



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## NEW SCHOOL FARM

by David Lowman

A little more than a year ago, Kolburne School closed its doors forever. Its students and staff dispersed, and the property was put up for sale. Last December, a major portion of the property, 340 acres, was sold to Old School Farm LLC. The property includes the former Weinstein residence and several smaller buildings, but none of the buildings directly related to the former school's functions: housing, administration, classes, and recreation. Those are still on the market.

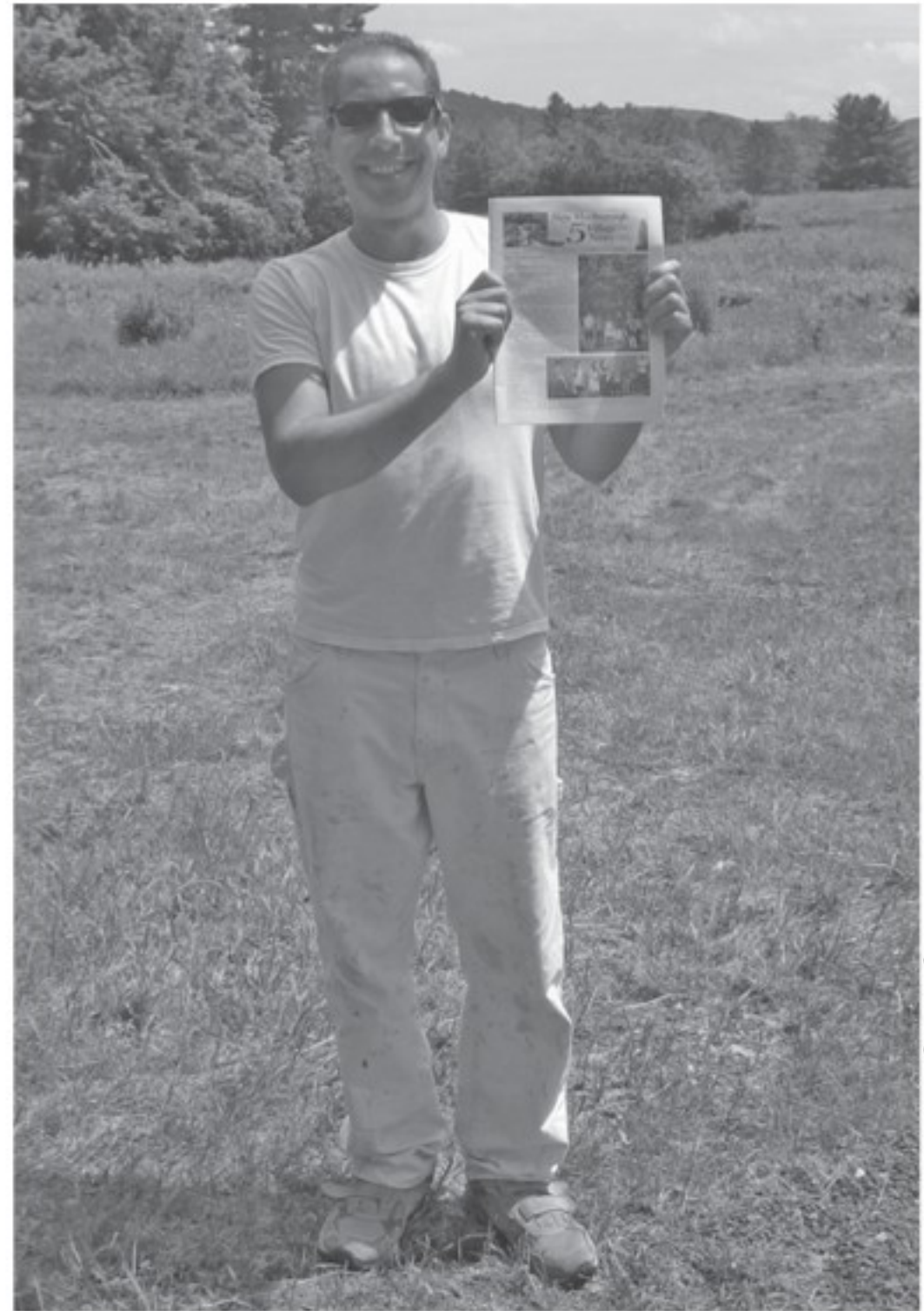
Old School Farm is headed by Paul Joffe, a property redeveloper and restorer. One of Mr. Joffe's recent projects has been the rebuilding and restoration of an old Methodist-Episcopalian church in Kingston, New York. According to a July 23, 2011, article in Kingston's *Daily Freeman*, Mr. Joffe bought the dilapidated church in 2005 and slowly began the lengthy process of bringing the building back to life. (Resurrecting it, one might say.) Now completed, the church, renamed Celebration Chapel, serves as a non-denominational place for weddings and other celebrations. The chapel is available for both straight and gay couples planning to marry.

Before Celebration Chapel came the restoration and renovation of some vacant commercial and industrial buildings in Brooklyn, New York. Those buildings were converted to residential lofts and are rented out and

managed by Mr. Joffe's company, Brooklyn Lofts.

Part of Mr. Joffe's background, interestingly, is in the news-gathering business. The business, called "After the Press," follows up mass-media reporting of major events such as the Occupy Wall Street movement and the BP Oil Spill crisis. *After The Press* goes on-site to these events and reports on the major media accuracy and completeness in its news coverage.

After Mr. Joffe and his wife Ingrid searched throughout the Northeast looking for a rural area with a "vibrant community" and a property that offered the restoration possibilities that have defined much of his work, they came upon the Weinstein property and, eight months ago, bought it. The Joffes live here full time and have begun the hard work of restoring the several buildings and the expansive grounds that make up the property. On a recent visit, we observed one house being re-roofed



Paul Joffe

photo by David Lowman

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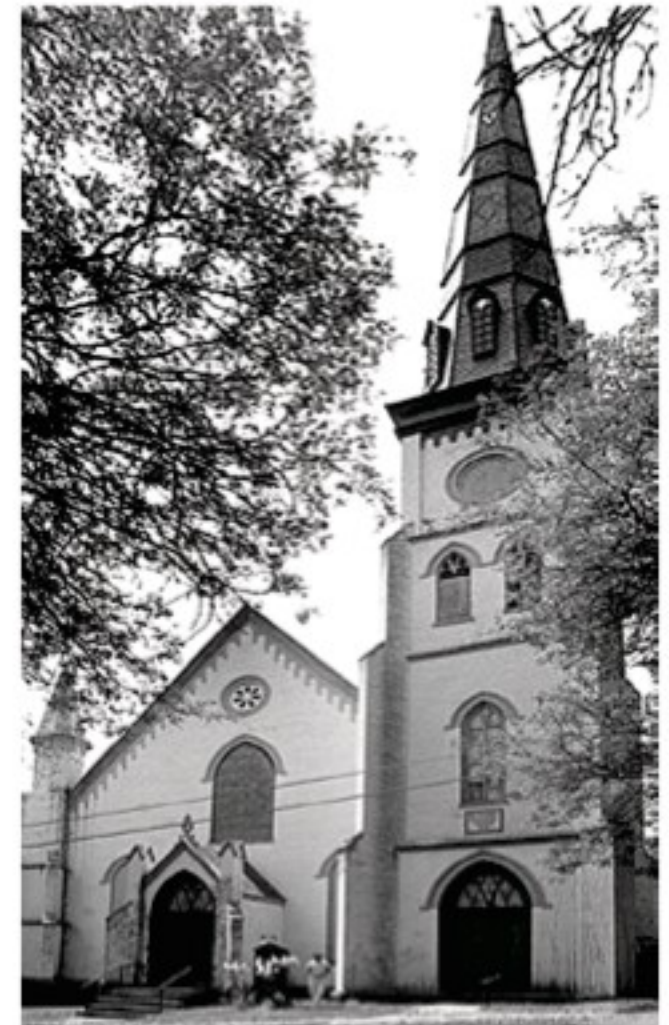
*New School Farm, continued from page 1*

and its foundation cleared of encroaching brush and weeds; another house was being painted, its previously carpeted hardwood floors stripped bare for refinishing. A good portion of the work undertaken so far has dealt with exposing covered stone walkways and stone wall, beginning the cutting and removing of a large quantity of poison ivy, exploration of some old gardens untended for decades, and the removal of several large pine trees to help lighten the area near the houses.

