. A mixture of methods, including showing artifacts, sharing food and/or teaching simple language, music or crafts fill the time. Help in planning or extra adult assistance is available from members of the Friends of the Library. There is a small stipend and all material costs are reimbursed. Cross culture club helps bring a touch of global perspective to our small New England town. To get involved, please call the library 249-3572.



Some of the New Books at your Library

New Adult Fiction

- Allende, Isabel *Ines of My Soul*
- Barron, T.A. *The Great Tree of Avalon: The Eternal Flame*
- Bass, Rick *The Lives of Rocks: Stories*
- Berg, Elizabeth *The Handmaid and the Carpenter: A Novel*
- Bradbury, Ray *Farewell Summer*
- Braver, Gary *Elixir*
- Braver, Gary *Flashback*
- Braver, Gary *Gray Matter*
- Britton, Pamela *On the Edge*
- Brockway, Connie *Hot Dish*
- Cabot, Meg *How To Be Popular*
- DeMille, Nelson *Wild Fire*
- Evanovich, Janet *Thanksgiving*
- Evans, Richard Paul *Finding Noel*
- Francis, Dick *Under Orders*
- Gerritsen, Tess *The Mephisto Club*
- King, Stephen *Lisey's Story*
- Klein, Lisa *Ophelia*
- Kleinholz, Lisa *Dancing With Mr. D*
- Kleinholz, Lisa *Exiles on Main Street*
- Krahn, Betina *The Book of True Desires*
- Lindsey, Johanna *Captive of My Desires*
- Linz, Cathie *Bad Girl's Don't*
- MacHale, D.J. *Black Water*
- MacHale, D.J. *The Rivers of Zadaa*
- McCall-Smith, Alexander *Dream Angus: The Celtic God of Dreams*
- McCall-Smith, Alexander *The Right Attitude to Rain*
- McGovern, Cammie *Eye Contact*
- Meyer, L.A. *In the Belly of the Bloodhound: Being an Account of a Particularly Peculiar Adventure in the Life of Jacky Faber*
- Michaels, Fern *Lethal Justice*
- Munro, Alice *The View From Castle Rock: Stories*
- Oates, Joyce Carol *Black Girl/White Girl: A Novel*
- Patterson, James *Cross*
- Pierce, Tamora *Terrier*
- Randisi, Robert J., *Everybody Kills Somebody Sometime*
- Roberts, Nora *First Impressions*
- Schwartz, Ellen *Stealing Home*

- Roberts, Nora *Valley of Silence*
- Rowe, Stephanie *Must Love Dragons*
- Shaara, Jeff *The Rising Tide: A Novel of World War II*
- Skelton, Matthew *Endymion Spring*
- Skye, Christina *Code Name: Nanny*
- Sparks, Nicholas *Dear John*
- Steel, Danielle *H.R.H.*
- Trigiani, Adriana *Home to Big Stone Gap: A Novel*
- Valente, Catherynne M. *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden*
- Waller, Robert James *The Long Night of Winchell Dear: A Novel*
- Wheeler, Leslie *Murder at Gettysburg*
- Wheeler, Leslie *Murder at Pimoth Plantation*
- Wilson, Diane Lee *Firehorse*

New Adult Nonfiction

- Briggs, Janet *The Taste of Home Cookbook*
- Danforth, John *Faith and Politics:How the "Moral values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together*
- DK *Weapon: A Visual History of Arms and Armor*
- The Encyclopedia of New England* (Reference)
- Greenfield, Robert *Exile on Main St.: A Season in Hell with the Rolling Stones*
- Guiliano, Mireille *French Women For All Seasons*
- Mitchell, Stacy *Big-box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses*
- Peterson, Dale *BIO Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man*
- Poundstone, Paula *There's Nothing in This Book I Meant to Say*
- Roe, Sue *The Private Lives of the Impressionists*
- Rombauer, Irma *Joy of Cooking*
- Rooney, Andy *Out of My Mind*
- Schou, Nick *Kill the Messenger: How the CIA's Crack-Cocaine Controversy Destroyed Journalist Gary Webb*
- Stewart, Martha *Martha Stewart's Homekeeping Handbook*
- The Onion *The Onion Presents Homeland Security Complete News Archives Vol. 17*
- Pillsbury *Family Christmas Cookbook*
- The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (Reference)
- Traver, Tim Sippewissett: *Or, Life on a Salt Marsh*
- Vidal, Gore *Point to Point Navigation: A Memoir 1964 to 2006*
- Wagner, Marsden *Born in the USA: How a Broken Maternity System Must Be Fixed to Put Women and Children First*

