

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2011



Volume XIV, Issue II

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

Calendar of Events

March 1 Tuesday

National Peanut Butter Lover's Day

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Open Burning continues** (ONLY with FD issued permit) through May 1, 2011.

March 3 Thursday

3:45 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome to plan and man library support, the newsletter and the upcoming 100th anniversary extravaganza.

7 pm **Town 250th Anniversary Planning Meeting** at town hall. All welcome to stop by with ideas for fundraisers or festivities.

March 4 Friday

3:46 p.m. New Worm Moon

7 p.m. Open Mic at the Town Hall. Host band Mike Patterson and the Wise Guys. Sign up for a time slot with Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arrive by 6:30 p.m. Free admission

7 p.m. Monty Tech Drama Club Presentation in the auditorium, continues Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday at 2 pm.

March 8 Tuesday **Mardi Gras**

The 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

March 10 Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Birch Hill Rangers meet at Royalston F&G**

March 12 Saturday

Girl Scout "Thinking Day" The 99th Birthday of Girl Scouting in the USA

5 p.m. **Corned Beef Supper Winchendon R&G**

March 13 Sunday **First Sunday in Lent**

2:00 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time Begins** – check detectors (smoke, radon, carbon monoxide) batteries.

March 15 Tuesday **Ides of March**

2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. **the last chance to register to vote** in the Annual Town Election at the Town Clerk's Office at Whitney Hall, 5 School St.

March 16 Wednesday

6 - 8 pm **Mediating Conflict with Young Children: An Evening with Betsy Evans** at the Village School. Please call 978-249-3505 to reserve a seat. Free, donations accepted. Sponsored by the Village School Parent Group.

March 19 Saturday

10 – 11 a.m. **The annual rabies/license clinic** will be held at the Center Fire Station. Rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats through Gardner Animal Hospital are \$10 and Royalston dog licenses are \$6.00 per altered dog, \$10.00 per unaltered dog. Exact change is appreciated.

2:10 pm **Full worm moon**



March 20 Sunday

2 pm **View *Seeing New Englandly***, a new documentary on the influence of Nature and Science in Emily Dickinson's poetry; discussion to follow with its local film-maker, Ernest Urvater, and writer, Susan Snively at the Phinehas Newton Library. Refreshments served. Free.

7:21 p.m. **Vernal Equinox – Happy spring**

March 23 Wednesday

5:30 p.m. **Monty Tech Spaghetti Supper and Open House**

7 p.m. **Village School Science Night**

March 24 Thursday

5:45 p.m. T.O.P.S. Open House at 2nd Congregational Church Parlor

March 26 Saturday

6:00 pm **Baked stuffed chicken breast public supper** to benefit the Town's 250th anniversary celebraton at town hall. Tix \$12. 120 Club tickets are still available as well. See any board member or call Geoff Newton for supper or 120 tickets: 249-3726.

March 31 Thursday

Deadline for donations of candy or money for the town Easter egg hunt, organized by Rene Lake-Gagliardi. Please leave at at the Royalston General Store or at the Phinehas Newton Library.

April 1 Friday **All Fool's Day**

7 p.m. Open Mic Season Finale at the Town Hall. Free admission and delicious food on sale; thanks to Royalston Cultural Council.

April 3 Sunday

2 pm **Visit Syria vicariously** with a talk by Abraham and Helima Sussman at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free. Refreshments served. Sponsored by the Friends.

April 4 Monday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Polls open Precincts 1 and 2 for Annual Town Election**

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West

Broadband Update: The next Broadband meeting will be Monday, March 21 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. Reva Reck from the Warwick Broadband Committee will talk about that town's existing wireless broadband network and its goal to wire every house with a fiber optic connection.

Budgets: The Board has been meeting extensively with department heads to review proposals for the Town budget. Once again, costs such as insurance, petroleum, and education are rising more than the 21/2 percent increase the Town budget is allowed. Next year's state aid will again be cut by an estimated 7 percent. Residents should expect more reductions in services.

Winter Expenses: This winter has been tough for everyone. There have been many weather events that required road treatments and plowing. The good news for the town is that our Snow and Ice account has held out all winter until now. Our \$140,000 budget for snow has lasted until the beginning of March. Considering that the sand and salt purchases alone add up to almost \$100,000, we have made it through quite well. The DPW deserves our thanks for an excellent job maintaining the roads with only 3 full-time employees and several contractors this winter.

Annual Town Meeting: The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) will be May 6, 2011 as required by the Town Bylaw. The warrant for the ATM will open March 1 and close April 5, 2011. Suggested warrant articles must be in to the Selectmen before the April 5 meeting to be considered.

Selectmen Winter Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-2pm; (978) 249-9641

Letter to Royalston Residents

Dear Neighbors,

It has been my pleasure to serve the residents of Royalston for the past six years as Selectman. I am very proud of improvements that I have either led or helped support. In order to devote more time to my family, I have decided not to seek reelection this April.