To say there is still much to do is a gross understatement. Asked what their plans were for the property, Mr. Joffe talked of restoring the buildings and the gardens, getting the poison ivy and deer tick population under control, and looked forward to introducing some livestock to the property – possibly goats, sheep, and guinea fowl. He thinks that, when properly restored, two of the three houses will be attractive rental properties. When he was asked about the possibility that he might create a residential sub-division, he said definitely not.

Also of interest, Mr. Joffe's brother, Simeon, his wife, Christine, and their two children, Sophia and Solomon, live in New Marlborough village, or as Paul Joffe put it: "Just around the corner."

We welcome all the new Joffes to New Marlborough and wish them the best of luck in their considerable labors. □



*Celebration Chapel, in Kingston, New York.*

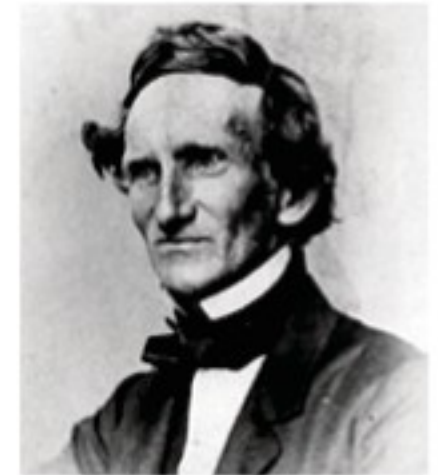
## ELIHU REVEALED

### *Plus a Unique Opportunity to Watch Cemetery Conservators in Action*

Everything you didn't know you didn't know about Elihu Burritt will be revealed September 6, when Robert S. Wolff, a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, addresses members and guests of the New Marlborough Historical Society on the man whose mastery of languages and prodigious output of writings earned him the sobriquet "The Learned Blacksmith." Mr. Burritt spent two years in New Marlborough in 1830-32 and might never have gone on to an illustrious career as an activist for international peace had a local lady on whom he had set his heart not spurned him. The program, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery, is free and open to the public.

Meanwhile, the Historical Society is also hosting a tour of the New Marlborough village cemetery, the town's oldest,

starting at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 24. The visit will offer an opportunity to observe the work of James Fannin and Minnie Lehner, cemetery restoration experts the Society has hired to begin the process of cleaning and straightening the headstones of this historic burying ground. Fannin and Lehner will commence work at the cemetery Monday, September 19 and will be there throughout the week (rain or shine – only lightning drives them indoors) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Residents interested in cemetery restoration are welcome to drop by at any time to see how it is done. □



*Joe Poindexter*



- ◆ Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
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## ELIHU IS APPROACHING!

New Marlborough's town fair, Elihu Burritt Day, will take place on Saturday, August 17, providing a day and evening of casual community celebration sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council and the New Marlborough Fire Department.

During the day, from 10:00 until 3:00, the fair will be on the Village Green in New Marlborough. A variety of activities will be available all day: hayrides, the Sixth Annual Classic Car Show, a petting zoo, antiques appraisals, and demonstrations of equipment by the Fire Department and First Responders. There will be a variety of offerings on sale at arts and crafts tables, plus the library's annual Book and Bake Sale and the Cultural Council's Silent Auction and White Elephant Sale. The annual 5K race and Fun Run over a bucolic course will start at 10:00, with trophies to be awarded to the winners at noon.

Following those awards will be the Annual Elihu Burritt Award for community service. This year the ninth such award will be made to Jane and Larry Burke for the variety of ways they have each served the town over thirty years (see page 19). At 12:30 in the Meeting House, and at other times, will be a performance of *Elihu?*, a play researched, written, produced, and acted

by a group of young New Marlborough playwrights, to answer the commonly heard question, "Who was Elihu?"

Activities for children will be happening throughout the day as well. Roger the Jester will perform at 11:00, and at 1:00, Henry the Juggler will be demonstrating his skills and teaching them to the audience, too. From noon until 2:00 will be kids' crafts with Arlyn Hoberman and Joyce Sachs.

A variety of food will be available, from morning coffee and baked goods through lunch offerings including hot dogs, hamburgers, barbeque, sandwiches, and Jean Pollock's legendary paella.

In the evening, the scene will shift to the firehouse in Southfield, where the New Marlborough Fire Department will host its Twentieth Annual Pig Roast. Dinner will be served from 5:00 until 7:00, including roast pork or turkey, corn, potato, and dessert. Music by Cornerstone will begin at 7:00, and music and dancing will continue until 9:00. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$7.50 for children, available at the Mill River General Store and at the door.

This annual celebration provides the opportunity for the full cross-section of town residents to visit with friends and neighbors and enjoy a variety of activities – as well as the good food! □

Barbara Lowman

## ELIHU BURRITT DAY SILENT AUCTION

Pictured are two of the items you can bid on at this year's silent auction. The potting table for your transplants and seedlings is a gardener's back-saver, and the John Deere "Gator" is great fun for kids.

We're still looking for silent auction items, things unique or valuable that you no longer want or need. Suggestions include: exercise equipment, fireplace tools, counter-top appliances, power tools, unique art or sculpture. Call Ned (229-2637) or Barbara (229-2369) with questions, or stop by from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. at the white elephant barn in Mill River, Saturday, Aug. 3 or 10. □

Ned MacDowell



photos by Owen Hoberman and Brian Millesell



## NOSTALGIA FOR SALE

The Ladder Committee has approximately thirty-five slats from the old ladder directional signs which they will be offering for sale at Elihu Burritt Day. Proceeds from the sale will help defray the cost of the newly installed signs. The aged signs include Ormsbee Gas, Southfield Store, The Pastures, Les Trois Emmes, Ice House Studio, Buggy Whip Antiques, Mill River Store, and many more. If you're interested in a small piece of the history of former or current businesses, come and explore the offerings on August 17, and help to support the new signs.



## Town Business Is Your Business

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**June 24:** Only two Selectmen were present for the meeting, Nat Yohalem and Tara White; Selectman Shalaby, who was traveling, could not attend. The first order of business was a **meeting with Larry Burke, the Town's Assistant Right to Know Officer**, who wanted clarification on what the duties and responsibilities are before accepting reappointment to the position. According to Board Administrator Mike Skorput, the Right to Know Officer has the authority under state law to compel a company to provide an employee with a list of hazardous chemicals present in the workplace and the procedures for handling them safely. However, it's up to the employee to initiate the process by contacting the Right to Know Officer. The purpose of the position, Mr. Skorput explained, is to protect employees from retaliation by the company. Mr. Burke said that, although he's held the position for many years, he has never been called upon to exercise the role, but he said he's willing to serve another one-year term.

The Board met with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to **discuss the design and engineering of the Clayton Mill River Road replacement culvert**, assuming the voters ultimately approve the funding that's required. Mr. Loring previously told the Board that Foresight Land Services engineer Steve Mack had indicated that if the existing culvert is replaced by one of a similar size, the project could be done for less than the \$450,000 originally estimated. However, Mr. Loring reported that Mr. Mack is now of the opinion that such a design might not meet the state's stream-crossing standards or other Department of Environment Protection (DEP) regulations. Chairman Yohalem said the Board would like to meet with Mr. Mack at next week's meeting on July 1 to firm up the Foresight contract proposal. Mr. Loring also reported the Town may be receiving an engineering proposal for the culvert from Santec Consulting Services in Northampton.

Mr. Skorput said final paperwork has been submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, (MEMA), for storm Nemo, February 8, 2013, and that the Town is expecting a reimbursement of approximately \$14,000.

The Board voted to approve the reappointment of the following Town office holders:

Registrar, Kathy Chretien  
Board of Appeals, Dan Litchfield and Helen Liveten  
Animal Control Officer, John Springstube  
Board of Health Agent, the Visiting Nurse Association  
Town Treasurer, Pat Mielke  
Moth Superintendent, Lawrence Davis, Jr.

Burial/Soldier Grave Agent, Courtney K. Turner  
Town Counsel, Jeremiah Pollard

Gas Inspector, Robert Krupski  
Pound Keeper, John Springstube  
Plumbing Inspector, Robert Krupski  
Alternate Wiring Inspector, Mike Leining  
Cultural Council, Maureen Hosford  
Historical Commission, John Sisson and Helen Liveten  
Assistant Right to Know Officer, Larry Burke  
Technology Committee, Tim Newman and Gino Furio  
Wired West Delegate, Tim Newman  
Lighting Plant Manager, Tim Newman

The reappointment of Town Treasurer Pat Mielke to the Finance Committee was put on hold at her request pending a discussion with the Board about the position.