New Members for the Friends

Thank you to Rhona A. Shoul, who recently made a donation to honor the marriage of Maile Suyenaga Shoul and Sean Nolan and to Janet Willhite for renewing her membership to the Friends of the Library. You can be a Friend too:

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library publish this newsletter and sponsor many other activities throughout the year.

**Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
2007 Membership & Contribution Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships:

Single \$2.00 _____

Family \$5.00 _____

Supporting \$25.00 _____

Donation \$ _____

I would also like to buy a Newsletter sponsorship ad: \$25.00/month or \$200.00/year\$ _____ (we will contact you for display information)



Total enclosed: \$ _____ Tax deductible. Make checks payable to:
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. PO Box 133 Royalston MA 01368

I would like to help with Friends projects

Thank You!

Buy Locally/ Give Locally/ Live Locally

For a small town, Royalston offers some surprising and interesting gift shopping opportunities. Money spent here, stays here (instead of heading back to corporate headquarters in Arkansas or somesuch.) Gifts available locally include:

Royalston General Store sells gift certificates, clothing, magnets, books by local authors and any number of home town-embazoned items. Call 978-249-9798.

Royal Pines Alpaca Farm on Brown Rd. offers velvety soft items knit from alpaca fleece. Open Fri-Sun noon - 4 or by appt; call 249-7629.

Pete and Henry's Restaurant Gift Certificates. Call 978-249-8375 and leave a message at least a couple of days in advance.

Paul Rezendez Photography has fine art prints, note cards, posters, calendars and books. Gallery is open weekdays 10 - 4. Directions: www.photos@paulrezendez.com

In addition, there are many ways, right here in Royalston, to donate year-end, tax deductible dollars that will help our community.

Athol - Royalston Education Foundation (A-REF) raises money for enrichment programs beyond the budget of local public schools. Watch this spring for A-REF funded storytelling workshops, puppetry projects and wind-art sculptures at RCS. Send donations to PO Box 149, Athol 01331.

First Congregational Church Steeple Fund has not yet raised enough to cover the cost of the last summer's restoration work. The steeple is a focal point in the community. The good news is the recent work should last on the order of 50 years. The bad news is, once the job is done, it's very hard to continue to raise money. Contact David Putney at 249-4218.

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library are the volunteers who provide this newsletter to every Royalston home ten times each year at no charge. This group helps our Library stay current in materials and technology and supports literacy, enrichment, educational and entertaining programs for Royalston's residents. Send donations to to PO 133, Royalston.

Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston - A group of residents dedicated to good works; provides numerous scholarships to Royalston students pursuing higher education, and also, provides collations after funerals. Contact President Kim MacPhee at 978-249-0946.

Royalston Cultural Council works to bring the Arts to Town. Funds fun and creativity in Royalston. Contact Andrea Lively at 249-2705.

Royalston Open Space Committee works to protect significant natural, agricultural, recreational and scenic areas and encourages land stewardship in Royalston for the benefit of the environment, the economy and future generations. Contact Aaron Ellison at 978-249-6771.

Royalston Fire & EMS Association has provided countless dollars for the purchase of fire equipment, supplies, training, and vehicles, including the new Emergency Rescue Vehicle. Your donations directly reduce tax dollars necessary to provide quality fire and EMT services. Contact Jim Putney at 249-7787.

