

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2010



Volume XII, Issue III

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

## Calendar of Events

April 1 Thursday

**April Fools' Day**

3:30 - 4:30 pm **Cross Culture Club visits Bosnia** with Athol High School exchange student and musician Edin Huljdek. Food, fun and culture for free. RCS kids can take the bus to the library with a note.

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

April 2nd Friday

7 pm **Good Friday "Healing" Service** at FCCR

7 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall. Sign up for a time slot with Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arrive by 6:30 p.m. Free admission and delicious food on sale.

April 3 Saturday

10 am **Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting** All welcome. Free. Want to help? Donations of candy or cash can be left at the town library or SoRo store. Call 978-249-4639 to volunteer time.

April 4 Easter Sunday

9 am **Special Easter Morning Service** 2nd Congregational Church in So. Royalston and 11:00 am at First Congregational Church in the center.

April 5 Monday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Annual Town Election.** Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common; Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

April 8 Thursday

3:30 pm **Cross Culture Club visits Italy with Patrizia DeLibero Brown.** Food, fun and culture for free. RCS kids can take the bus to the library with a note.

April 9 Friday

5 p.m. **Fish Fryday** at the Winchendon Rod & Gun

April 11 - 17 **National Library Week**

April 11 Sunday

3-5 pm. **Village School Student Art Show Opening** at the Gardner Ale House. All the students have original artwork on display until the end of April.

April 14 Wednesday

8:29 a.m. **New Pink Moon**

April 16 Friday

6:30 pm **Historical Society's Pot Luck Supper and Quarterly Meeting.** at the home of the president, Peter Kraniak, on the corner of Winchendon and Stone Roads. All welcome.

April 15 Thursday

3:30 pm **Cross Culture Club visits China** with student Yi Chi. Food, fun and culture for free. RCS kids can take the bus to the library with a note.

April 16 Friday

**School Spring Vacations** begin at close of school today

7:30 p.m. **Village Improvement & Historical Society quarterly meeting** – contact Peter Kraniak at 978-249-7625 for details. Anyone interested in town history is encouraged to attend.

April 17 Saturday

6:30 pm **Royalston F&G Roast Beef Supper.** \$10/ticket. Contact Vice President Clayton Holmes at 978-249-4281.

April 22 Thursday **Earth Day**

Begun in 1970 through the efforts of U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) to "inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth's environment."

April 23 Friday

6:30 p.m. **National Poetry Month Celebration** at Bruce's Browser, Main St. Athol. Hosted by Sharon Harmon with featured poets: Sharon A. Harmon, Paul Tortorella, and Michael Young of Royalston. come to listen or bring verse to read.

2 pm **Kite Flying Day** at the library. Enjoy Earth Day activities, kite flying and kite cake. Free. Kites provided.

April 25 Saturday

9 am - noon **Town Roadside Clean-up.**

Join your neighbors in picking up the litter on your street (or another); bring it to the transfer station for recycling or disposal. Cook-out to follow. Contact Charlie Scribner at 249-2649 with questions

April 28 Wednesday

8:18 a.m. **Full Pink Moon**

May 5 Wednesday **May Day Celebration**

On Wednesday May 5, at 9:00 a.m., the Village School will host an old fashioned May Day celebration. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing.





### Board of Selectmen's Corner

**Community Linking:** Selectman Linda Alger has been leading our effort to join forces with neighboring towns to take advantage of combined purchasing power and help with services. This community linking project, led by the Athol Board of Selectmen, is spawning discussions ranging

from group bidding/purchasing to police mutual aid agreements.

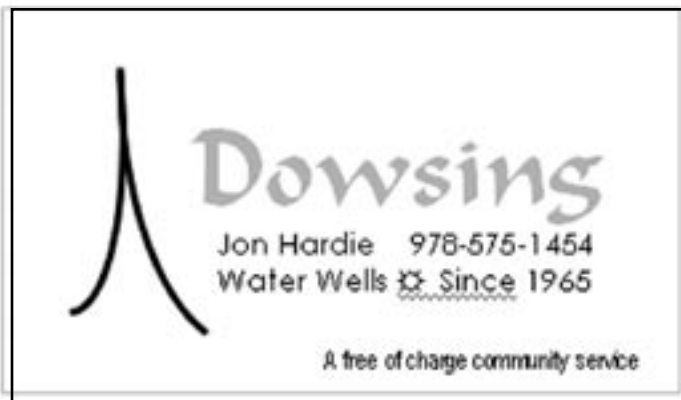
**Volunteer Openings:** Several members of various town boards have resigned recently as their life opportunities shifted. We are very sad to see them go. Our town's core functions work because of volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year by stepping up to give something back to the community. We currently have openings on the Cemetery Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic District Commission, and the Sewer Commission. If you are interested or just want to find out more details, call the Selectmen's Office 978-249-9641.

**Accountant Position:** The Board of Selectmen is seeking candidates for Town Accountant. Accounting experience is preferred. Deadline for applications is April 13. Send resume and cover letter to PO Box 125, Royalston, MA 01368 or call 978-249-9641 for more information.

**Route 32:** The construction company hired for the project, E.H. Perkins, currently plans to start construction in mid-April. Watch the town website for a proposed schedule.