Today, our Town government is operating well. We have an incredible group of volunteers making this small but complex organization run efficiently. There is a positive direction within all departments toward improving accountability, transparency, and efficiency. I am honored to have served with Linda Alger and Jack Morse as well as several other dedicated Selectmen. I thank each employee and volunteer of this town's government for their hard work and cooperative spirit.

Sincerely,
Andy West

Annual Town Election April 4, 2011

If you are not a registered voter, the last day to register to be eligible to vote in the Annual Town Election is Tuesday, March 15. Voter registration hours will be held on this date at the Town Clerk's Office at Whitney Hall, 5 School St. Registration hours are from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

Absentee voting: To vote absentee, you must fill out an absentee ballot application and return it to the Town Clerk. Applications are available in the Clerk's office as well as the Royalston Post Office. You may also cast your absentee vote at the Clerk's office at the same time you apply.

Polls will be open on Monday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are not sure what precinct you vote in or need to know where to go, please call the Town Clerk's office.

Candidate/Office info:

With the exception of the Athol positions on the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee, there are no contests on the ballot. There are also 2 office terms with no candidate currently running. They are Sewer Commissioner – 3 years, and Library Trustee – 3 years.*

* *ed. note: Mary Longworth is running a write in campaign for the library trustee seat.*

Following are the remaining offices/candidates on the ballot:

Selectman – 3 years – Gary L. Winitzer;
Assessor – 3 years – James M. Richardson;
Board of Health – 3 years – Philip D. Leger;
Cemetery Commissioner – 3 years – Roland G. Hamel;
Cemetery Commissioner – 1 year – Roy A. Smith, Jr.;
Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Nancy D. Melbourne;
Planning Board – 5 years – Vyto L. Andreliunas;
Athol-Royalston Regional School Comm. Royalston member – 3 years – Nancy D. Melbourne.

There are 4 candidates running for 4, 1-year positions for Trustee of the J.N. Bartlett Fund. They are: Mary C. Barclay, Roland G. Hamel, Wayne Newton, and Roy Smith, Jr. For the Athol positions on the School Committee, there are 3 candidates running for 2, three-year seats. They are, Wayne A. Whitfield, Joao Baptista, and Lee A. Chauvette.

Annual Rabies/ Pet License Clinic

Gardner Animal Hospital and the Town Clerk will hold the annual rabies/license clinic on Saturday, March 19, from 10 – 11 a.m. at the Center Fire Station. Rabies vaccinations are still \$10.00 for dogs and cats. Dog licenses are still \$6.00 per altered dog, \$10.00 per unaltered dog. Please note that Rabies vaccinations and licensing are separate transactions, so plan accordingly. Exact change is appreciated, or, for dog licenses only, you can make out a check to Town of Royalston.

Pictured: Mojo Mangum, a dog with up-to-date tags.



Royalston Fire Dept. Rules for “ Open Burning “ Lets Keep Fires Controlled and Contained

The 2011 Burning Permit process is going well to this point; I would like to remind participants in the “ Open Burning “ privilege that we will soon be losing our natural fire spread protection, (the snow pack). Please use caution when choosing your location for the controlled fire area. Fires must be at least 75 feet from ANY STRUCTURE and in an area that your drift smoke won't become a hazard to your neighbors or the safe passing of any vehicles in the street. It is highly recommended that you keep a cell or portable phone close at hand and arrange for plenty of help when you burn. Good luck to all, and don't hesitate to call 911 if things get out of hand!

Royalston Fire Chief,
Keith R. Newton

Board of Health News

Still trying to stay ahead of snow and ice like everybody else. Watch your step at the transfer station, please.

Still can't make paper out of plastic. When in doubt ask the attendant.

Spring is coming; remember Checkpoint Charlie, Saturday, April 30th. Once the snow melts, start scoping out the roads for annual roadside clean up.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904

ema@royalston-ma.gov or call 978-249-2904.

A bit of a February thaw provided some relief where snow loads on roofs were concerned and an opportunity for those who burn wood to cool down the stoves and do a little preventive maintenance. The thaw also highlighted an unfortunate side effect of melting snow – water problems. Before warm weather returns in earnest and a major meltdown of this year's noteworthy accumulation of snow begins, check sump pumps to ensure they're ready for whatever water finds its way into basements. If you have water problems and do not yet have a sump pump, an investment in one now might prevent bigger problems later; at the very least, a small portable pump might take care of minor water issues. If you don't normally have water in your basement, take a look around while snow is still frozen – elevate anything that could be damaged by water, like boxes of stored items, tables with wooden legs, etc. Just putting cinderblocks between the floor and item may be all that is needed. Note where pilot lights to gas appliances are, and how close to the floor electrical appliances are. If water approaches those, you need to call for help – if it's rising rapidly, call 9-1-1.

Civics Quiz: Who is Royalston's State Representative?