United Way's Royalston Campaign has not yet met its '06 goal of \$3,500. The United Way supplies money to the Athol YMCA, Salvation Army, Literacy Program, Boy and Girl Scouts and the Red Cross. Contact Ginny Gingras at 249-4951.

Village Improvement and Historical Society contributes to our Town's cultural education through their stewardship of the Society Museum and quarterly meetings. Donations help them maintain their building, which houses an irreplaceable collection of photos, clippings, documents and artifacts from our past. Also sells items holiday gift items. Contact Peter Kraniak at 249-7625.

Recipe of the Month:

Bundt Cake with Almonds (or Walnuts)

ed note: This recipe comes from our talented and dry humored tax collector, Rebecca Kraus-Hardie of N. Fitzwilliam Rd. Along with keeping records of tax payments, she is an award winning web-site designer, french hornist and throat singer. She recently donated a warm and gooey bundt cake to the election day bake sale in precinct 1. Many voters bought one slice and came back to buy another. (Remember, the tax collector sets neither the tax rate nor the times when tax bills go out.)

Becky says, "This is actually a Martha Stewart recipe that was attached to the bundt pan. The original recipe called for seriously more sugar. I never seem to have almonds in the house so I use walnuts. (I don't really know how its possible to slice almonds anyway.)"

2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature, plus more for the pan

(1 1/2 sticks for cake, and 1/2 stick for glaze)

3/4 cup sliced nuts (for the glaze)

2/3 cup coarsely chopped nuts

1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar

2 teaspoons cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

3 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup granulated sugar

2 large eggs

1 tablespoon plus 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

(1 T for cake and 1 1/2 teaspoons for the glaze)

1 1/2 cups plain yogurt (or sour cream)

1 1/2 cups (or less) confectioner's sugar (glaze)

1/4 cup milk (glaze)

1) Preheat Oven to 350. Generously butter the bundt pan; set aside. Spread the sliced nuts over a baking pan, and bake until golden brown. Transfer to a bowl to cool.

2) In a medium bowl, combine the chopped nuts, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg; set aside. In another medium bowl sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside.

3) In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine 1 1/2 sticks of butter and the granulated sugar. Beat on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add eggs; beat until combined. Add 1 Tablespoon vanilla; beat until smooth. Add 1/3 of the reserved flour mixture and half the yogurt; beat to combine. Repeat, Add final third of flour mixture, and beat to combine.

4) Pour half the batter into the prepared pan, and spread evenly with a small offset spatula or spoon. Sprinkle with the reserved nut-spice mixture. Top with remaining batter.

5) Bake until cake is golden brown and a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 45-50 minutes. Place on wire rack to cool completely. (Unmold cake after about 10 minutes. Place cake, flat side down, on a wire to finish cooling.)

6) Melt the remaining 1/2 stick of butter over medium-high heat until color turns nut-brown, about 5 minutes. Pour the butter into a medium bowl, leaving behind any dark sediment. Stir in the confectioner's sugar, the remaining vanilla, and the milk until smooth; (add additional tablespoon of milk if necessary) so glaze is pourable.

7) Place cake on serving dish, drizzle glaze over cake and sprinkle with the toasted nuts.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.

Many happy returns to Eliina "Tati" Karjalainen, Royalston's oldest resident, who celebrated her 102 birthday on November 4th at Foxwoods Casino accompanied by **Bruce, Liisa and Linda Alger** as well as **Pam Casper, Cheryl Milas, and Nancy Skowronski**. She came home a little richer after her encounter with the one armed bandits. Tati Karjalainen spurns the Boston Post Cane. She rightly observes, "It's the cane of death. Everyone who receives it dies." Reportedly the secret to her longevity is "eat and sleep well, no men and always honor your mother and father."



Five Consecutive Strikes: **Donna Smith** of South Royalston recently scored 5 consecutive strikes in women's league play at the Playaway Lanes in Winchendon. Her score for the game was 232. Her team is called the Katz. Other cool Katz from Royalston include: **Peg Langlois, Karen Leblanc, Tracy Smith** and **Ginny Gingras**.