**Special Town Meeting:** There will be a Special Town Meeting on April 1, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. There are two articles. The first will transfer \$11,000 from stabilization to reduce the tax rate. This has been an annual event recently as the Town income has fluctuated from year to year. The second article deals with income generated by the fire department. When a department receives fees or payments, that department cannot use the money until it is officially transferred from the General fund to that department. This article asks to transfer \$2,000. See the warrant at [www.royalston-ma.gov](http://www.royalston-ma.gov)

**Annual Town Meeting:** The Annual Town Meeting will be held May 7, 2010 at the Town Hall. The warrant is being developed and will be posted mid-April.



### Office of the Town Clerk

*Melanie A. Mangum*

*P.O. Box 127, Royalston, MA 01368*

*Phone: 978-249-0493; Fax 978-575-0748*

*e-mail: [townclerk@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@royalston-ma.gov)*

### Annual Town Election – April 5, 2010

The Annual Town Election will be held Monday, April 5, 2010. Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common; Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

The following are the list of positions/candidates on the ballot:

Selectman – 3 years – John W. Morse III

Town Clerk – 3 years – Melanie A. Mangum

Board of Health – 3 years – Chester H. Hall, III

Sewer Commissioner – 3 years – Curtis A. Deveneau

Constable – 3 years – John M. Divoll

Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Roland G. Hamel

Library Trustee – 3 years – Mary Lisa Freden

Planning Board – 5 years – Kimberly N. MacPhee

Assessor – 3 years – No candidate

Cemetery Commissioner – 3 years – No candidate

Athol-Royalston Reg. School Com - ROYALSTON. – 1 year  
– Nancy Melbourne

Athol-Royalston Reg. School Com. – ROYALSTON -3 years  
– Chester H. Hall, III

Athol-Royalston Reg. School Com. – ATHOL - 3 years VOTE FOR THREE

Joseph F. Maga

Steven Kaczmarczyk

Dale H. Lougee

Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund – 1 year – VOTE FOR FOUR

Roland G. Hamel

Roy A. Smith, Jr.

No candidate

No candidate

### Royalston Roadside Cleanup

April 24, 2010 - 9:00 to 12:00

Bullock Park - Checkpoint Charlie

Charlie Scribner is organizing the 2010 Royalston Roadside Cleanup. Join your friends and neighbors. This is an annual Earth Day event that serves our local community by removing litter from the streets and roads of Royalston.

Volunteer to clean up your neighborhood or join a team to clean up one of the major roads in Royalston. Dress for the weather, wear a reflective jacket and bring gloves. Trash bags and boxes for recycling will be provided. Separate items such as cans, bottles, and large metal objects (if possible) for recycling.

A cookout of hotdogs and chili will be served at the end of the event. Contact Charlie Scribner at 978-249-2649 with questions. Donations welcome.

## Royalston Historical Society

April 16th will be the Historical Society's Pot Luck Supper and meeting. We would invite anyone who is interested in preserving the history of our town to join us that evening; bring a favorite dish. The supper will start at 6:30 PM followed by our meeting. It will be held at the home of the president, Peter Kraniak, on the corner of Winchendon and Stone Roads. Requirements for membership are not great. Only a love of history and preserving what we have along with williness to be a part of this organization We hope to see you there.

## A Scrap for the Scrapbook:

### Royalston Man Took on Jesse and Frank James Gang

*Sonia Vaccari was chatting with David and Shirley Putney recently and was told this story of Joseph Lee Heywood, a son a North Fitzwilliam Rd, who was instrumental in bringing down the James-Younger Gang. Here is the story as gleaned from Sonia, David and Wikipedia:*



Way back when, an old house stood where David and Shirley Putney live today. It was owned by the Heywood family. In 1837, a son, Joseph Lee, the the sixth of seven children born to Benjamin Heywood and Sarah Cutler, was born. As a young man, Joseph left to work in Fitchburg and then moved west to Iowa, where he enlisted in the Union Army at the age of 25.

In the Civil War, he had a hellish time. He fought in the battles of Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post, where "The earth was literally blue from one end of their line to the other," according to one Confederate participant. He marched through disease-infested parts of Mississippi and became very ill. During the Battle of Vicksburg, Joseph was hospitalized, along with 400 other members of his regiment. His initial diagnosis was diarrhea, one of the intestinal disorders that accounted for 50% of the disease deaths during the Civil War. Upon his recovery, he worked as an attendant in the Cumberland Hospital for the remainder of the war.

Heywood eventually moved to Northfield, Minnesota, where he worked as an assistant cashier at the First National Bank of Northfield. On September 7, 1876, three members of the James-Younger Gang, including Jesse and Frank James and the three Younger brothers, entered the bank and discovered Heywood and two other employees. The outlaws immediately pulled their guns and aimed. Heywood was ordered to open the safe, located in the vault. Heywood refused. When a gang member began to go into vault, Heywood threw himself against the vault door and attempted to lock the outlaw inside. The outlaw managed to get out of the safe, but his arm and hand had seriously bruised. Heywood was knocked to the floor with a pistol butt. The outlaw approached the dazed

## Luncheon Club and COA

Friends and neighbors get together at the town hall for a hot lunch and good company each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meals are \$2 for seniors and \$2.50 for pre-seniors. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal. Groceries to take home are distributed as well.