A: Rich Bastien

Contact info:

State House, Room B1, Boston MA 02133

Boston phone, 617-722-2425

District office

93 Pleasant St., Gardner MA 01440; Room 212. .

(Municipal liaison Karen Gravel will be there M,T,Th 9-1)

* Email: richard.bastien@mahouse.gov

Town 250th Anniversary Celebration

Royalston is turning 250 in 2015. The 250th anniversary committee has begun raising money for a series of celebratory events. First, there is a chicken breast dinner at town hall on Saturday, March 26 at 6 pm. Two of Royalston's best cooks, Marlene Jarvenpaa and Marie Claire Humblet, are in charge of the food, so come with appetites. Tickets are \$12. Also, a 120 club raffle is underway. Tickets cost \$20 but only 120 are sold, so there is a 1 in 10 chance of winning, much better odds than in other lotteries and a 100% sure thing that the money will help a local cause. For supper or 120 club tickets see any committee member or call Geoff Newton.

Who was Isaac Royall anyway? At the time of Royalston's incorporation in 1765, Royall was a rich businessman, loyal to the king and living in Medford. The land that is now our town was the last in Worcester County to be distributed in royal land grants to those that would develop them for profits and pious settlement. A group of investors/ proprietors met regularly at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern in Boston to discuss the properties. Isaac Royal got naming rights to town (originally Royal-shire) because he put up the money, 25 pounds, for the first meetinghouse.

A 1758 portrait of Isaac Royal's daughters by John Singleton Copley at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts , sheds some light on the man and times.



The accompanying text reads: “Mary and Elizabeth, daughters of Boston merchant Isaac Royal grew up in Medford, Massachusetts. The house with its large slave quarters still stands and is open to visitors. The satins and lace of the girls' gowns attest to the family prosperity and Copley's developing skill as a painter of material things. The hummingbird in Mary's fingertips and the docile spaniel are both emblems of the family's good fortune; the bird probably came from the West Indies, where sugar plantations were the source of Royall's wealth, and in England, only aristocracy were allowed King Charles spaniels as pets.”

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you

Clarence Rabideau for 'weeding' the books in the children's room

Allison Bergquist for help processing books and some weeding too

Jenny Nano for a great winter preschool program

Vidi Serratos and William Wang for an informative and fun cross culture program

Rick from Creature Teachers for a fantastic vacation program

Donations to the Friends and to the newsletter

John and Stephanie McClure

Roda Family

Phil Leger

Brenda and Jeff Hopkins

Anthony Feragamo

Marjorie Chase

Patricia Cormier

James Taylor

George and Janet Bodman in memory of Randall Vining

Mud Season Musings: Think June 18th parade

Prizes will be awarded for best decorated bike, and best parade animal as well as best family, civic group and business floats in the library's 100th anniversary parade. Start musing!



Upcoming Sunday Programs at the Library

Please join us for these two programs on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at the library. Delicious refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the library or visit our website.

Film Maker, Ernest Urvater and Narrator Susan Snively discuss "Seeing New Englandly" a film on Emily Dickinson

On March 20th, film maker, Ernest Urvater, an Amherst resident with a strong interest in Emily Dickinson, and scriptwriter and narrator, Susan Snively, a poet and writer, a guide at the Dickinson Museum, and formerly on the faculty of Amherst College, will show clips from and discuss their film "Seeing New Englandly." This film is the second in a series the Emily Dickinson Museum has sponsored called "Angles of a Landscape." "Seeing New Englandly" focuses on the aspects that most vitally influenced Dickinson's thinking and poetry, in particular the natural beauty surrounding Amherst and the strong interest in the sciences that pervaded her education and living environment.

Tour Syria with Abraham and Halima Sussman

On April 3rd, Halima and Abraham Sussman, of Royalston and Cambridge, will present slides and tales from their journey around Syria. In March of 2008 they were invited by Syrian friends to visit and travel in Syria for three weeks. One of their friends is a weaver, who took them to the home of one of the only Syrian silk-makers to have withstood modern Chinese competition and kept up their family's 400 year old practice. Here, the Sussmans witnessed the whole fascinating process of how silkworms and their human overseers make silk. They also observed Bedouin tents being made from goat hair and saw many mosques and churches in a land that is ancient, lovely, mysterious, and welcoming.

Ongoing

Art Exhibit: Hugh Blake of Stewart Road will have his wood carvings of birds and people at the library for the month of March. Stop by and admire these life-like carvings.

Drop-in to Zumba classes on Mondays from 6--7 pm and **Tai Chi** classes on Tuesdays from 6 - 7 continue at Town Hall in March. Both are sponsored by the Friends and free to participants. (Voluntary donations to defray costs can be put in the jar by the door .)

Preschool Playgroup at the library on Mondays at 10 am. Stories, snacks and socializing for tots and their adults.

Polly Longworth:

Write-in Candidate for Library Trustee.