Memorial

Our thought are with **Rev. Ginger Asel**, Pastor of Royalston's Congregational Churches, whose mother, **Lillian Varnot**, died peacefully on November 16 as family gathered around and read devotions at the Parsonage. Mrs Varnot was a co-founder of the Community Nursery and Kindergarten at the Barre Congregational Church, which she ran for 33 years. She also enjoyed art, travel, and church fellowship. In lieu of flowers, gifts of memorial may be given to either the First or Second Congregational Church of Royalston (P.O. Box 73, Royalston, MA 01368) or The Covenant Evangelical Church of Barre, (611 South St., P. O. 213, Barre, MA 01005).

1st term academic honor rolls

RCS, grades 4 - 6: *straight As:* **Katie Robinson, Tobey Chase, and Michael Campos.** *All As and Bs:* **Emily Mangum, Beau Guimond, Kadasia LaJoie, Felicia Tourigny, Cody Nolette, John Divoll, Eric Duffin, McKenzie Spear, Lainey Wright, Allyna Baker, Caleb Chase, Andrew Demboske, Keith Gelinas, Darion James, Alexis Javier, Ashley Javier, Timothy Normandin, Michael Persson, Joshua Roberts, Amber Simmington, and Michele Thompson**

A-R Middle School: *Straight As:* **Cady Boucher, Allison Bergquist and Megan Degnan.** *All As and Bs:* **Tasey Chartier, Asher Chase, Krista Erikson, Ashley Guyer, Dylan Hall, Samantha Huthchins, Nick Krasowski, Joseph Riddell, Ashley Sawyer, Derek Wheeler, Coleen Boutell, and Francisco Carra.** *All As and Bs except one measly C:* **Ashley Butterworth, Kelly Frazier, Tyler Tisdale and Alisha Linnus,**

Athol High: *Straight As:* **Christine Sawyer, MacKenzie Bennett and Patrick Scribner.** *All As and Bs:* **Ashley Bergquist, Dan Vaccari, Ellee Bronnes, Ashley Campose, Rhetta Guimond, Andrew Martioski, Mieka Melbourne, Nicole Tourigny, Sofia Brighenti, Justin Cascone, Chet Hall, Marrison Kellner, Kim Thompson, Alyssa Bergquist, Catie Brighenti, and Hillary Whitcomb**

AHS John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients: Congratulations to **Stephanie Campos, Dan Vaccari, Dustin Short, Brett Jeffery, and Ashley Bergquist.** Based on their scores on the 10th grade MCAS exams they are eligible for 8 semesters of free tuition at Massachusetts state universities and colleges.

Allen Young of Butterworth Road, author of "North of Quabbin Revisited," recently accepted two speaking engagements. At the Nov. 4 alternative energy fair at Athol Town Hall, organized by a local energy task force, he gave a presentation on the use of the Millers River to generate electric power, past, present and future. On Nov. 6, at a Holyoke Community College class on the 1960s, he spoke about the counter-culture and communal living, focusing on his personal experiences.

Heather Lively has committed to attend the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, which is a Division I school in volleyball. She will be playing volleyball for the Fightin' Blue Hens in the competitive Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). Heather plans to major in health sciences. She is the daughter of Ken and Andrea Lively and will graduate from Pioneer Valley Regional School in 2007



Village School Open House

The Village School is holding an Open House on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 to noon. This is an opportunity to see classrooms, meet teachers and talk to current parents and students. From 10 to 11:30 a.m. there will be arts and crafts projects and science activities for children in all the classrooms. At 11:45, everyone will gather together to meet with school director Risa Richardson. Refreshments will be served.