Chairman Yohalem said that in the interest of improving relations between the Town and the School Committee, **he has invited incoming School Superintendent David Hastings to attend a Board meeting in September** and to bring along anyone else he'd like to attend. An agenda will be determined and publicized ahead of time and the public will be encouraged to attend. He said Mr. Hastings "is delighted with the idea."

**July 1:** Just two members of the Board were present, Chairman Yohalem and Selectman White; Ms. Shalaby was not able to attend.

Selectman White reported on a meeting she and Mr. Yohalem attended of the **School Building and Grounds Committee to discuss building repairs and capital funding**. Selectmen from other towns in the district were also present. Ms. White noted that not much has changed since the last time the group met, except for the estimated costs of the repairs, which she reported have increased to more than \$4 million from \$3 million. That includes \$2 million to \$3 million for the main campus, more than \$1 million for New Marlborough Central School and \$200,000 to \$300,000 each for the Monterey and Egremont schools. She also said there appeared to be no agreement between the selectmen in attendance and the members of the building and grounds committee as to whether the school district or the local towns are responsible for the cost of maintaining the outlying schools.

Mr. Yohalem noted that when the Monterey representatives were asked specifically if the town was going to raise money to put up a new school building, they said "not without a commitment from the school committee that the building will stay open for a specific number of years." He said Egremont's representatives made much the same comment about funding their



repairs. But that view, according Mr. Yohalem, seems unrealistic. "If you're sitting on the School Committee, how can you make such a commitment from an educational point of view?" he asked.

Ms. White said the next meeting is scheduled for the end of July and will focus on enrollment trends in the outlying schools — "how many kids have been attending these schools, how many stay in the district when they move to the next level, and how many choice out to other districts."

The Board met with Steve Mack from Foresight Land Services and asked him to update the design and engineering proposal the firm submitted for the Clayton Mill River Road culvert back in April. They also asked him to take another look at the estimated cost of replacing the culvert in preparation for a special town meeting in early fall to obtain voter approval for the funding. The original estimate was \$450,000. They also informed him that the Town may be getting a competing bid for the design and engineering phase of the project from Santec Consulting Services.

Chairman Yohalem issued a **statement from the Board concerning a letter published in the Berkshire Record from Peter Scala, the former fire chief.** He said he's been asked about the letter by a lot of people in the town and said that he wanted to make the Board's position very clear: "There will be absolutely no comment from the Board of Selectmen regarding that letter. A number of the items in that letter have been referred to Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard and one item which relates to the missing files at that the Fire Department is presently being investigated by the New Marlborough Police Department, and obviously we're not going to compromise an ongoing criminal investigation."

The Board met with Ed Harvey, the recently appointed **Emergency Management Director, to propose including an assistant director** who can act as his backup. The Board said it would like to approach Mike Britton, who was also a candidate for the position, and noted that both he and Mr. Harvey had suggested during their interviews that a backup was needed.

*Peter Schuyten*

**July 20:** This unusual, if not unprecedented, session of the Board of the Selectmen convened at 10:01 on a warm Saturday morning in the ground floor offices of the Town Hall. Available seating was at a premium as Chairman Nat Yohalem spoke for the entire Board in welcoming the thirty-four or so attendees, saying, "We had been wondering whether holding a meeting on a weekend would be helpful... and the answer is clearly, 'Yes!'"

Mr. Yohalem departed from the routine opening of the meeting by reading aloud sections of the minutes from the previous meeting, to help orient the roomful of people — many of them second-home-owners — to the issues that would receive further attention during the

course of the meeting.

The first item of new business on the agenda was a brief report from Prudence Spaulding **on the Senior Tax Abatement program.** According to Ms. Spaulding, senior citizens have accrued more than 800 hours this past fiscal year volunteering their time in Town Hall, particularly in handling the polls on voting days, and in the Library and Highway Garage. The program allows seniors to exchange their time, valued at \$8 per hour, for up to \$1,000 in reduced property taxes. Mrs. Spaulding spoke in praise of the valuable contributions these citizens are making to the Town.

Chairman Yohalem then proceeded with **the weekly update on the state of our bridges.** Plans for the Canaan Southfield Road bridge near Foley Hill Road have been received; the selectmen are still awaiting an evaluation of the plans from the State Department of Transportation.

As for the Clayton Mill River Road culvert, the plot has thickened a bit: The selectmen's request for an updated proposal from Steve Mack of Foresight Land Services resulted in a marked decrease in the estimated cost of the work — down by almost \$100,000 to \$245,000. The savings comes about through a shift by the engineering firm from using high-end estimates for materials to what Mr. Yohalem termed "realistic elements." He then added that a second firm has come forward with an estimate that is yet another \$100,000 less in costs. The numbers from this newer bid are so much lower because they are based on the assumption that permissions from the Commonwealth will not be needed. In order to ascertain the validity of each of the bids, Mr. Yohalem asked Board Secretary Nicole Reid to schedule meetings with each of the firms before the end of July.

The next order of business concerned **filling the new position of Highway Department Clerk.** Two people had interviewed for the job, one being Ms. Reid, whom Mr. Yohalem nominated for the position. His motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Reid, who now works in the Town Offices from Monday through Thursday, will work on Fridays on an hourly basis at the Town Garage. The rate of pay will be determined before the next selectmen's meeting.

On a unanimous vote of the three selectmen, Town Treasurer Pat Mielke was appointed to the **Finance Committee.** Also relating to the Finance Committee, Mr. Yohalem stated that the Board had received a letter from Mark Carson requesting to be appointed to fill out the term of Bill Hattendorf, who is planning to resign.

Mr. Yohalem told the assembled masses that there had been discussion around the need for a backup person for the Emergency Manager Director, in case the director is unavailable when an emergency arises. The new director, Ed Harvey, agrees with the idea, as does Michael Britton, who has consented to be that backup. Messrs. Harvey and Britton will meet to formalize the details.

The next brief order of business concerned **the contract**



*Board of Selectmen, continued from page 5*

**between the Town and the fire chief.** Mr. Yohalem stated that the contract is for one year, for the sum of \$10,000. The fire chief has the freedom to resign, with a thirty-day notice, and the Town has the right to terminate the contract, also with a thirty-day notice. All inspection fees overseen by the fire chief will be paid directly to the Town.

A letter to the Board from Mr. and Mrs. Ismail Khan of Cagney Hill Road led to a lengthy discussion on **the pros and cons of the Town agreeing to do roadwork along the Khans' frontage** to lessen the amount of rainwater draining onto their property. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring had informed the Khans that he estimated the cost of materials alone would be somewhere between \$7,000 and \$10,000. Mr. Kahn suggested that he would cover those costs if the Town would supply the labor and heavy equipment.

Mr. Loring said that accepting this proposition could establish a problematic precedent for the Town whereby the Highway Department might become obliged to fixing runoff on every property. He also said that he felt that working on the drainage along that particular stretch of road might reduce the problem to a degree, but that the property itself is very wet to begin with. Tara White also voiced her concern over the use of Town equipment and personnel on lower-priority jobs. At Nat Yohalem's suggestion, the Board will request the Khans to come to a future meeting to discuss the situation further.

Gretchen Long of Hadsell Street has asked in writing that she be allowed to purchase a piece of property on Hadsell Street that is in foreclosure. Tara White confirmed for the attendees that the **selectmen hold the authority to auction or sell to abutters land that "goes to tax title,"** after determining what the costs and assessment of the property are. Mr. Yohalem suggested that a notice be sent out to abutters of the property, informing them that the Town will be accepting bids, with the proviso that the land not be donated to a non-profit organization, so as not to lose it from the tax rolls. Later on in the meeting, both Angelene Pell and Joyce Hackett questioned Mr. Yohalem's desire for this limitation on the sale. Ms. Pell said that this clause would send a message that the Town does not value preservation, but is only interested in property taxes. Ms. Hackett expressed the thought that the Town needs to create a policy position on land preservation so it can be consistent in its decision-making. Selectman Michelle Shalaby stated that Mr. Yohalem's suggestion would be considered carefully before it would become a condition of the sale.



*Town residents turned out for the first Saturday meeting of the Board of Selectmen on July 20.  
Photo by Larry Burke.*

The Board then turned its attention to the subject of **pay raises for some of the Highway Department employees.** Chuck Loring strongly praised the work ethic and capabilities of two employees, Chris Chaffee, and Lynn Reineke-Kelsey, and advocated for raises for both. Tara White was reluctant to act on the suggestion immediately, as she had only just received the written reviews on the employees, and she also pointed out that the Highway Department workers had recently been given a three percent raise. She asked that the motion to grant the raises be tabled until the meeting on July 29.