Polly (Mary O.) Longworth was out of town and unable to sign the blanket nomination paper and thus will be a write-in candidate for re-election as a Library Trustee. She has been a trustee for seven years and brings a depth and breadth of knowledge of libraries to her position as chairman of the board that enhances the library's role as a centerpiece of the town.

Some of the New Materials at your Library

Adult Fiction

- Ammons *Thin Ice*
- Blau, Jessica *Drinking Closer to Home*
- Delaney, Frank *The Matchmaker of Kenmare*
- Deveraux, Jude *The Scent of Jasmine*
- Egan, Jennifer *A Visit from the Goon Squad*
- Genova, Lisa *Left Neglected*
- Goolrick, Robert *A Reliable Wife*
- Grimes, Martha *Fadeaway Girl*
- Grisham, John *The Confession*
- Harkness, Deborah *A Discovery of Witches*
- Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia *Body Line*
- Martin, Steve *An Object of Beauty*
- Pearson, Allison *I Think I Love You*
- Preston, Douglas J. *Gideon's Sword*
- Russell, Karen *Swamplandia!*
- Stabenow, Dana *Though Not Dead*
- Vonnegut, Kurt *While Mortals Sleep*

Adult Non-Fiction

- Barr, Roseanne *Roseannearchy*
- Brinkley, Douglas *The Quiet World*
- Carr, Kris *Crazy Sexy Diet*
- Greene, B. *The Hidden Reality*
- Jaffrey, Madhur *At Home with Madhur Jaffrey*
- Kimball, Kristin *The Dirty Life*
- National Geographic *Answer Book*
- O'Donnell, Patrick *The Benner Assignment*
- Schiff, m Stacy *Cleopatra*
- Szwed, John *Alan Lomax*
- Talty, Stephan *Escape from the Land of Snows*
- Wehrenberg, Margaret *The 10 Best-ever Depression Management Techniques*
- Worrall Thompson, A. *The Essential Diabetes Cookbook*

Adult Audiobooks

- Franzen, Jonathan *Freedom*
- Grisham, John *The Confession*
- Parker, Robert *Painted Ladies*

Interested? If the Friends of the Library offered any of these gatherings, would you want to participate? If so, call the library 249-3572. With enough support, the groups can start:

- Chess club on Monday nights with Bill Manser
- Weekly yoga classes
- A bi-monthly reading discussion group
- Your ideas



Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

- Fritz, Jean *Alexander Hamilton*
- Hautman, Pete *The Big Crunch*
- Petrucha, Stefan *Harry Potter and the Deathly Boring*
- Stroud, Jonathan *The Amulet of Samarkand*

Children's Fiction

- Kann, Victoria *Silverlicious*
- Kluger, Jeffrey *Freedom Stone*
- Osborne, Mary Pope *A Crazy Day with Cobras*
- Robinson, Sharon *Jackie's Gift*
- Stead, Philip *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*
- Vanderpool, Clare *Moon Over Manifest*
- Vernon, Ursula *Curse of the Were-wiener*
- Vernon, Ursula *Dragonbreath, Ahoy!*
- Wild, Margaret *Harry & Hopper*
- Yorinks, Arthur *The Invisible Man*

Children's Non-Fiction

- Hamilton, Lynn *Labor Day*
- Stewart, Mark *The Boston Bruins*

DVD's: *Beauty and the Briefcase, Blazing Saddles, Cloverfield, Conviction, Desperado, Dogville, Easy A, Madea Goes to Jail, Man of la Mancha, Mister Roberts, Never Let Me Go, North to Alaska, Red, Secretariat, The Cutting Edge 2, The Devil's Own, The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest, Vantage Point, When the Levees Break and You Again*

Music

- Decemberists *The King is Dead*
- Grammy Nominees 2011
- Now that's what I call Music 36
- Young, Neil *Le Noise*

Recipes of the month

Here's to goobers, legumes rich in vitamin E, niacin, folate, phosphorus and magnesium. They are an excellent source of protein, cholesterol-free and low in saturated fats. (However, we can't really vouch for their healthful attributes when combined in the following recipes with sufficient quantities of butter and sugar.) Peanut butter also dissolves most wayward bubble gum. March is National Peanut Month.

As college students, the Barclay girls ate lots of peanut butter – Heather's preference was PB smeared on bagel chips or Ritz crackers. Caitlin liked hers with chocolate and came up with the recipe below. She always used creamy peanut butter, but chunky works, too.

Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies

Recipe of Caitlin Joy Barclay, San Antonio, TX

3/4 cup granulated sugar

3/4 cup brown sugar

3 sticks butter

1 1/2 cups peanut butter

3 eggs

1 1/2 tsp. vanilla

3 cups flour (part oat/whole wheat OK)

1 1/2 tsp. salt

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 1/2 - 2 pkgs (10 -12 oz) chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix sugars & butters until smooth & creamy. Add eggs & extract, mix well. Using medium scoop (1 1/2 - 2 tbsp.) Bake for about 6 minutes, swap shelves in oven and bake for about 6 more minutes. Cool on the sheet for 5 minutes, then remove to rack to finish cooling.