Heywood and placed a pocket knife against his neck. Although terrified, Heywood reportedly replied that the outlaw would need to slit his throat, since Heywood could not open the safe. In anger and frustration, the outlaw made a slight gash on Heywood's neck, then dragged him to his feet. Meanwhile, another outlaw was stuffing available bills into a grain sack. Again, Heywood was ordered to open the safe at gunpoint. Heywood finally lied that there was a chronometer (time lock) on the safe and it could not be opened. (There was a chronometer, but it had not been set)

By this time, the citizens of Northfield had discovered the bank robbery in progress. Out on the street, a pitched gun battle was underway. Within minutes, two of the gang members on the streets had been killed and others were seriously wounded. Gang member Cole Younger rode his horse to the bank and screamed for the others to come out. The outlaws ran outside with the bag of money. One noticed Heywood trying to stand. He went back, placed his pistol to Heywood's head and fired, killing him, and then left the bank. The gang members rode out of town, but were pursued. Cole Younger was captured two days later.

The gang members managed to take only US\$26.70. The bank reportedly held over US\$12,000 at the time of robbery. At that time, there was no FDIC, so when money was stolen, it was lost forever. The community was very grateful for Heywood's heroics. A collection worth 1.5 million in today's dollars was presented to his wife and daughter. A stained glass window was installed in the local Congregational church, and a memorial plaque at Carleton College, where he had been a trustee, reads, "A man modest, true, gentle; diligent in business; conscientious in duty; a citizen benevolent and honorable; towards God reverent and loyal; who, while defending his trust as a bank officer, fearlessly met death at the hands of armed robbers, in Northfield, Sept. 7, 1876."

In 1948, the town of Northfield founded the Defeat of Jesse James Days to honor the heroism of its citizenry including Joseph Lee Heywood, a son of Royalston. It has become one of the largest celebrations in Minnesota.



# Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

## Thank you

Jess Willhite, Bill Manser, Diana Newton, and Virginia Moore for book donations

Tom Musco for movie donations

Bernard Gronowicz for a magazine subscription

Elizabeth Farnsworth for a wonderful Cross Culture Club presentation

Royalston Cultural Council for funding the geology program with Richard Little

Patrizia DeLibero Brown for a heart-felt and wonderful *Sacred Places* program and to Maureen Blasco, Maba Cauthen, and Patti Stanko for delicious refreshments.

## Donations to the Friends

Pat and Vyto Andreliunas      Raeann LeBlanc  
Gertrude Parnanen              Lian and Bill Cutting

## Art Exhibit Continues

Liane Brandon's behind the scenes photographs from the production of *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women* will be on exhibit through the end of April and then again at the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture with Harriet Reisen, author of the book, and Nancy Porter, co-producer with Reisen of the film.

During May and June there will be a student art show with Village School student art in May and Royalston Community School student art in June.

## Kite Flying – Earth Day Celebration

Join folks on Thursday April 22nd at 2:00 pm at the library for a fun day of kite flying, Earth Day events, and kite cake. Beth Gospodarek will again ably get those kites aloft while others help with special Earth Day projects around the library. To volunteer to help, call the library.



## Cross Culture Club 2010 Continues

Q: What do Bosnia, Italy and China have in common?

A: They are all the subject of presentations being held at the library this month.

Find out about the world without leaving Royalston. On the first three Thursdays in April from 3:30 - 4:30 pm, people from our local community who were born in other countries will show and tell about daily life, songs, games, language, food and places of interest in their homelands. The programs are geared for elementary school aged kids, but all are welcome. With prior notice and a permission note, RCS students can take the bus directly to the library.



April 1 **Bosnia** with Athol High School exchange student and musician Edin Huljdek.

April 8 **Italy** with Patrizia DeLibero, a noble Roman

April 15 **China** with recent immigrant Yi Chi, an Athol High School student.

## Pat Poor Memorial Fund

### Book/Film Program on Louisa May Alcott in May

On Friday, May 14th at 7:00 pm at the Royalston Town Hall, author and co-producer Harriet Reisen, co-producer Nancy Porter, Director of Photography Boyd Estus, and Still Photographer Liane Brandon will present a program on Louisa May Alcott. Reisen is the author of the book *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women* and is co-producer with Nancy Porter of the documentary of the same name. Royalston part-time residents, Boyd Estus and Liane Brandon, were the Director of Photography and Still Photographer and chronicler of the 'behind the scenes' photographs, respectively, for the film. The Friends of the Library will provide delicious refreshments for what promises to be an incredible event. Look for more details in next months newsletter, on the website, and at the library.

## New Materials April 2010

### Adult Fiction

Banville, John *The Infinities*  
 Brundage, Elizabeth *Somebody Else's Daughter*  
 Carmichael, Kathy *Diary of a Confessions Queen*  
 Conroy, Robert *Red Inferno, 1945*  
 Fisher, Karen *A Sudden Country*  
 Green, Tim *False Convictions*  
 Greene, Amy *Bloodroot*  
 Harper, Karen *Down River*  
 Harris, Charlaine *A Touch of Dead*  
 Harris, Charlaine *Dead and Gone*  
 Hart, Erin *False Mermaid*  
 Haslett, Adam *Union Atlantic*  
 Hooper, Kay *Blood Ties*  
 Lipsyte, Sam *The Ask*  
 Mankell, Henning *The Man from Beijing*  
 Mawer, Simon *The Glass Room*  
 McCall Smith, Alexander *Love Over Scotland*  
 Palmer, Michael *The Last Surgeon*  
 Parker, Robert B. *Split Image*  
 Picoult, Jodi *House Rules*  
 Richmond, Michelle *The Year of Fog*  
 Rivers, Francine *Her Mother's Hope*  
 Robb, J.D. *Fantasy in Death*  
 Scottoline, Lisa *Think Twice*  
 Shafak, Elif *The Forty Rules of Love*  
 Spragg, Mark *Bone Fire*  
 Stabenow, Dana *A Night Too Dark*  
 Steel, Danielle *Big Girl*  
 Trigiani, Adriana *Brava, Valentine*  
 White, Randy *Deep Shadow*