The meeting was then opened to comments from the audience. Joyce Hackett asked after the safety of the Southfield bridge and was assured by Nat Yohalem that the state reports it is safe for the limited traffic it now bears.

Joyce Scala asked on behalf of her husband, Peter, for **a report on the progress of the investigation into the missing Fire Department files.** She said that, to this date, neither her husband nor Todd Riiska had been interviewed or even contacted by the New Marlborough Police Department. Mr. Yohalem declined to comment, as it is an ongoing case. Mr. Scala claimed that the town counsel has refused to talk to his attorney. Mr. Yohalem stated that this is not the case, and had a letter from Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard to Mr. Scala's attorney, dated July 2, produced for the Scalas' review.

In response to questions on the **Town's handling of delinquent tax payments,** Tara White explained the complicated and prolonged procedure which can take as long as three years to complete. She added that, given the many hurdles and legal costs property owners must deal with, they most often end up paying the back taxes.

Norman Rosenfeld raised the issue of **second-home-owner voting rights,** saying that some towns do allow part-time residents to vote on non-financial issues in the town. Nat Yohalem said that Town Counsel would be contacted to get the facts on the Massachusetts law in regard to voter eligibility.

Peggy Phillips expressed her concerns about the future of the Kolburne School property, and she also had a complaint about the damage done by passing vehicles, including Town snow plows, to her hedge along Route 57 in New Marlborough Village.

The meeting ended at 11:15 on a positive note from second home owner Mike Skrak, saying how much he appreciated the decision to hold this meeting on a weekend. □

*Larry Burke*



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**June 15:** Members John Weinstein and Ned Wilson opened the meeting and started with the continued hearing for the Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by the Lake Buel Restoration/Preservation District. Peter Hagen, representative for the District, was on hand to say that they still had not received a file number from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and that he would formally request a continuance of the public hearing. The Commission voted and agreed to leave the hearing open until the file number is issued.

Next, the Commission reviewed a Request For Determination (RDA) from Stephanie Wayne of 39 Stratford Road on Windemere Lake. The scope of work involves installing a gravel path for a golf cart to assist elderly people to travel from the end of the existing driveway for roughly 200 feet down to the lakeside. The proposed path starts on a lawn area, goes through a wooded area and continues, stopping twenty-five feet from the lakeside. The route indicated would require removal of three to five small trees. The Commission discussed that the work is within the buffer zone to a lake and is within 100 feet from the lakeside. The Commission agreed to give the RDA a negative determination because the work, although in the buffer zone, will not significantly alter the area. The Commission included two conditions with their determination: that no trees be removed within fifty feet of the bank, and that erosion control be used during construction.

Next up for review was a NOI for the Town of New Marlborough to permit the replacement of the superstructure of the bridge on Canaan Southfield Road

which was originally built in 1934. Tom Loughlin and Jeff Malloy of the BSC Group were present to speak for the permit and explained that the deck and beams would be removed and replaced. The project is within the riverfront area of the Umpachene River. Mr. Malloy explained that the new bridge will actually improve the flood storage by allowing the water to pass with ease under the bridge; riprap will be installed to stabilize erosion; native vegetation will be reintroduced to mitigate any disturbed areas. Mr. Loughlin explained that the substructure to the bridge, the abutment, has been tested and is in very good shape. The timeline for completion of the bridge is, at the latest, June of 2014, but the major work allowing passage over the bridge is projected to be completed by the end of 2013. The project is a "limited project" and is considered a "redevelopment project". Because the work does not exceed the thresholds for disturbance to the resources, the riverbank, and land underwater, the Commission has the authority to issue an order of conditions.

The Commission voted to approve the project as proposed.

Lastly Mr. Wilson read the minutes from last month's meeting. The minutes were approved with minor changes.

Finally, the mail was opened. News from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions was received and upcoming training courses were noted.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 13 and with that the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. □

*Martha Bryan*

### **From the Planning Board: Please note that in the near future you will be asked to vote on two significant issues for the Town**

Funding for culvert repairs and a change in the Town Protective By-Laws, creating Village Center Districts which we on the Planning Board urge you to support. Copies of the By-Law Revision are available in the Library, Town Hall, and on the Town Website: [www.newmarlboroughma.gov](http://www.newmarlboroughma.gov)

- The proposed NM Protective By-law revisions will protect the character of the villages by recognizing Village Centers as a distinct district from the Rural Agricultural District. The Village Center District would maintain the lot size at one acre.
- The proposed Village Centers By-law will not change your property taxes and will have no impact on water & septic systems permitting.
- The proposed revisions do not apply to pre-existing lots, structures and land uses, which would be "grandfathered" as long as the property or land use has not been abandoned for two years.
- The opportunities for retail businesses available to land owners have been expanded in the Village Centers District (with a 2,000 square-foot cap) from twenty-seven to forty-eight total uses, including nine By-Right uses expanded to twenty uses.



## THE WAY WE WERE

by Joe Poindexter

An occasional look back at New Marlborough through the eyes of those who were born here. This month:

### Joe Wilkinson

For Joe Wilkinson, nothing stood in the way of a carefree, highly independent boyhood – not even a collision with a 1949 Plymouth sedan. When he was about nine, Joe was perched on the handlebars of Bobby Barnes' bike, as the two of them careened downhill toward the Town Hall in Mill River. Heading uphill was Palmer Cook in his Plymouth. Somehow, bike and car met head-on. Barnes and Wilkinson went sailing over the top of the sedan and landed behind the car. Then they picked themselves up, egos bruised but everything else intact. The only injury was to the bike, whose bent front wheel had to be straightened down at Stanton's Garage. "They thought they'd killed us," says Joe. "Flattened the front wheel of the bike, but neither of us got hurt. I mean, we did a lot crazy stuff in that town."

Events such as this one suggest that Joe's early life was charmed, but that didn't prevent him from testing the limits. Born on Canaan Valley Road, he moved briefly to a property outside of New Marlborough village that would become the Red Fox Music camp, then, briefly again, to Southfield, and finally at age five, after his parents had separated, to Mill River, a few doors north of the Mill River General Store.

In the late 1940s and early '50s, Mill River was a busy village whose residents found their everyday needs right there. There were two general stores, a garage, and two gas pumps. And there were lots of kids. Joe reels off the names of his long-ago comrades as if reciting litany from a Biblical text: "Mel and Kenny Rhoades, Mike and Shaun Oates, Bud and Gabe Dow, Ron Thompson, Bub Twing, Al Stalker, Kenny Funk."

"I'll tell ya," says Joe, with no apparent remorse, "we were a bunch of little hoodlums."

For example? "Well, one night when we were twelve, thirteen years old, there was a selectmen's meeting at the Town Hall. We must not have had anything to do that night, so first we put a block of wood under the rear axle of Francis Rood's truck – he was a selectman – which was parked near Ed Stanton's house [two doors from the Town Hall]. Then we set a little fire right in the middle of the road. Mildred Stanton ran over to the Town Hall and told the selectmen that the boys had got a fire going. Meanwhile, we went up onto that hill across from Town



photo by Joe Poindexter

Joe Wilkinson today.

Hall and watched as Francis Rood got in his truck and fired it up and it wouldn't go. He was grinding the gears trying to go from forward to reverse. He thought he didn't have it in gear. We laughed pretty hard, but we never got caught."

Then there was the time Joe and the Dow boys decided to build a cabin behind the Dow house in Mill River. It hadn't escaped their notice that a ready supply of boards was stacked under Homer Stanton's sawmill, located just north of the New Marlborough Central School. They jury-rigged a four-wheel cart and began hauling cartloads of lumber from mill to cabin site, remarkably without being challenged. The project came to a halt when Homer Stanton got wind of the scheme ("He was awful mad," says Joe), but by then, the cabin was almost completed.

Bicycles were the engines of independence. "We'd think nothing of getting on our bikes and heading down to Umpachene Falls and go swimming, or heading up to Southfield," says Joe. "Fishing, we were always going fishing. Parents never knew where we were. We'd be gone all day long and never think anything of it." The freedom required a healthy dose of self-reliance. One day a few of the boys were at Umpachene Falls when Joe decided to cut down a limb

that was blocking sunlight to their swimming hole. He fell out of the tree, gashing his elbow on a rock in the river. Apparently not seeing any other options, the group rode their bikes to the office of Doc Edelman in Southfield. "I went in and he sewed me up. Of course, I didn't have any money, and he never charged me anything," says Joe.