The Village School is an independent school serving preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1-6. The school has a unique curriculum based on direct contact with the natural world, kindness, and attention to the individual. Children collaborate, excitedly share new ideas, and support each other's learning. The Village School is located on the Common in Royalston, off Route 68, in the old brick Raymond School building. For more information, call (978) 249-3505, or go to www.villageschool.to

Director Risa Richardson says, "The school is a grass roots response to the need for variety in education in the North Quabbin area. We started in 1989 as a small preschool, and now we have 56 children spanning preschool through the 6th grade. We do not use textbooks; we are a hands on school where learning is exciting. Students work with scientists and experts in their fields to gain direct experience. Above all, we are a learning community where students are treasured for their unique contribution to the class.

Community Welcome at Village School Contra Dance

Come to the Royalston Town Hall on Saturday evening, January 13 for a Potluck and Contradance for families. Potluck begins at 5:00. Bring Italian food in a casserole. Dancing begins at 6:00. Contradances will be called by Norah Dooley, and music will be played by the No Name Band. Donations are accepted to pay the band. Let's dance those winter blahs away. Hosted by the Village School Parents Group.



Scholarships for Royalston Students

Graduating high school seniors should, prior to the holiday break, obtain a list of scholarships from their schools' guidance offices. Many of these applications require essays that are best written during the holiday break, and without the added pressure of classes, and quite a few will have deadlines early in the New Year.

Anyone who knows of a good resource for scholarships for Royalston's graduating seniors, home schoolers and adults returning to college, is asked to inform the RCN. Resources will be posted over the next few months so all eligible students can apply.

Royalston Community School Update

The season of giving: RCS is collecting international phone cards to distribute to US soldiers in Iraq, who are very far from home this holiday. The cards will be sent to Nicholas Hains, currently serving in the Air Force in southern Iraq and the son of RCS 3rd grade teacher, Mr. Frank Hains. Nick will distribute the cards to soldiers stationed at this location. Donated cards will be sent out Dec. 12. Call 249-2900 with questions.

Upcoming important RCS dates:

- After School Basketball Program --- 12/7, 12/21, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25
- Progress reports ---12/8
- Toy Bingo -----12/8
- PTG meeting ----- 12/12
- Holiday Concert -----12/13
- Christmas Break ----- 12/25 - 12/29
- Noon dismissal ----- 1/12
- Martin Luther King's Birthday---1/15
- Story- telling Night ---- 1/26

RCS Poetry Club

GOODY GOODY
TWO SHOES
I am a good girl.
Teacher's delight

BAD GIRL

I am a bad girl.
I'll put up a fight.

I don't misbehave.

I can hardly behave.

Misbehave is not in my vocabulary.

Misbehave is my middle name.

I'm as quiet as a mouse.

I'm as loud as a haunted house.

Hey, can I borrow your slingshot?

Can I borrow your dolls?



Michele Thompson /
Darion James

The Word of the Month

The Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston has been providing collations after funerals for 182 years, but just what is a "collation"? This month we're trying out a new column here at the Royalston Community Newsletter. If readers know of an uncommon word in current use with a Royalston connection, sent it along and we'll try to define it in the newsletter.

Collation (ko-la'shen) (n.) A light meal. Entered Middle English from Latin *collatio*, a bringing together and from the tradition in Benedictine Monasteries of reading from Cassian's *Collationes Patrium* (*Lives of Our Fathers*) before taking a light meal on fast days.

Holiday Plans at the Post Office:

Mail Letters to Santa at Royalston Post Office: Epistles to the elves, missives to Mrs. Claus, recommendations to Rudolph, and salutations (and solicitations) to Santa can be sent via the Royalston Community Post Office. Just deliver them during office hours or put in the box outside. Include a return address and mail by Weds, 12/20 so Santa has time to write back. See postmistress Pam Caranfa at the Post Office for more information.

Santa to visit PO during holiday open house: Also, if a letter won't do and/or the deadline has passed, Santa will be at the Post Office on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 9 - 10 am to lean his ear your way and pose for polaroids. (The photos cost \$5 with profits benefiting the Village Improvement and Historical Society.)

All Saturday morning, from 8 - 11 am, on Dec. 23, stop by the PO to **pick up some good cheer and a slice of gingerbread** during the annual holiday open house. (The post office is located at the head of the common on the way to the transfer station.)