### Adult Non-Fiction

Beck, Glenn *Glenn Beck's Common Sense*  
 Berry, Wendell *Imagination in Place*  
 Chenoweth, Avery *Semper Fi*  
 Holm, Johanna *Barron's GED Math Workbook*  
 Kirby, David *Animal Factory*  
 Little, Richard *Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents*  
 Sehlinger, Bob *Unofficial guide to Disney World 2010*  
 Shelby, Scott *Flawless*  
 Stewart, Martha *Martha Stewart's Cookies*  
 Stewart, Martha *Martha Stewart's Cupcakes*  
 Van Slyke, Caren *GED*

### Children's Fiction

Hays, Anna *Spring Surprises*  
 Iggulden, Conn *Tollins*  
 Johnson, Dinah *Black Magic*  
 Kahn, Rukhsana *Big Red Lollipop*  
 Leck, James *The Adventures of Jack Lime*  
 Macken, JoAnn *Waiting out the Storm*  
 McDonald, Megan *Stink: Solar System Superhero*  
 Novick, Mary *Pop-up Numbers*  
 O'Connor, Jane *Everyday is Earth Day*  
 Resau, Laura *Star in the Forest*  
 Schlitz, Laura *The Night Fairy*  
 Stewart, Paul *Barnaby Grimes*  
 Watson, Clyde *Valentine Foxes*  
 Willems, Mo *Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly!*

### Children's Non-Fiction

Aronson, Marc *If Stones could Speak*  
 Kim, F.S. *Constellations*  
 Morley, Jacqueline *Shakespeare's Theater*  
 Pinkney, Andrea *Sit-in*  
 Sheehan, Sean *Lebanon*  
 Shelton, Paula *Child of the Civil Rights Movement*  
 Shiga, Jason *Meanwhile*  
 Singer, Marilyn *Mirror Mirror*  
 Spangenburg, Ray *Georgia O'Keefe*  
 Tavares, Matt *Henry Aaron's Dream*  
 Than, Ker *Stars*  
 Trammel, Howard *The Solar System*  
 Yolen, Jane *All-Star!*

### Young Adult Fiction

Draper, Sharon *Out of My Mind*  
 Ensler, Eve *I am an Emotional Creature*  
 Fisher, Catherine *Incarceron*  
 Harrison, Lisi *These Boots are made for Stalking*  
 McCormick, Patricia *Sold*  
 Nix, Garth *Lord Sunday*  
 Petterson, James *Fang*  
 Smith, L.J. *Shadow Souls*  
 Wood, Mary Rose *The Mysterious Howling*

### Young Adult Non-Fiction

Bowers, Rick *The Spies of Mississippi*



## Resident Recommended Reading

### Olive Kitteridge

by Elizabeth Strout  
 One might think that the Pulitzer Prize winning Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout, set in a fictional small town in Maine, is the quintessential New England novel..... were it not for the fact that it is not a novel in the usual sense and it is about the human condition and ordinary people everywhere.

Ms. Strout uses the term 'quotidian lives' in a few of her stories (yes, each chapter is a different story revolving around the central character, Olive Kitteridge, who appears and reappears as a protagonist or merely a minor player) and Ms. Strout's true gift is in capturing the quotidian in the lives of the people in Crosby, Maine, with such veracity, humor and depth. The stories are filled with the ironies of real life that we all face.

I recommend it highly.

Alyce Mayo

### DVDs

2012, AM & PM Yoga for Beginners, Capitalism, Hachi, In the Loop, Inside Man, Law Abiding Citizen, Old Dogs, Pontiac Moon, Ponyo, Pre-

In the Middle of Nowhere: "Running Late"



By: Megan Wessels



*April is the cruelest month. so why not plan to enjoy some blues?*

### Blues Night

Saturday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall. This years fest features Otomatic Slim, and local favorites Mel and the Blue Shots. Tickets are \$10 to benefit the Music Fest and the Royalston Academy Scholarship Fund.



OTTOMATIC SLIM stirs up the blues with a splash of R&B and a twist of rock. The band

takes pride in always providing a top-notch show of high-energy - hycutting edge, electric-blues. For years, frontman and harp player Otto Lenz and guitarist Scotty Monette have been lighting up the Northeast and Canadian blues scene with their explosive performances. Rhythm section is provided by music veteran Doug Plavin on drums and Matt McManamon on bass. For tickets, call Lorraine Casinghino at 978-249-5151. Seating is limited to 90 so act now!

### Opportunities to Obsess

Sandra Brusso of Laurel Lake Rd and her band **Obsession** are playing on April 10th, 9 p.m.until 1 a.m. at the 3gs Sport Bar on Millbury Street in Worcester and locally at the Corner Pub in Athol on April 17th (Saturday night from 8: 30pm until 12:30 am).

**Open Mic Night concludes its eighth season** on Friday, April 2. Come at 7 p.m. to enjoy the finale, an unofficial end to winter. Contact Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 to schedule stage time or arrive between 6:30 – 6:45 p.m. Open Mic Nights resume in November.