By his own description, Joe was never a serious student. He went to New Marlborough Central for six years and then to Mount Everett the first year it opened. "School was too easy, get your work done and go home," says Joe, who never had any intention of going to college. But



Joe at approximately six years old.  
Photo courtesy the Wilkinson family.



he did have to earn a living, and after high school, he took a job with Bombardier, a Canadian company that was introducing snowmobiles to the U.S. Despite his family's misgivings about tying his livelihood to what they considered a fleeting fad, Joe flourished. As a sales training manager, he was dispatched to offices throughout the U.S. and Canada, and even Europe. "That was my college education," he says.

In 1971, Joe turned down a transfer to Duluth, Minnesota, and began working for himself. In '72 he turned a profit of \$7,000, and his excavation and road-building company has been growing ever since. At present Joe Wilkinson & Sons has more than 100 pieces of equipment and employs twenty-eight people. But there is something about growing up in a small community that helps keep things in perspective. At a recent fiftieth reunion of his high school, a classmate asked Joe what he did for a living. "I dig ditches," he said.

And he hasn't lost his love of mischief. A few years ago, having been frustrated in his campaign to get a free cup of coffee at the Mill River General Store, Joe posted signs around town in which the store purported to offer free coffee to everyone. (Although there was never any doubt about the identity of the perpetrator, Joe says this is the first time he has officially owned up to the deed.) "Dave [Herrick] offered a free cup to anyone who brought in a sign," he says. Joe Wilkinson is still waiting for his. □

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At the New Marlborough  
Meeting House Gallery  
On Rt 57 New Marlborough, MA

Presented by The New Marlborough Village Association

- PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**
- Karen Andrews
  - Lee Backer
  - Peter Barrett
  - Diane Barth
  - Eugene Cleary
  - Cookie Coyne
  - Robin Crofut-Brittingham
  - Maria Gay
  - Ann Getsinger
  - Nancy Goldberger
  - Pat Hogan
  - Richard Kimball
  - Ben Krupka
  - Elizabeth Lombardi
  - Holly McNesly
  - Jane McWhorter
  - Gwen Melvin
  - Brian Mikesell
  - Ellen Mutaugh
  - John Potoski
  - Shellie Schneider
  - Lucinda Shmulsky
  - Larry Silk
  - Walter Simons
  - Timothy Sleeper
  - Abbe Stahl Steinglass
  - Patrick Stolfo
  - Olga Schwede
  - Robin Tost
  - Barbara Winters
  - Terry Wise

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## NMVA ANNUAL MEETING

The New Marlborough Village Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, August 3, at 10:00 a.m. at the Meeting House on the green (Route 57). The annual report to the community will be presented and officers and board members will be elected. The meeting is open to members of the Village Association and the public. □

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## ROBERT JOFFE NATURE SANCTUARY

The Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary, a nine-acre tract located on Cagney Hill Road where it meets the Canaan Southfield Road, was dedicated on Sunday, July 14. The nine acres combines gifts of land from the Joffe family and their neighbors Peter Schuyten and Jodi Rothe, and Shirley and Ira Yohalem.

Seventy people attended a short ceremony where Martha Bryan and Richard Stebbins, co-presidents of the New Marlborough Land Trust, welcomed everyone. They thanked the volunteers from the community who contributed to the development of the nature trail on this ecologically diverse piece of land. Jon Piasecki, the designer and builder of the trail, was on hand to elaborate on his role in the project. It is hoped that the trail will be a special resource for local school students interested in the natural life that abounds in the sanctuary.

Several Joffe family members attended the event and Robert's son, David, spoke of his father's love for New Marlborough and the importance to his family of their time spent here.

Lemonade and home-baked cookies provided sustenance for people taking part in the guided tour of the trail. □

Pam Stebbins



Photos by Larry Burke

David Joffe took part in the opening celebration and walk.



Land Trust co-presidents Martha Bryan and Dick Stebbins listen as Jon Piasecki describes the challenges of local beaver activity.



Participants walk on the hand-cut boardwalk over a swampy area.



Jon Piasecki explains how the beavers and trail walkers will co-exist.



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## THE LOG

### New Marlborough Police Department News

Office hours in the Town Hall are 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

License to Carry Applicants/Renewals: 2

House Checks: 2

Citizen/Motorist Assists: 3

June 4 9:00 p.m. Suspicious activity, Norfolk Road  
11:00 p.m. Suspicious activity, Cagney Hill Road

June 5 6:20 p.m. Assisted Monterey P.D. with motor vehicle stop, vehicle towed

June 7 3:00 p.m. 911 Call Knight Road  
3:30 p.m. Larceny, Mill River

June 9 9:30 p.m. 911 call, Route 57

June 12 1:55 p.m. MV stop Route 57, criminal citation, unlicensed operation

June 14 2:10 p.m. Medical call, Hartsville  
5:15 p.m. Assisted Fire Department with illegal burn

June 16 10:00 a.m. Complaint of speeders, Lakeside Road

June 20 8:45 a.m. Loose horses Route 57, New Marlborough

12:30 p.m. Report of larceny, Southfield

3:00 p.m. Checkbook found, Town Hall

June 21 12:00 p.m. 911 call, Southfield

12:19 p.m. Located loose dogs, Southfield  
June 22 3:08 p.m. MVA, car vs pole, criminal citation issued

June 24 10:15 p.m. Several people located at York Lake, advised park is closed

June 25 4:50 p.m. Requested police presence at Umpachene Falls

5:05 p.m. Check Umpachene Falls, Two minors cited, Possession of alcohol

5:58 p.m. Check of Campbell Falls, male party camping at falls

10:03 p.m. Motor vehicle pursuit Route 57, operator arrested

June 28 11:00 p.m. Several vehicles parked 1000 Acre Swamp, no one around

June 29 11:55 a.m. Medical emergency, New Marlborough

12:10 p.m. Reported breaking and entering, Clayton

4:41 p.m. Reported lost property, Southfield

June 30 6:30 p.m. Tree on wires Clayton Mill River Road

## New Marlborough Artists Show

August 31 thru September 29

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Aline Bove

Betsey Wells Farber

Robert Forte

Joan Griswold

Cheryl Ann Luft

Rebecca Schreiber

Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson

Andrew Zdziarski

Opening on Friday,  
August 30, 5 to 7 PM

Gallery Days are Fridays, Saturdays  
& Sundays 11AM to 4PM

At the New Marlborough  
Meeting House Gallery

On Rt 57 New Marlborough, MA

Presented by The New Marlborough Village Association



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## FIRE AND RESCUE

June 2	6:25 p.m.	Mill River Hartsville Road Power Line Down	June 14	2:10 p.m.	Lakeside Road Medical Call
June 4	6:08 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	June 15	10:32 a.m.	Church Road Medical Call
June 11	5:17 p.m.	New Marlborough Monterey Road Fire Alarm	June 17	1:37 a.m.	Hatchery Road Fire Alarm
June 11	10:55 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	June 19	11:00 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
June 13	8:30 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call	June 21	5:50 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
June 13	12:42 p.m.	Calkins Cross Road Co Call	June 22	4:08 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road MVA
			June 29	11:50 a.m.	New Marlborough Branch Road Medical Call



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**Aug 3** Xuerong Zhao, piano  
Beethoven, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev



**Sept 7** License My Roving Hands  
*Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm*  
Letters, Lyrics and Music from Geoffrey Chaucer to John Donne. Actor Jonathan Epstein with Calliope, A Renaissance Band



**Aug 10** J.S. Bach: The Art of the Fugue  
*Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm*  
Bach's great contrapuntal cycle in a new orchestration for strings, winds and harpsichord by Daniel Stepner



**Sept 21** The Apollo Trio  
Mozart, Rachmaninov and Schubert's monumental Trio in E<sup>b</sup> major, Op. 100, (D. 929)



**Aug 24** Daedalus Quartet  
Erwin Schulhoff, Beethoven, Schubert, Smetana



**Sept 28** Anything Goes!  
Karen Akers sings Cole Porter with Don Rebic, piano



**Aug 31** Shall We Gather at the River: Music of Charles Ives  
*Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm*  
Songs, Violin Sonata #3, Decoration Day, Emerson Transcriptions for piano. Deborah Rentz-Moore, mezzo soprano, Daniel Berman, piano and Daniel Stepner, violin






**Receptions with the artists after the performances • Art Gallery Shows through Sept. 28**

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## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On June 16, Don Beauchamp, of Clayton, writes: Finally the female oriole visited the grape-jelly feeder. I hope that little ones will soon appear. Two rose-breasted grosbeaks — “the kids “ — have been at the seed feeder. I bought a new hummingbird feeder. A hummer visited it right away.