(For a more traditional texture peanut butter cookie, chill dough, roll scooped dough into sugar and crosshatch with a fork to flatten slightly.)

Elizabeth Leonard's Crazy Cake

Elizabeth sent her mother's crazy cake recipe, but unfortunately Elizabeth's husband, Deems, fell on the ice and cracked his noggin around the same time and the newsletter never got the historic/ folkloric details. Ask her yourself. Here's wishing Deems a speedy recovery.

Double this recipe:

1 1/2 cup flour

1 cup sugar

3 tblsp. cocoa

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. soda

6 tblsp. vegetable oil

1 tblsp. vinegar

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup water

Mix all ingredients. Bake in 350 oven until done. Slather with cream cheese frosting.



The Late Ruth (Dunham) Divoll (b. May 25, 1917 – d. July 13, 1987) was married to Elton Divoll and Mother of Nancy (Divoll) Sprague, John Divoll, Mark Divoll, the late Matt Divoll and Timothy Divoll. This long-time resident of Deland Hill Road often contributed her legendary cake when going to cookouts and pot luck meals. According to granddaughter Brenda (Divoll) Putney, "My grandmother always made chocolate mayonnaise cake with peanut butter frosting. This recipe also makes the BEST cookie portion for whoopee pies – the cake is always moist. And if you need a cake and don't have eggs in the house, it's great. Kids can lick the batter bowl, too, as there aren't any eggs."

Ruth (Dunham) Divoll's Chocolate Mayonnaise Cake

1 cup mayonnaise (Hellmann's regular works best, according to Brenda)

1 cup water

1 tsp. vanilla

2 cups flour

2 tsp. baking soda

1 cup sugar

4 tblsp. baking cocoa

Mix all ingredients in a mixing bowl with spoon or paddle. Sift or whisk dry ingredients together first, then add the water and mayonnaise. DO NOT use beaters, as it breaks down the mayonnaise and the cake will not turn out well. Mix until all ingredients are incorporated; batter may be a little lumpy.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 45-50 minutes, or until done.

Ruth Dunham Divoll's Peanut Butter Frosting

1 lb. confectionary sugar (Brenda prefers Dominos)

1 tsp. vanilla

1/2 cup shortening

1/2 cup peanut butter

approximately 2 tblsp. milk

Mix until smooth and fluffy.

Mary Barclays Peanut Butter Frosting

1 cup butter (not oleo)

1 cup peanut butter (full fat only)

4 cups confectionary sugar

1/4 cup milk

2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 cup finely chopped peanuts

In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter, peanut butter and sugar until it is light and fluffy. Beat in the extract and milk until it is smooth. This is great on chocolate cake or brownies, and spectacular in chocolate whoopee pies (roll edges in finely chopped peanuts). Thin with a little extra milk to use as topping for ice cream.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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



Engaged: Christopher Guiney and Roxanne Mulvihill, his girlfriend of 3 years, became engaged over Christmas. They both reside in San Diego and are planning a 2012 wedding.

Who's New? from Haight St. to Frye Hill

Paula Pralinski and Bert Sawicki and their two uber-cute toddlers, Rhea and Stashu, have just moved into Eldora Bowers' homestead after relocating from San Francisco. Although a little preturbed that wasps have emerged from their February walls, Paula and Bert are excited to be here and looking forward to getting involved in the community. (Shh. They don't know about black flies yet.)

Clarence Rabideau Art Exhibit at Petersham Craft Center:

'Through the Years,' artwork by Clarence Rabideau will be on exhibit at the Petersham Craft Center from April 3 to May 5 with an opening reception from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on April 3rd. Hours are Wednesday through Sundays, noon to 4:00 p.m.

Early feminist films with a Royalston connection

To celebrate International Women's Day, two films by Liane Brandon, one of Royalston's most noted feminists, will be shown at the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, Massachusetts at 6:30 pm on March, 8th, 2011. These films were among the earliest and most frequently used consciousness-raising films of the Women's Movement, and Liane will be there to talk about them. The event is sponsored by the Cambridge Women's Heritage Project in collaboration with the Cambridge Historical Commission and the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women. *Anything You Want to Be* - 8 min. (1971)

This film about a teenager's humorous collision with sex-role stereotypes was one of the first to explore the external pressures and the more subtle, internal pressures a girl faces in finding her identity. *Betty Tells Her Story* - 20 min. (1972)

Betty's poignant saga of her search for "the perfect dress" explores our culture's emphasis on female "beauty" and the ways in which clothing and appearance affect a woman's identity.