### Make a May Basket

*North Quabbin Garden Club, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331  
May Baskets, Thursday, April 15, 2010, 7 p.m.*

Salute the joy of spring by making a whimsical May basket - a surprise gift of flowers, sweets and a poem to be left unannounced on a friend's doorstep on May 1st. Materials will be supplied, but you are encouraged to bring tidbits to personalize your own basket or to share with others - used baskets, ribbons, pipe cleaners, yarns, birchbark, cloth, wrapping papers. Also bring a stapler, needle and thread, gluestick, and scissors, as well as a favorite poem and your creative juices. Member Clare Green, who has been sharing her love of flowers with community and friends for years, will be guiding us in our creations. Guests and new members are always welcome in the garden club, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

## Signs of Spring

### Calling All Potential Morris Men

May Day calls to young men to leap and dance and welcome Spring. The Millers River Morris Men are practicing at Camp Caravan at 5:00 pm on Mondays. Any able bodied men from the age of 14 to 80+ are welcome to come and learn the dances. For more information, call the Village School at 249-3505.

### Poetry Event

Please join local poets for a large poetry extravaganza in honor of National Poetry Month.

Time 6:30 p.m. Date: April 23, Friday

Place : Bruce's Browser: Main Street, Athol

Hosted by Sharon Harmon with featured poets: Sharon A. Harmon , Paul Tortorella, and Michael Young of Royalston, as well as Candee Curran and Paula Botch of Orange and BG Thurston of Warwick. Followed by open mic. If you are a beginning poet or a seasoned one please bring 2-3 poems to read. This is a free event sponsored by Diane Lincoln and free to the public.

### RCS Poetry Club

Crystal clear wings  
Harmless dipping dragonfly  
Orange meadow flver

Pretty blue morpho  
Fluttering on my pink shirt  
Quickly flaps its wings

Red and black lady  
Tiny, cute, dotted bug  
Crawling bird morsel



*By Poetry Group 1: Molly Divoll, Jocelyn & Julianne Trenga, Aliyah & Tayiah Neale, Ashley Hadmack. Alexia Clapper, Kevin O'Connor, Gabriel Dawson, Ava LeBlanc, Abigail Divoll, advisor*

### Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting on April 3

Don't forget the Royalston Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3. It will be held at the Royalston Town Hall, rain or shine. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a plastic bag or basket, marked with their names, suitable for collecting eggs.

The hunt itself will begin at 10:00 AM. More than 2000 eggs have been stuffed and will be in hiding spots throughout the Town Common. After the egg hunt, participants will return to the Town Hall where more than twenty pounds of melted chocolate will be available to mold into a variety of familiar shapes.

Rene' Lake-Gagliardi, event organizer, thanked the many supporters in the community, including the Royalston Cultural Council, for their help this year.

Those who would like to help on the day of the hunt may contact Rene' at 978-249-4639.



## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

### Congratulations to:

**Lian Cutting** who came in first in a half marathon (13.1 miles) in her category - those over 70 years of age.

**Aaron Ellison** of NE Fitzwilliam Rd who is mentioned on pgs 87-89 of the March 2010 *National Geographic Magazine* in an article with features amazing photographs of carnivorous plants.

**Royalston singer/songwriter Linq** (alias Diane Lincoln) has just been named Musical Artist of 2009 in the Pride In The Arts Music Awards presented by the Stonewall Society Network. The organization promotes worldwide human equality, especially within the GLBT community.

### Second quarter honor roll awards at Mony Tech:

**HIGH HONORS: Marquita Day, Michael Demboske, Amanda-Putney, Meredith Carrier, Michael Persson, Joshua Roberts, and Ian Duffin. HONORS: Chayna Campbell, Ryan Carrier, Amy Putney, Storm Easton, and Rebecca Paine**

**Grady MacPhee** made High Honor roll for the winter term at Cushing Academy.

**Welcome back:** Walter & Joyce Hubbard have returned from a cool winter in Tuscon, Arizona.

### Recipe of the Month

*Among the popular desserts at Ladies' Benevolent Society St. Patrick's Day suppers was a delicious pound cake contributed by member Deb Nunes, who hails from the Squire Davis Farm on Athol-Richmond Road. Perfect for breakfast or a mid-afternoon snack, it is a sought-after favorite (with or without the green coloring).*

### Deb Nune's Pound Cake

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour one tube pan or two loaf pans.

In a large mixer bowl, combine  
2 3/4 cups sugar      1 1/3 cups butter, softened  
5 eggs                      1 tsp. (real!) vanilla extract

Beat on low for one minute, then high for five minutes. Alternating wet and dry ingredients, beat in:  
8 oz. (not an entire can!) evaporated milk  
3 cups of flour, mixed together with  
1/4 tsp. salt and  
1 tsp. baking powder

Bake until wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 80 minutes for tube pan or 65 -70 minutes for loaf pans. Cool 10 - 15 minutes before removing from pan. Serves 24 and freezes well (if it lasts long enough to go in the freezer.)

## Obituary



**Roger L. "Snakeyes" Fernet**, 34, of 90 Athol Rd., died unexpectedly early Tuesday morning, March 23, 2010. Born in Greenfield on April 22, 1975, he was a son of Bruce and Gayle (Anderson) Fernet and grew up in Royalston.