On June 30, he adds: Young male and female orioles are eating from grape jelly cup and from the orange next to it. Also, a red-bellied woodpecker and rose-breasted grosbeaks (male and female), sometimes one eating and the other waiting its turn.

On June 20, Charlie Parton, of New Marlborough village, writes: Aside from watching a snapper lady digging her pocket in the side of our drive and then trying to be unnoticed while laying her eggs, the only other event was having a Blackburnian warbler fly out of our grape vine to a nearby tree and hop around so I was able to see his brightly visible throat patch of vivid peachy-orange.

Our pond is a place of wonder — each day and at variable times — for its water people: water bugs and skaters, dragonflies and butterflies, frog eggs, and pollywogs and frogs by the dozens, toad eggs and pollywogs and soon to be more and more toads, various generations of locally hatched Koi and goldfish (a variety of same), newts and spotted salamanders, garter snakes, and the wild flowers – red, white with red-trimmed petals, lupines, purple, white, and yellow iris, pinks, and red honeysuckle, which have mostly come in by themselves. We can sit for an hour just watching everything natural happen.

On July 9, William Tatlock, who lives on Canaan Southfield Road, writes: On July 5, about 10:00 a.m., I saw a mother bear and two cubs crossing the Clayton Mill River Road, maybe three-quarters of a mile from Mill River, and going into the woods.



photo by Larry Burke

On July 20, Larry Burke, who lives on Route 183, writes: It’s all about the bears lately. We had a great visit from one on July Fourth, right in the middle of the afternoon. I happened to walk to our back door to check on the dogs and there he or she was, on the driveway right outside the barn. The dogs were spectating. The bear circled around behind the barn, ambled over toward the apple orchard, then around to the front of the house, where the cat got a good look, then sauntered out to where my truck was parked, got up on her hind legs, and took a peek into the bed of the pickup. She was completely unconcerned about our tracking her progress.

About an hour ago I glanced out the window and saw this, a male red fox casually strolling around the yard, munching on apple drops. We have a yellow delicious tree that ripens very early, like right now, and Mr. Fox was dining on some of those. Also, campers at Flying Cloud Summer Program were treated on Monday July 22 to watching the only cicada we have sighted so far, as it emerged as a gorgeous adult with iridescent green wings from its final nymphal instar.



photo by Larry Burke

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com

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photo by Don Beauchamp



## GARDEN TOUR BEATS THE WEATHER

Approximately eighty-five people braved the heat, humidity, and threat of thunderstorms to participate in the Fifth Annual Garden Tour on July 20, sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Five local gardens, four in New Marlborough and one just over the state line in Norfolk, Connecticut, were on display this year. Annuals and perennials, trees and shrubs, ponds and sculptures, and green or rocky vistas were some of the features enjoyed by the visitors.

Most of the visitors were New Marlborough or Norfolk residents responding to local publicity. One group of four tourists, however, showed up at one of the gardens with only half an hour left in the tour; they had simply followed the signs off the main road, and were delighted with their discovery.

Proceeds from the Garden Tour help to support the Cultural Council's annual competitive grants for programs in the arts and interpretive sciences in New Marlborough. The Council thanks the garden owners their generosity, and thanks Laura Davis of the Mill River General Store for being such a good ticket agent. □



Photos by Maureen Hosford

Top right to lower left: Sheila Baird's garden on Sisson Hill; the pond and natural spring waterfall at the home of Debra Regan and Paul Wasinger being admired by Alan and Elizabeth Lombardi; Katie Shields and James Daniels enjoying the Low's garden on Doolittle Road in Norfolk; sculptures in the garden of Honie and Jerry Berko on Norfolk Road; a cottage garden on Cross to Canaan Valley Road, home of Laura Chang and Arnold Chavkin.

## MAILBOX

Dear Editor,

The following is a postscript to the fascinating article about John Manikowski. Some time ago, probably over twelve years, John was looking at an art book and found a landscape painting by a "Hudson River School" artist, the subject of which naturally appealed to him. It featured a fly fisherman busy at his work. John copied this segment and later scrimshawed it onto an ivory handle for one of his knives.

Teena and I moved back to this area some thirteen years ago and when she first met John, he asked whether or not I had any artist relatives; sure enough, the painting that inspired John was signed Arthur Parton, N.A., my grandfather. The significance of this note is the wonder of circles in life, many over a hundred years: Grandfather died in 1914.

Charlie Parton  
New Marlborough





## UPCOMING: *Event Calendar for August and September*

**August 3: Award-winning pianist Xuerong Zhao** performs Prokofiev, Beethoven, and Mussorgsky, 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House; tickets are \$15; \$10 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association. Reserve by email at [tickets@newmarlborough.org](mailto:tickets@newmarlborough.org), or (413) 229-2785.

**August 10: The Art of the Fugue**, J.S. Bach's great contrapuntal cycle performed on baroque instruments, 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House; pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

**August 17: Elihu Burritt Day**, 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. on the Village Green in New Marlborough, sponsored by the Cultural Council

**August 17: 20th Annual Pig Roast**, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Fire House in Southfield; music and dancing from 7:00 on; tickets available at Mill River General Store; sponsored by the New Marlborough Fire Department.

**August 24: New Marlborough Cemetery Tour**, conducted by Historical Society Vice President John Schreiber; starts at 10:00 a.m. Then stick around for a demonstration of headstone repair and restoration by noted cemetery conservators, Fannin and Lehner. Free and open to the public.

**August 24: The Daedalus Quartet** performs string quartets by Schulhoff, Beethoven, Schubert, and Smetana; 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House; \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

**August 29: Senior Potluck Luncheon**: 12:00 noon, Clayton Church Fellowship Hall, hosted by the New Marlborough Council on Aging.

**August 31: New Marlborough Artists Show**: Eight New Marlborough artists exhibit a variety of media; opening reception Friday, August 31, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.; open Friday to Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. until September 29 at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery.

**Aug. 31: Shall We Gather at the River?** a sampling of Connecticut Yankee composer Charles Ives' rich repertoire of vocal and instrumental works. Deborah Rentz-Moore, mezzo soprano; Donald Berman, piano; Daniel Stepler, violin; 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House, pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

**September 6: Everything you ever wanted to know about Elihu Burritt**, a talk by Burritt expert Robert Wolff, professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, presented by the New Marlborough Historical Society, 6:00 p.m., Meeting House Gallery; free and open to the public.

**September 7: License My Roving Hands**, Jonathan Epstein of Shakespeare & Co. presents the bawdy, romantic, and poetic words of Chaucer, Henry VIII, Donne, and Aubrey, accompanied by the renaissance tunes of Calliope, 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House, pre-concert talk at 3:30; \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

**September 15: Classic Country and Western Music**, to benefit Southern Berkshire Elderly Transport Corporation, Crissey Farm, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.; tickets at Gingham Rabbit and the Eagle Shoe Store

**September 21: The Apollo Trio**, performing Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and Schubert; 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

**September 28: Anything Goes (as long as it's Cole Porter)**. The chanteuse, **Karen Akers** goes Cole-istic, accompanied by pianist Don Rebic. Followed by a wine tasting hosted by the one and only Domaney's of Great Barrington; 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

### Thank You to Our Contributors!

Rene & Marjorie Biber; Sheila Baird; Fran & Don Cardiff;  
and Julie Taiber & Adam Candeub in honor of Barbara Bean



## “THEME” SHOW IN MEETING HOUSE GALLERY JULY 27- AUGUST 25

by Pam Stebbins

Every summer one of the art shows organized by the Gallery Committee of the New Marlborough Village Association is an invitational exhibit with a theme. It is a large show of paintings, sculpture, photography, and mixed media, and each artist is eligible to submit his or her choice of work.

This year's theme is Visual Metaphors, and will take place July 27 through August 25. Gallery Committee Chair, Elizabeth Lombardi, sent out the following thought to give participants some guidance on their entries: “When creating a visual metaphor, the artist substitutes one kind of reality for another in order to enhance the meaning of the latter.” She went on to suggest that an artist give a title to his or her work so the viewer can see the artist's visual metaphor as well as placing their own interpretation on the piece.