Memorial

Condolences to Herve J. Bosse on the passing of his sister, Diane B. Bosse, 47, of Athol, who died Saturday, February 12, 2011 at Heywood Hospital following a brief illness. Born in Gardner on March 31, 1963, she was daughter of Yvon and Odette (Lavoie) Bosse. She was a 1981 Monty Tech grad, a certified hypnotherapist and a Gardner VNA hospice volunteer. In addition to Herve and his wife, Janice, Diane leaves her mother Odette of Gardner; sisters Martha McDonald and her husband Guy, Lorraine Roy and her husband Steven, all of Gardner, and Norma Bruinsma and her husband John of Millbury. She also leaves four nieces and nephews; several aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral services were held at Boucher Funeral Home, and a Mass celebrated at Holy Rosary in Gardner. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gardner Visiting Nursing Association - Hospice Program; 34 Pearly Lane; Gardner, MA 01440 or to the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis; PO Box 016960 (R48); Miami, FL 33101-9844.

A Snow Haiku

Squeaky, sparkly snow
Snow angels are fun to make
Flapping like a bird

By Hannah Cummings, Anthony Divoll, Cole Benoit, Emma Alger, Ryan Darling, Katrina Bullock, Aliyah Neale, Julianne Trenga



A grand party took place Saturday, February 12 in the Second Congregational Church's fellowship hall, celebrating the 90th birthdays of Lillie (Kirkman) Dobson and her twin brother, Ralph Kirkman.

Academic honors

Mount Wachusett Community College fall term president's

list: William Rheault; **dean's list:** James Kelley, Stephanie Murray, Ashley Persson, Christine Sawyer and Paul Thibodeau.

Rebecca L. Porrier was awarded a BS in Biology at the January 22, 2011 Fitchburg State University Commencement

Cross culture club



Recently, participants in the library's cross culture club were treated to two interesting presentations, one about Mexico and one about China. As an added bonus, everyone got an origami figure to take home. The next cross cultural program will be a program on Syria with Helima and Abraham Sussman on April 3 at 2 pm.

Mediating Conflicts with Young Children

The Village School Parents Group is sponsoring a 21st Anniversary Event: An Evening with Betsy Evans Wednesday March 16 6-8 p.m. at the Village School. Please call the school at 978 249-3505 to reserve a seat. Free, donations accepted.

Introducing the six strategies for mediating conflicts with young children. For parents and everyone working with young children. Betsy Evans is the author of *You Can't Come to My Birthday Party*, a book about conflict resolution with young children. The Village School Preschool teachers have been teaching these strategies to young children for years. Betsy will address:

- What can I do when my child is feeling angry?
- How can I constructively handle my own frustration and anger?
- How can I set limits?

Go to www.villageschoolma.org for more information

RCS Celebrates President's Day



Mr. Hains' 3rd grade marked the day with presidential reports and costumes. Mrs. Carnie's poetry club wrote the following group poem:

A Tribute to George

Great	White hair
excellent	father of our country
Mount Vernon	Sweet lips (his dog's name)
president	hippopotamus teeth
Virginia	kind
teeth	inventive
	good
	tall
	Potomac river
	neighborly



GEORGE WASHINGTON

By Nova Lajoie, Katrina Bullock, Avah York, Ava LaBlanc, Ryan Darling, and Hannah York

Village School March News

With so much snow on the ground, last month was all about fort building, sledding and cross country skiing. Now we are heading into sugaring season, and all the classes will be making field trips to the Richardson Farm for sugaring and lambing. The K-6th classes start swimming at the YMCA on Fridays.

The Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency, awarded The Village School a STAR (Students and Teachers Working with Artists, Scientists, and Scholars) Residency grant, making it possible for Isaac Owen Richardson, a Village School graduate, and a musician and composer, to spend a week at the school, teaching singing. The week will culminate in a recording studio session for the students, to make a CD of All School Sing, the favorite songs sung by Village School children all together every Monday morning. The residency takes place in mid-March.

Science Night Wednesday evening March 23 7:00 pm

Back in January, 4th-6th grade students chose a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove the initial hypothesis. Peer review is part of the process. Students will enthusiastically display their work at Science Night and be ready to explain it. Come see their work and ask questions! Everyone is welcome.

Openings for next year

There are just a few openings in the classes for next year, including Preschool. If you are interested, call to schedule a visit as soon as possible, to observe a classroom, meet teachers, and set up a child visit. 978 249-3505.

Local Scholarships Available

It's that time of year, when everyone's scrambling for scholarship money. Guidance offices at Athol and Monty Tech high schools should have complete lists of scholarships and eligibility criteria. Just a few of the scholarship and academic grant money that may be available to Royalston residents are:

- Athol Lions Club
- Henry P. Cole Athletic Award
- Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston
- Marine Corps Detachment League
- Royalston Community School Parent-Teachers' Group Scholarship
- South Royalston Reunion Association Scholarship
- 1794 Meeting House

Two scholarships from the Royalston Academy:

The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship in the amount of up to \$1000 is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. This scholarship is sponsored by the Royalston Academy in memory of the academy's founder, Katherine Cole.

The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs.

For both academy scholarships, contact your local guidance office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2011.