Royalston Fish & Game Club News

Members are reminded that the **Annual Meeting and Children's Christmas Party** are being held on Sunday, December 10 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively. So that every child receives a present, reservations must be made in advance.

Those who wish to support the F&G might like to buy a \$10 ticket for the **42" HD Plasma TV Superbowl Raffle**. Tickets are available at the Club or the general store.

The Club will host one of their ever-popular **Roast Beef Dinners** in January, on a date to be announced. Tickets sell out in a heartbeat, so reserve your seat now. January also sees the annual **Pitch Tournaments**. Call 978-249-3004 for more info on these events.

Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Turns 50

Peter Kraniak

On December 10th at 2PM, Bishop Robert J. McManus of the Diocese of Worcester will concelebrate at Mass in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Heaven in South Royalston. In 1956 Bishop, later Cardinal, Wright granted permission for a small church to be built in South Royalston. Richard and Frances Lawrence donated the land the Chapel occupies and construction was completed in time for the dedication which took place on December 8, 1956.

The Chapel has served the community of Royalston since that beginning 50 years ago. After the Mass, a catered buffet supper will be held at the Royalston Community School.

Congregational Churches News

Second Congregational Church members report this was their best mini fair ever, with many new faces, and rave reviews about the quantity and quality of items up for grabs. The baked goods table and all those Swedish meatballs sold out. Banner sales were recorded at the white elephant and Chinese auction tables. The profit exceeded last year's income by a considerable amount, a handy cushion to help celebrate the hundredth year the church has been in operation.



l-r Tyler Couture buying baked goods from Gertrude Parnanen and Lillie Dobson at the recent Jingle Bell Fair



Beauties and the Beast

Monster Mash

The recent annual Town Halloween Party, sponsored by the Police Department, was a graveyard smash; even the weather cooperated by offering ominous gloom and pouring rain. Many hands (and other body parts) were essential to the event's success. Thanks go to the police, the omnipotent sisters Laurie Deveneau and Nancy Melbourne, as well as Tinkerbell and all the other kindly sprites who ran the games. The haunted spook walk owes its soul to the hard work of Noah Siegel as well as the Favereau, Robinson, Hall and Chase-Gospodarek families. The spooks, members of the ARMS soccer and football teams, Ryan and Meredith Carrier, Abby Stowell, Rene Lake, Samantha Hutchins and many others, were wonderously frightful.

Reminder: It's shotgun deer hunting season through December 9th. Wear orange and use caution in the woods. No hunting on Sunday. Licensed hunting permitted an hour before sunrise and an hour after sunset.

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Beth Gospodarek

Thinking about holiday stuff: the presents, ribbons, wrappings, tags, tinsel, trimmings and trappings, likely to enter my small, already crowded house this month makes me grateful for fungi. I need all the decomposers I can get.

Walk in the winter woods and thank fungi that you don't have to scramble over every tree that ever fell in the forest (whether anyone heard it or not). Notice the hard fungi in shapes like turkey tails, horse hooves, artists pallets or varnished shelves growing on toppled trees. These are important decomposers in local ecosystems because they break down and recycle the dead tree's nutrients over long periods of time, usually decades.

Biotechnologists are very interested in the ways fungi help rot wood. Some fungi break down the white part of the wood (cellulose) and others break down the brown (lignin). Cellulose forms the primary cell wall in all plants. Lignin is a second reinforcing wall inside the primary wall on woody plants. Enzymes from lignin-degrading fungi have the potential to be used instead of polluting bleaches in the commercial paper making process to dissolve the brown parts of wood pulp. Similarly, lignin degrading bacteria could possibly be used to degrade some toxic wastes, such as PCBs, PCPs and TNT. Both paper processing and toxic clean up using fungi have worked very well in laboratories, but so far, there have been problems scaling up. (Compare this to sailing in the bathtub and then, in the ocean.) Nonetheless, there is enormous potential.