First-time exhibitor Patrick Stolfo carves images from wood and stone. He lives in Ghent, NY, and has retired recently from teaching drawing, sculpture, and art history to high school students. He is currently an adjunct professor at Antioch New England Teacher Training Summer Program. He begins a new piece by selecting the material. He works with the original shape of the wood or stone to reveal a range of metaphors during the creative process. Patrick is comfortable giving a name to his final work or letting a friend or family member suggest a name. He has submitted two pieces carved from black walnut. Both are somewhat abstract with names suggesting a metaphor. One piece is entitled “Hope” which is Patrick's interpretation of “rising up.” The other entitled “Tree Torso” represents a fragment of a human body and could bring many thoughts and images to the viewer.

Photographer Lee Backer prefers not to give a title to his work. Although he has named his entries in this show, Lee likes his viewers to find the metaphor (or metaphors) that enhance their enjoyment of his work. Lee has been photographing for over forty years. His passion for natural landscapes has recently expanded to explore the urban environment. He is attracted to both the landscape and the interaction between people and their environment. Lee and his wife Joan are second-home owners in Southfield.

Painter Abbe Stahl Steinglass thinks that “metaphor is both like a disguise and also an amplification of a thought.” She paints landscapes as well as symbolic works which often come out of her own life experiences. This reporter particularly liked a painting titled “Three Families go to the Beach” which will be exhibited along with another of her paintings. Although an abstract painting, Abbe's title was for me a way into her thought as she was painting it. She hopes that people seeing this painting will bring their own thoughts and associations to this picture. She and her husband Peter are second-home owners in Mill River.

Other artists included in the show are Karen Andrews, Peter Barrett, Cookie Coyne, Robin Crofut-Brittingham, Maria Gay, Ann Getsinger, Nancy Goldberger, Pat Hogan, Richard Kimball, Ben Krupka, Elizabeth Lombardi, Holly McNeely, Jane McWhorter, Gwen Melvin, Brian Mikesell, Ellen Murtaugh, John Protoski, Shellie Schnider, Lucinda Shmulsky, Larry Silk, Walter Simons, Timothy Sleeper, Olga Schwede, Robin Tost, Barbara Winters and Terry Wise.

There was an opening reception on Friday evening, July 26. The gallery is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from hours are 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for this show, which will run from July 27 to August 25.

The Meeting House Gallery is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association and is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green. □



top: Sculpture by Patrick Stolfo,  
middle: painting by Abbe Steinglass  
bottom, photograph by Lee Backer

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# New Marlborough's 39th Annual **Elihu Burritt Day**



## **The Fire Company Pig Roast and Block Dance**

Saturday, August 17

On the Village green (Rt. 57)

### EVENT SCHEDULE

10:00 5K Fun Run/Walk  
11:00 Roger the Jester  
12:00 to 2:00 Kids' Crafts with  
Arlyn & Joyce  
12:00 Honor Ceremony  
Elihu Burritt Award for  
Community Service to  
Jane & Larry Burke  
12:30 Performance of *Elihu?*  
1:00 Henry the Juggler

### ALL DAY 10AM to 3PM

Antiques Appraisals  
Hayrides  
Petting Zoo  
Sixth Annual Classic Car Show  
White Elephant Sale &  
Silent Auction  
Library Book & Bake Sale  
Exhibitors and Crafters  
Fire Trucks and  
First Responders

### GREAT FOOD from

The Southfield Store, Robert Twing, Paella by Jean Pollock,  
& Barbeque (Roast Beef with Horseradish Sauce) by Scott Ryan

## At the Fire House in Southfield

20TH ANNUAL PIG ROAST 5:00PM to 7:00PM

Roast Pork/Roast Turkey/Potatoes/Corn/Salad/Dessert

Tickets: Adults \$20, Children \$7.50

Tickets available at the Mill River Store or at the door

LIVE MUSIC BY CORNERSTONE 7:00PM

Fire Company Raffle: \$1.00 each / 6 for \$5.00

## **ONE DAY-TWO GREAT EVENTS**

Sponsored by The New Marlborough Cultural Council &  
The New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Company



## Two For One — The Burritt Day Award

by Mary Richie Smith

Every year on Elihu Burritt Day (this year falling on August 17), New Marlborough singles out a very special citizen to honor with the Burritt Day Award for community service. But this year it's not a matter of singling out — two people are being honored, Jane and Lawrence Burke. As they are a married couple they could be considered as one. But each, in addition to their collaborations, has such distinctive accomplishments that it might be appropriate to give three Burritt Day Awards, one to each separately and one for their joint achievements.

The Burkes met one another in Lenox at an art gallery in 1979. She was teaching at the DeSisto School, back from a teaching stint in Australia. He was visiting from New Hampshire, where he was on leave from the film department of Columbia University's School of The Arts, thinking over his future. Jane's father, who was interested in sustainable farming experiments, owned Flying Cloud Inn and suggested they try being inn-keepers. They did try it, and together founded an environmental center to teach about alternative energy — wind power — and sustainable agriculture. All well and good, but not, they were sure, what they were meant to do.

What were they meant to do? Think up, found, run, and fund-raise for Flying Cloud Institute, a place where boys and girls from five to eighteen, through a melding of art and science, could learn how to become more than they may have known they could be. Next year, 2014, the Institute will be thirty years old. All in all about 6,000 children, 90 percent local and 40 percent on scholarship, will have come under its transforming influence.

Many have known the intense pleasure of six weeks of workshops taught by some two dozen specialists, exploring the visual and performing arts, learning science, learning ceramics, learning digital film making, learning that it is fun to learn.

This approach, bringing together art and science, is known by the acronym SMArt, and its projects are brought to local public schools, including our New Marlborough Central School. Then there is the Berkshire Environmental Educators Network (BEEN), which Jane founded to improve environmental education in the area.

And finally, Young Women in Science is a project particularly important to Jane, which through various clubs and workshops and teams, encourages girls to think of careers in science, math, technology, and engineering.

Always, the intention has been to bring art and science people into the local schools. And in the arts programs, a number of our local artists have participated as teachers. Our own village children are encouraged to grow, to push their minds beyond the usual, the expected. There are free afternoon programs to help this along.

Lawrence, or Larry as we know him, was deeply



photo by Lee Buck

Jane and Larry Burke

involved in the day-to-day operations of the Flying Cloud Institute in the early days, and he continues to play a part, this summer guiding the older children in making a wildly imaginative film. But increasingly his professional life has been based at Simon's Rock College, where he has taught film studies and digital video production since 1999.

He has also given a great deal of time to what one might call protecting this wonderful town. He joined the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Company early in 1981. Shortly thereafter, with Paul and Marsha Harvey, he became a charter member of the New Marlborough First Responders, becoming an EMT and serving as president for several terms. In 1985, along with Jim Michelman and Neil Crawford, he helped found the New Marlborough Township Volunteer Emergency Services Fund, which led to major upgrades in equipment and facilities.

He has chaired the Planning Board and helped found the Land Trust. He has served as vice chairman of the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee. In 1993 he chaired the Bylaw Revision Committee, which sought to revise the Town's Protective Bylaws.

And in 2000 he and a few others started our invaluable *New Marlborough 5 Village News*. Larry is that rare creature, a practicing, practical visionary.

Jane, too, has been a superior citizen, having spent thirteen years on the New Marlborough Conservation Commission, six of those years as chairman, as well as seventeen years on the New Marlborough Cultural Council, four years as chair.

At Flying Cloud and its offshoots, the children are taught that more is always asked of each and that it is up to each to follow through. The Burkes ask much of themselves and always follow through. □



## A SKATE PARK FOR NEW MARLBOROUGH?

by Nicholas Lussier

Why should we have a skate park in New Marlborough? Because maybe your child loves to bike, skate, or scooter, but you live too far from Great Barrington, and you just can't get them there. "When I was skating at the Great Barrington park, I noticed how much the older and more experienced skaters were willing to help and encourage the younger and more beginner skaters," said Henry Eustis, an Egremont resident. If we can create an atmosphere and vibe like that, more people will come, and it will help build a strong and kind youth community.

Of course, there are some challenges on the road to a skate park: the expense of buying or creating the terrain, finding a strategic and safe place to put the park, planning and designing the park, creating rules, and cementing the area. All of these can be overcome easily, if thought out correctly. Terrain can be built with

wood or cement. Metal is also key for grind rails. In New Marlborough, we might have town owned property where we could put a good-sized skate park. We could also order the park terrain online. To overcome the challenge of creating a cemented or paved area, we could just find a paved or cemented space that is not in use or has been abandoned. Also, the space should be a space where it is not bothering any residents.