Royalston Luncheon Club and Council on Aging News

In addition to providing a hot meal and opportunity for socializing, the Royalston Luncheon Club enjoys an "outpost library," courtesy of Phinehas S. Newton Library Director Kathy Morris. Kathy provides a fresh supply of reading material for Luncheon Club members to check out. Large print *Readers' Digest Magazines*, and recently published and classic literature in all genres are available. The handicapped accessibility of the Town Hall and a rolling cart makes it possible for even the wheelchair-bound to "go to the library!"

The Luncheon Club meets each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Activities like Chinese auctions, health clinics and entertainment take place following the meals. To reserve a seat, contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 the Monday prior. Meals are \$2 for seniors (60+) 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.

Ladies B.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society has begun its 187th year of continuous service. Plans were finalized for meetings and events for the coming year, all of which will be available in the annual program guide. To obtain a copy of the program guide or for more information about the Society, contact LBS President Laurie M. Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807.

T.O.P.S. Open House

The Royalston T.O.P.S. (Take off Pounds Sensibly) group is hosting an open house Thursday, March 24, from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. in South Royalston at the Second Congregational Church parlor. Guest speaker is Worcester County Area Captain Diane Trayah, who will tell about the organization and what it can do to help you develop a lifestyle that will allow you to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. The program is free and open to both men and women. For additional details, contact Joyce Neale at 978-249-8966.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) Drop by or contact Joyce at 978-249-8966 or Luann at 978-249-8746 for more details.

Support the Annual Royalston Egg Hunt

Rene' Lake-Gagliardi has issued the call for contributions and volunteers to help with the Annual Royalston Egg Hunt on the Common. "While Easter is late this year, now is the time that we need to start collecting donations such as bags of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs, as well as money, to help underwrite the cost of putting together more than 2000 eggs for the big event", she said.

Donations can be left at the Royalston General Store or at the Library before March 31. "We need time to stuff all those eggs," Rene' said, explaining the deadline.

Volunteers for the day of the hunt, scheduled for Saturday, April 23, are also needed. Anyone who would like to help out can contact Rene' at 978-249-4639.

Royalston Fish and Game Club Meat Raffle

The Royalston F&G will be adding a new event to their offerings this month – a Meat Raffle! This is run similarly to their annual October turkey raffle, except that single tickets are sold instead of the usual multi-number tickets. The meat raffle takes place Friday, April 15 (yes, the final day to file income taxes!) at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse. Light refreshments will be available and the bar will be open with a full range of beverages. Contact Marie at 978-249-2836 for more information, or contact the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club News

The Winchendon Rod & Gun Club, in Royalston at the Winchendon line, is serving a Corned Beef Supper Saturday, March 12, beginning at 5 p.m. A \$12 donation buys the traditional St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef and boiled root vegetables, along with bread, salad, and assorted home-made desserts, served cafeteria-style.

The Winchendon R&G is open Tuesdays from 5-10 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5-11 p.m.; Fridays from 5 p.m. – midnight and Saturdays from noon to midnight. They're closed Mondays. The kitchen is open until 9 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays, serving items like hamburgers, hot dogs, deep fried chicken tenders and fries. Also at the Winchendon R&G., enjoy live music on specific Fridays; March performers and dates were not available as of press time.

New members are currently being accepted. Membership is \$50/person, and for first time members who are either active or honorably discharged veterans (must apply in person with military ID or DD214) the first year's membership fee will be waived. Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m., with board members meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Birch Hill Rangers Raffle

The Birch Hill Rangers snowmobile club is holding a fundraising Ten Prize Raffle, the proceeds of which will help replace the snowmobile used to drag groomers along the 30 miles of trails maintained by the Club. Winning names will be drawn at the regular monthly meeting April 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at the Royalston F&G.. And the prizes? First prize is \$100; second is \$50; third and fourth are \$50 gift certificates donated by Pete & Henry's; fifth is \$50 gift certificate donated by Wheels in Motion; sixth is \$50 gift certificate donated by Cycle Design; seventh is \$25 gift certificate from the Royalston General Store; eighth is \$25 gift certificate from Edible Arrangements; ninth and tenth are half-gallons of Tom LeRay's Sweet Water maple syrup. Tickets, just \$1/each or \$5/six are available at the F&G, Pete & Henry's The Royalston General Store and from any Birch Hill Ranger.

Warwick Dinner and Music Series

Warwick Town Hall. (Dinner 6-7; Music 7 - ??)

Mar 12 - Blame it on Tina

- Church dinner (St. Patty's boiled dinner)

Apr 09- Pat & Tex

North Quabbin Garden Club

Thursday, March 17, 2011 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Backyard Botanical Sanctuary

Imagine your own backyard botanical sanctuary. What would it look like? How would you design and fill it with plants? Community herbalist Carol Joyce of White Buffalo Herbs in Warwick will help you get started on envisioning your own private space filled with native plants. Information on how to become a certified United Plant Savers sanctuary will be included.