Make a resolution to be more like a fungus in the new year... a patient part of the community, recycling and reusing resources for the common long-term good.

Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Early on Saturday December 16, teams meet at Cinnamon's Restaurant (491 Main Street in Athol); they leave by 7 am, so arrive by 6:30 if you plan to eat. Later, help tally the species and enjoy a pot luck supper at 4:30 pm at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street Athol. Please contact Dave Small Dave@dhsml.net or 978-413-1772 in advance and so that teams can set up. For those who'd like to participate by looking out their windows, feeder watchers may call in their day's sightings anytime on Saturday December 17th to 978-249-9491. Please leave a message including address where birds were observed and return phone #.

Wildlife Sightings

Mice, and lots of them, are reported entering kitchens and scampering through walls in unusually brazen and populous platoons this fall.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

Yeah, we've had a couple of readings in the low to mid 20s, but none of the day-in-day-out stuff that chills the bones, hardens the ground, puts an end to the use of hoses to water the animals, and obliges us to fire up the wood furnace. Spots of garden green remain, in spite of our first deer incursion in as long as I can remember. None of what they are eating is critical to our well-being, but none of it is critical to their well-being either, so I just as soon they'd move on.

I have been harvesting the fall crops at my leisure, a marked departure from prior years when it was a frenetic, last minute undertaking, digging up and hauling in many hundreds of pounds of vegetables at one time. Most of the cabbage is in the root cellar but there are many more in the ground still growing. Remember those cabbage seedlings retrieved from a dumpster in early August? Two more weeks of moderate temperatures and I'll have a couple dozen more two pound heads. Celery, of all things, is hanging in as well. I cut individual stalks from plants and they continue to send up new ones from the base. I fully intend to harvest fresh celery for Thanksgiving stuffing, the first time I have accomplished this feat. The deer are leaving the leeks alone and so am I. Leeks vary in their resistance to frost and I'm growing a fairly hardy one. When those weather people start talking about high teens, I'll bring them in (though those left behind invariably survive the winter). I had notions to leave the beets and last bed of carrots in the ground 'til more dire forecasts, but the deer put an end to them. The carrots and beets are dug. The spinach, parsley, and kale are shared with the deer.

Composting. There are entire books written on the subject. I'm from the let-nature-perform-the-task school of composting. It takes nature two years. I've recently started my fall pile. Overwhelmingly it is composed of garden residue (all those stalks and roots from all those plants) supplemented with generous amounts of the weeds which have begun to creep in from the edges of the garden. I'll top it all off with cleanings from the stalls and hen house, barn sweepings, and some of my unending supply of wood ashes and pay it no mind till next fall. Last year's pile is churned a bit, but just a bit, the coarsest stuff removed and thrown onto the just-created pile. The pile from two autumns' ago is ready for use. Leaf piles abound, again in varying states of completion. I suspect a few more will develop before rake season comes to an end. Each is situated right close to a garden site, minimizing the length the wheelbarrow must wheel.

My wheelbarrow is a wonderful tool. It is a rare day that does not find me bonding with it. Me and my wheelbarrow, we remove garden wastes and return with finished compost. We haul green leafy stuff to the cows, transport rocks and stones to holes in the pig-rooted pastures, and perform a variety of other tasks. Maybe, just maybe, we'll rest a bit in December.

So much depends
upon a red wheel
barrow,
glazed with rain
water,
beside the white
chickens.

William Carlos Williams

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The Friends would like to acknowledge the continued generosity of the Fieldstone Press in donating the printing costs of this newsletter. Recently, Fieldstone has begun to donate labeling and sorting services as well. The money saved in these printing costs is earmarked for "Beyond the Box", technology purchases. In November, the Friends purchased a sorely needed new photocopy machine and digital camera thanks to this Beyond the Box funding. Copies are still 10 cents a piece for the public, but now they won't constantly jam up in the machine. The camera will be used for publicity and documentation. Check out the web-site: www.royalstonlibrary.org for examples of the new camera's efficacy.

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