Roger was involved in a motorcycle accident at the age of 16 and became disabled. However, he didn't let it slow him down and went on to get his GED. He later got a degree from Mount

Wachusett in drafting and also from Fitchburg State College.

Knowledgeable about computers, Roger spent countless hours working and repairing them. Roger also loved motorcycles, four wheelers and cars, and had also enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Survivors include his father and step-mother, Bruce Fernet and Jacklyn Gay of Royalston; his mother and step-father, Gayle and William Joyner of Florida; a sister, Cathy Jo Budry of Athol; step-brothers, Philip Gay of Royalston and Eddie Gay of Agawam; his paternal grandmother, Ann Fernet of Orange; maternal grandfather Ronald Anderson of Athol; his loving companion, Heather J. Sasseville of New Hampshire; and several nephews and nieces.

Roger was predeceased by a step-brother, Eric Gay in 1992 and his maternal grandmother Joan Anderson in 2006, his uncles George Fernet in 2007 and Michael Fernet in 2009, and cousins Christopher Fernet in 2001 and Dwight North in 2008.

Funeral services will be held on April 1, at 11 a.m. at Witty's Funeral Home in Orange. Interment will be in Jonas Alliene Cemetery, Royalston. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the Royalston Fire & Rescue, attn: James Putney, P.O. Box 53, Royalston, Mass. 01368.

### Military News

The 65th anniversary of the landing of Marines at Iwo Jima was commemorated in Boston recently with a parade and Statehouse ceremony. Monty Tech's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps' mounted color guard participated in the event with its coach, Brenda L. Putney, and rider Amy Putney. The contingent of more than two and a half dozen also included the Monty Tech JROTC Drill Team, as well as seven Marines representing the Marine Corps League's Pequoig (Athol) and North Central (Fitchburg) detachments.

## LADIES' B.

*Mary C. Barclay*

The Ladies' B. served a full house for a St. Patrick's supper last month – more than 100 came to eat. Many offered rave reviews about the delicious corned beef from Adam's Farm, traditional boiled vegetables and homemade desserts. Greg Nystrom of Royalston enjoyed the luck of the Irish and went home with the pot of 100 gold presidential dollar coins. Nearly \$500 was added to the LBS treasury; this event's funds will go towards the final year of the Society's three year, \$6,000 commitment to the Village School Capital Campaign Fund.

By publication time, the Society will have hosted another Craft'n'Chat on March 31 – the next will be Wednesday, June 30 from 6-9 p.m. in the Town Hall. On April 28 at 7:30 p.m. Andrea L. Lively will host a business meeting, followed by guest speaker Elizabeth Farnsworth on the art and science of botanicals. Non-members interested in attending should RSVP with Mrs. Lively at 978-249-2705.

Sadly, after 16 years, the Society has decided to discontinue its annual blood donor day. It was decided that the increasingly difficult hurdles to meet ever-changing Red Cross standards for donation sites – increased square footage requirements, separation into different rooms or long distances necessary between intake stations, and air conditioned buildings for drives in May through September – make the event nearly impossible to hold during the months the Society is interested in running a blood drive. Royalston's Blood Donor Day began in 1995 in response to the April bombing in Oklahoma City. With more than 500 surviving the blast, there was a great drain on blood banks all over the country, as supplies were shifted to meet the need. Last year's Donor Day in Royalston was the best yet, with more than 50 units of usable blood and many turned away because there weren't enough beds for all who turned out.

2010 LBS Program Guides are now available. Non-members may obtain one by contacting [mbarclay@juno.com](mailto:mbarclay@juno.com) or 978-249-2598. Anyone interested in any program is invited to attend. New members welcomed any time of the year.

## Fish and Game Club Feeds

The final Royalston Rod & Gun Club roast beef supper for the 2009-2020 season is Saturday, April 17 at 6:30 pm. for a ticket, contact Clayton Holmes at 978-249-4281. He can put you on the list for one of the unsold, \$10 tickets-(a rarity, but it happens.) During open hours club reps can be reached at 249-3004.

Don't forget the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club monthly Fish Fry-day on the 2nd Friday of the month. Enjoy deep-fried haddock and shrimp, along with intermittent offerings such as chicken and scallops, accompanied by a heaping pile of fresh, hand-cut fries and cole slaw. Meals are in the \$14 - \$18 range, but are more than enough for two adults. Children are welcome and extra plates are free! There's a full range of beverages available. Serving from about 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., or when the food is gone. Call the Winchendon Club at 978-297-3955 for advance tickets, or arrive (earlier, rather than later!) to buy at the door.

## Easter Events at the Congregational Churches

*Pastor Jeff Francis*

With spring just around the corner and the temperature feeling alot more like summer there is the inner awareness that this is the season that we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. It must have been a frightening yet glorious morning when the disciples went to the tomb to see the body of their Lord and to their surprise there was no body to be found. The angel of the Lord declared "He is risen!" Over the past 2,000 years this same message has rung across nations and continents and small communities like Royalston, "He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!" As the old gospel hymn declares "Up From the Grave He Arose, a Mighty Victor ore' His Foes" we can take hope that one day we too will rise from this old earth and be joined together with those believers who have gone on before us!

With the excitement of Resurrection Morning upon us we would like to invite everyone to our first Good Friday Healing Service on April 2nd at 7:00 pm at FCCR. We will be having a night of reflection, worship, and communion as we join our faith together for the physical, emotional and spiritual healing of many within our community. This service is open to everyone and we encourage you to bring any that are physically ill or need to experience spiritual healing in their mind and emotions. We are hoping to see you there!