Classifieds

Seeking other Reiki practitioners (any level, any lineage) interested in forming a Reiki Share once a month. If you'd be interested in getting together, you can contact me at ngriffinrn@hotmail.com or give me a call at 249-4907 and leave a message.

Royalston resident seeks situation as house sitter, companion, or renter of apartment, studio or room. Female, early 60s, no pets, non-smoker with transportation. Please call Sally at 978-249-0000.

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. Mariah Mallet 978-249-9410.

Gas fireplace and wood stove for sale: 1) \$549.00 Beautiful gas fireplace, excellent condition, purchased from Feen's Country Living of Leominster for \$1500. 2) \$649.00 Woodstove w/catalytic converter, works great, purchased from Feen's for \$2000. Feen's will professionally reinstall either stove anywhere you want and guarantee their work. 978-249-0000

Green cordwood cut to your specs \$175 cord delivered. Steven Robinson Cell 1-978-413-4907

Firewood - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Call for prices on limited supply of semi-seasoned and fully seasoned. Also available: Sawdust for bedding or mulch. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

Furniture- The Dawsons have a 3-piece bookshelf, drawer unit, and buffet-style cabinet to sell for \$200 and an overstuffed sleeper sofa (queen) for \$50. Call 978.249.5044.

Housekeeping or other odd jobs. \$14/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Birch Hill Computers - Sales, Repairs and Parts. 978-790-7876. birchhillcomputers.com.

Grass-fed beef - Call Kathy at 978-249-4260 for prices and availability.

Garden Notes

February 20, 2011

It has been forty-one days since I last wrote. The sun is higher in the sky, there are ninety-four additional minutes of day light, we've experienced a couple of readings above 50°, and there has been significant snow melt (knee high now rather than thigh high)..... nonetheless, I do not have the sense that the garden season beckons. Do you recall conditions one year ago? Not I, I am hard-pressed to recall events from a week ago. Fortunately, my calendars are peppered with notations. On March 6, I was uncovering garden beds. By the eleventh, I was digging parsnips and three days later harvesting spinach. Serious garden work (defined as getting dirt under my fingernails) began on March 19. To uncover the beds on March 6 this year, I best haul the snow shovel to the garden.

Unless something dramatic occurs in the next couple of weeks, I must, grudgingly, bide my time. Okay, effective tomorrow I will be biding a week of that time in south Florida. Before I am subjected to a chorus of tssks relating to my second trip there in six weeks, let it be known that my mother is into her ninety-fourth year, still living independently, and with at least most of her faculties intact. What better time to be the dutiful son than while Royalston persists in the throes of winter?

Upon returning I will start some seeds. I know, I suggested a February start in the last column but that was more to put you in the right frame of mind than it was a call to action. March is, in fact, time enough to start onions and leeks (first week), celery, celeriac, and parsley (second week), and peppers (third week). It is no easy task in this poorly-insulated, moderately-heated, nineteenth century farmhouse. Warmth is a critical need for the germination of all seeds, some requiring significantly more warmth than others. There are, in fact, heat pads that are designed to provide this need. I make do by setting pots of seed in and around the warming oven of our wood cookstove. With space at a premium, one three inch pot might have forty or so seeds planted. Obviously, they will require transplanting, but not before I've moved the pot to a sunny window and let the seedlings grow-out for a bit. An ongoing problem for me is damping off. The seedlings, seemingly healthy, fall over and die. An entire planting can be lost overnight. The culprit, I believe, is a soil fungus. Not everything succumbs to it; most susceptible are the annual flowers and basil. One solution is to use a soil-less mix for the planting medium (no soil, no fungus), but I continue to use compost (lightened with perlite, vermiculite, and peat moss). This year, I plan to sterilize some of the soil (by baking it in the oven) in the hopes that the fungus will not survive the heat.

The second critical need for the young plants is light, another limiting factor in our household. Grow-lights are available but I do not use them. Flats are rotated from window to window as the sun moves across the sky, ultimately ending up in Maureen Blasco's greenhouse when space is exhausted.

This marks the onset of my seventh year with garden notes and it has been a hoot. I am a bit challenged to come up with a new twist each year, but because gardening, by its nature, is repetitive, I might excuse myself for being a bit repetitive as well.

Larry Siegel

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Town Poet Laureate Sought

As part of its 100th anniversary celebration, the library is looking for an original ode that captures life in this community. Entries are due by the 22nd of April (the cruelest and yet National Poetry) month. Entries will be judged by Emily Dickinson scholar and library trustee, Polly Longworth. The winner will be crowned in laurel and lauded by the selectboard as well as be asked to please read the winning poem during the library anniversary festivities on June 18. Please submit questions or entries either in person at the library, by mail to PO Box 133, or electronically to the RCN (chasegos@gis.net).

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Submission deadline for April issue is: March 22

Please Contact Us

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
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In person: Drop off at library

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