In addition, we are preparing for our Easter morning resurrection service on April 4th. All are invited as we worship our Resurrected Savior. There will be special musical selections, children's presentations and even a number on the pipe organ in the balcony. There will be a special Easter morning message shared by Pastor Jeffrey L. Francis. Come and join us as we celebrate with believers across America and the world the glorious gospel message, Jesus is Alive!

## South Royalston Church Playground Renovations

We are actively pursuing a renovation project in our South Church location and looking for help from the community. South Royalston has many children and a small park behind the church that unfortunately is in need of desperate repair. Our churches' leadership is in agreement that it is time for the necessary upgrades to the play area. If you are willing and able to help please send in your donations to the Second Congregational Church of Royalston and you will receive a tax receipt for your donation. Our plans are to have a new play area by the beginning of this summer. Thank you for your considerate support.





## What's Happening at the Village School

Rise Richardson

With the unusual warm weather, students have been enjoying recess, with soccer and kickball games popping up daily. The 4th-6th grade visits the MFA this month, both to see some of the paintings they have been studying and to take in the display of ancient Greek art and artifacts, as part of their year-long study of ancient Greece. The 2nd-3rd grade class visits the Pequot Museum as part of its year-long study of Native American culture. All the classes are visiting the Richardsons' farm in Phillipston for sugaring and lambing field trips. And if on a warm sunny day, you see a big circle of children on the front lawn of the school with teddy bears in their laps, then you have hit upon the annual Teddy Bear picnic.

*If you go out in the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise. If you go out in the woods today, you'd better go in disguise. For every bear that ever there was, will gather there for certain because today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic.*



**Tuesday April 27 Biodiversity Day** : Each class visits a local habitat including Lawrence Brook and Camp Caravan pond to survey the flora and fauna in that habitat. The classes visit the same habitats each year and keep a log of the species of plants and animals that they find. They record observations with drawings.

**Openings for the next school year at the Village School:** There are a few openings left in preschool. Call asap to visit. There are also openings in the 2nd-6th grade. Call 249-3505.

**Summer Programs for Children at the Village School:** Go to [www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to) to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 6 to July 23, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Summer Art Intensive for ages 8 and up, the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up, and Introduction to Suzuki Piano, ages 4 and up. Scholarships are available to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

**Study Group Opportunity:** The Village School was inspired in part by the educational approach of J G Bennett, an eminent 20th century philosopher and scientist. If you are interested in exploring the ideas of J.G. Bennett, in a study group that aims at putting his ideas into practice in everyday life, call Ana at 978 544 5225.

## Monty Tech News

The good news about this year's Monty Tech budget is it is up just one percent, and Royalston will see a bit less than \$5,000 increase from last year's budget. The bad news is the District has suffered another year of decreasing revenues – on the order of \$63,000 less than last year, which was already down significantly. Given the economy and how communities are already struggling to meet all of their usual expenses, the Monty Tech SchoolCom felt it was vital to pass along as little an increase as possible, while still keeping above the mandatory minimum school spending threshold. If no additional cuts are handed down, Monty Tech is just \$200,000 over that minimum.

As always, Monty Tech is taking full advantage of grant funding and any stimulus funding available; multi-job administrators take on increasing loads of work rather than hire replacements as others retire. Even with all of that, the administration has cut capital spending by \$150,000 (more than half of the 2010 figure) and is dipping into the reserve fund to the tune of more than \$481,000 to make up for yet another huge cut in Chapter 70 (transportation) funds.

To add perspective to the costs of educating students, the annual average cost of educating a comprehensive high school student in the Monty Tech District is about \$11,000. For a Monty Tech student, the cost is about \$16,000. In Massachusetts' voc-tech schools, the range of educating a student for a year is from \$15,463 to \$24,070. Monty Tech is doing its level best to keep costs in check. While no school district can continue under-spending much longer, Monty Tech's school committee and administration are hoping that the slowly improving economy will make it possible to restore some of the government funding over the next few years, allow for more realistic budget increases of thr□

## Royalston Community School Updates

Becky Divoll

April is busy at RCS. The RCS PTG will be running a spring fundraiser of World's Finest Chocolate \$1.00 candy bars. Also the annual River Rat Reading Race will be held in all grades. The whole school will be attending Theatre at the Mount on April 16th to see "Mulan" through much appreciated grants from the Royalston Cultural Council, the Athol Cultural Council, and the Mass. Cultural Council. Mrs. Deacon also purchased snow shoes for an afterschool snowshoeing club, which were funded by A-REF. Students were able to trek through the RCS Nature Trail once before the snow disappeared this year. The snow shoes will remain at the school to be used in years to come after-school and during gym class. Recently, Mary Carnie's poetry club held a "Hats for Haiti Day" and collected \$150.00 to send to the American Red Cross. The Student Council continues to faithfully recycle at the school and have started two new recycling programs: Crayon recycling and Elmers glue containers. Their next Spirit Day is "Recycled Accessory Day", students will create accessories with recycled materials to wear for Earth Day. The Student Council is also helping Shyla Robinson, an AHS senior, with her efforts to collect books to be sent to the children at St. Jukes Hospital. A book collection box is located at the school; donations are accepted too. Grades 3-6 have started ELA MCAS testing and math MCAS are coming up soon. The next PTG meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th @ 3:15.

### RCS Dates to note:

April 2 \* 1/2 day Kindergarten in session

April 5 \* 1/2 day Kindergarten in session

April 7 \* Report Cards - 3rd Quarter

Scholastic Book Fair - April 9-April 15

April 16 > all school trip to see Mulan Jr. @ MWCC

April 19 - 23 \*\*\*Spring Break

MCAS Workshop > 3-4:15

April 28 \*1/2 day - NO Kindergarten

April 28 \***Kindergarten Screening** @ ARMS, 30 min. appointments between 8:30-3:30. Call 249-2900 with questions.

## Wildlife Sightings

Aaron Ellison & Elizabeth Farnsworth watched two **bald eagles** roosting in a red maple on the hilltop of Tory Hill Farm, the morning of March 8.

Kim MacPhee saw a **mink** (almost hit it in fact!!) cross Rte.68 at Lawrence Brook. She relates, "I was coming home from dropping Owen at RCS and needless to say, I was happy for my ABS and early morning espresso, which I am sure heightened my reflexes!"

A generously-built **Tom turkey** was seen on numerous occasions throughout the middle of March wooing a wide array of hens in the Frye Hill, Northeast Fitzwilliam area. The hens didn't seem nearly as impressed as Tom.

### Bears and bears and bears, OH my!

On Saturday night, March 20th, Heather Hubbard saw a Black Bear on Stewart Rd. It later tore apart a honey bee hive in her sister's yard.

Paula Paul spotted a bear on norcross Rd on March 18.

Jim Kelley, down at the St. Laurant Campground, had the black bear from last November come to visit Saturday night March 13th. He reports, "The dog didn't put up much of a fuss, just woofed once; I wondered what she was doing so went out and saw a medium sized black bear loping down my walkway by the garage. The bear had been out to the bird feeders and shook all the sunflower seeds out of them. Oh well, such is life in the country. I'm a little concerned because my dog didn't scare him,..."

Nature: 3; Fence: 0. John McClure was recently telling of fencing fiascos – bears bulling their ways (multiple times) through fencing between them and bird feeders, flooding flattening out another section and most recently, whipping winds wiping out yet another width of pickets. Plans are to remove the fence. Nature wins.

The Cosentino clan from Morse Road has been seeing bears about town. Lisa was first, seeing a black bear March 11th on Phillipston Road in South Royalston. Dan and Keith, the very next day, came across a black bear on Neale Road.

March 21st, at about 4pm, Brenda Hopkins, was raking leaves in her yard on North Fitzwilliam Road. She had a strange feeling that someone was watching her and decided to go inside. A few minutes later this bear came wondering out of the woods to where she had been raking earlier. It then walked all the way to her deck and even went under it!



## Garden Notes

March 25, 2010

March milestones:

Milestone one, March 6: Snow melted from the uphill garden; I removed the hay from the first beds to be planted as well as those I had mulched in hopes of wintering-over some crops. Hopes were realized: green spinach and green parsley. Remarkably, some cilantro had survived, a first-time occurrence. Even more remarkably, the celery, languishing un-mulched in the wettest, coldest section of the garden, had started fresh growth. Since then, many of the cilantro and celery plants have died, but enough remain to have me scratching my head in wonderment.

Milestone two, March 11: The first parsnips were dug, washed, prepared, and consumed. With broccoli, brussel sprouts, and kales still being picked in December, I've experienced but three months without fresh garden produce. Parsnips are much maligned; horse grub, some would suggest. Spring dug, though, they are incredibly sweet, with an earthy quality impossible to duplicate with the store-bought, plastic-wrapped stuff.

A week later, the milestones began to bunch. On the seventeenth, the garlic had emerged. I used to pull off the mulch, returning it to the bed after the plants were well established. Now I leave it in place, pushing it aside a bit to encourage growth. The entire garden was snow-free the following day and the day after that selected beds were dry enough to work. I devoted the next three days to serious garden activity, removing dead material from the fall garden, returning compost to those same places, grooming beds for spring planting, picking up assorted sections of fencing. The yard required attention as well, fall clean-up notwithstanding. Leaf piles, which I had not yet transported to their final destination, had been rearranged by the at-large chickens. Branches littered the ground, many of them legacies from the ice storm. Years from now, hangers will continue to fall, reminding us of the momentous day. For the foreseeable future, garden activity will be a stop-and-go affair with rain serving as the principal stopping agent as it re-saturates the soil. And, now, the fellow on the radio suggests to me that I will probably awaken to a couple of inches of snow tomorrow morning.

Regardless of what April brings in respect to weather, peas, spinach, chard, and the first of the beets will be planted. Last year was the first time I planted potatoes in April. In spite of the cold, wet conditions which followed, I considered it a successful undertaking. Almost all emerged; plants were far more developed by the time the potato beetles arrived, and many were dug before the onset of the late blight.

I plant peas by hoeing an aisle in the middle of a four-foot-wide raised bed, and marking out a pair of rows on each side. The twenty-five foot bed thereby provides me with one hundred feet of peas. When they emerge, I set out brush between the pairs. With sugar snap peas sometimes growing to seven feet, my brush never seems to be sturdy enough or tall enough to accomplish the task. This year, I resolve to locate sturdier, taller brush. It is spring.

Larry Siegel



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**Help Wanted: Looking for a teenager** to help with outside lawn clean-up. Call Shirley Anderson. 978-249-4013.

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