It may seem as if I am forgetting about people who bike and scooter. No. The park would be for skaters, bikers, and scooter riders. The park wouldn't have the same terrain as the one in Great Barrington, if you have ever seen it. The terrain would be more beginner-intermediate level. This why we should have (and how we can get) a skate park in New Marlborough. □

*Nicholas Lussier will attend 7th grade at Muddy Brook*

## TRANSFORMATIONS

### *The SMART Summer Program Art Show*

by Jane Burke

At the opening of the 10th Annual SMART Student Art Show at the Meeting House Gallery on July 12, an enthusiastic group of parents and community members were amazed by the art work produced during Flying Cloud's SMART (Science Meets Art) Summer Program. During the three-week session directed by Kristen Sparhawk, the children explored the concept of transformation with the help of natural scientists and artists. The younger children from grades one through five looked at seeds with environmental scientist Dale Abrams and horticulturalist Jeremy Vallianos, using microscopes to examine their amazing adaptations. Then painter Krista Edlund Kennedy, who directed all of the painting this session, helped them create a triptych of three 24- by 36-inch paintings of an imaginary seed, the environment where it would take root, and its appearance at maturity. The best of this work, including Charlotte Smith's seed with a tail and teeth as well as Vaughn Marchione's hill environment, was hung in the gallery along with the ebullient work of the advanced students.

These nine "advanced" middle school students filled the rest of the gallery with their interpretations of transformation using several media. In ceramics, with ceramic artist Arla Bascom and clay chemist Jane Burke, they experimented with the forms that could be created by manipulating a flat slab into three dimensions. Photographers Sally Eagle and Dan Mead helped them use a macro lens to look more closely at details in the



Photo by Kathleen Chrisman

*Flying Cloud Science Meets Art Program participant Olivia Marchione of Mill River, with her three-dimensional painting, "Pyramids of Feathers" at the Meeting House Gallery show in mid-July.*

natural world. Ms. Kennedy had each student bring an individual transformation to life on canvas with acrylic paints. These varied from Olivia Marchione's triangular pyramids transforming into a peacock to Sophia Joffe's hummingbird turning into a flower. The most ambitious project was an animated film led by film maker Larry Burke and Ms. Kennedy. After deciding on a story line, they went to work on paintings that would be used as the images for the film. For each second of screen time in the film, the young artists executed ten changes to their paintings, so hours and hours of work were required to create the six to ten seconds that each of the paintings evolve on screen.

The show ran for two weeks, and overall the public was impressed with the talent and energy displayed. Children can reach great heights when given the resources and freedom that they need. □



## THE 2013 NEW MARLBOROUGH LIBRARY CLUB, “DIG INTO READING @ Your Library!”

Twelve children participated in the library’s Summer Library Club, July 8 – 11. Each morning at 9:00 a.m. parents dropped off their children, and picked them up at 2:00 p.m. The children participated in a wide range of activities led by Librarian Debbie O’Brien and two adult helpers, Sheila Fitzpatrick and Elaine Bertoli. There were many fun, educational projects and games, with an ecological, gardening, and nature theme. Some of the highlights included: making mosaic tiles with Glen Amstead; dance through literature with Tom Masters; learning about and constructing worm boxes with Erna Lampman; percussion instruments with Ben Harms; and cook and books with Debbie Alsebai. The children also made comfy reading pillows, played board games, had quiet reading time, and played some new and traditional outdoor games. We all had a great time! Thanks go to all our guests for sharing their expertise. The library would like to send a special thank-you to the

volunteers who donated their time and energy to this busy club: Sheila Fitzpatrick, Elaine Bertoli, Renae and Theresa Carotenuto, Samantha and Catherine Twing, Andrea Ferrara, Donovan Sawyer, Nicholas Lussier, Matthew Brown, and Antonio Romano. □

Debbie O’Brien



photos by Debbie O'Brien

Above: Making mosaic tiles. Right: The 2013 Library Club.



Above: Ben Harms with percussion instruments.  
Left: Cook and Books with Debbie Alsebai.

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*Abomination*, by Jonathan Holt  
*Letters from Skye*, by Jessica Brockmole  
*Trains and Lovers*, by Alexander McCall Smith  
*Red Sparrow*, by Jason Matthews

### Children's Fiction

*Perfect Game*, by Fred Bowen  
*Brush of the Gods*, by Lenore Lock  
*YGGYSEY*, by Daniel Pinkwater  
*Lost Children*, by Carolyn Cohagan  
*The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail*, by Richard Peck  
*The Beginner's Guide to Running Away From Home*, by Jennifer Larue Huget

### LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS:

Mon., Wed., & Sat.:  
 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Tues & Fri 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Thurs 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 229-6668

The New Marlborough Friends of the Library  
 are looking for

## BAKED GOODS AND VOLUNTEERS

for their annual Book and Bake Sale on Elihu Burritt Day, August 17.  
 If you would like to help, please contact the library at 229-6668.

### ► Book Discussion Group

Join us for bagels, coffee, and a lively discussion of the book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, by John Berendt. August 10, 10:00 a.m. at the New Marlborough Library.



Ever on the lookout for truth-in-signage, Robert Twing, of Hartsville, came across this picture on YouTube recently. With a minor adjustment, it would be a good posting for our various troubled bridges.

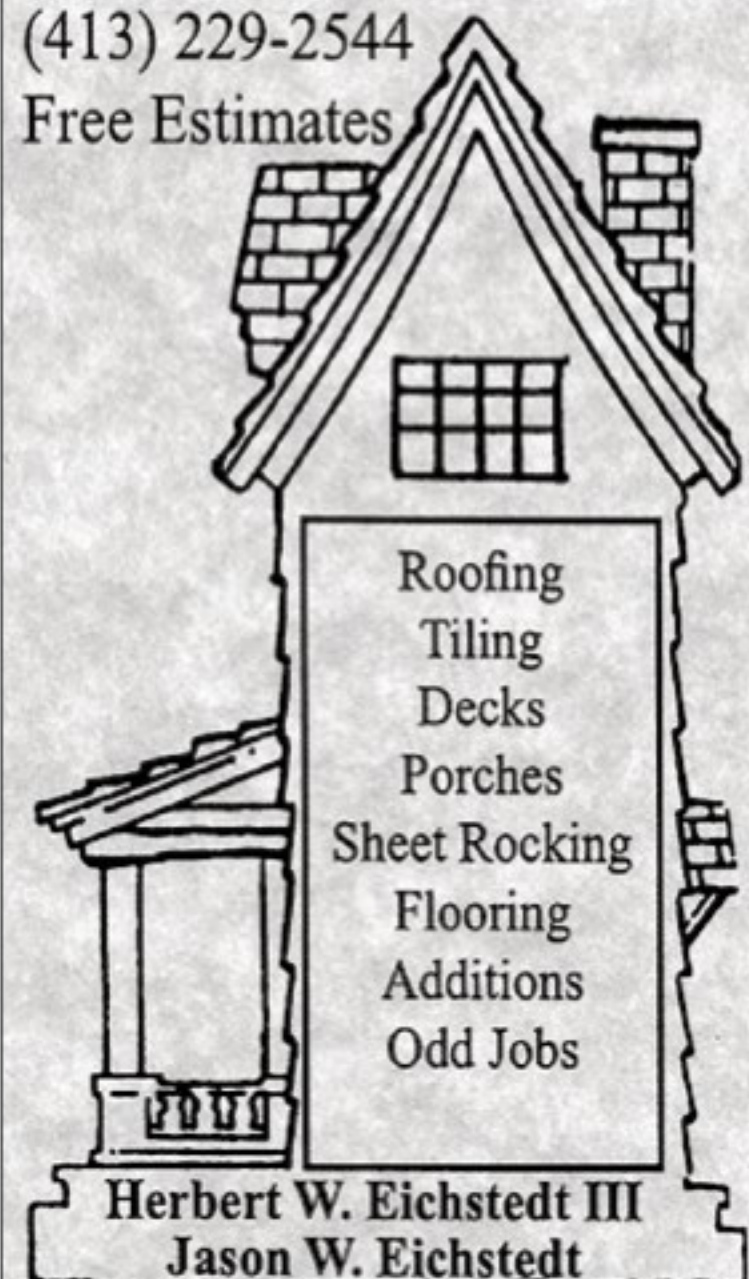
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Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:  
New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

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- \* **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- \* **Planning Board:** First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- \* **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- \* **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
- \* **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- \* **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- \* **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- \* **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- \* **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
- \* **Town Treasurer:** Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- \* **Tax Collector:** Summer- Mon. & Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- \* **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- \* **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038
- \* **Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- \* **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- \* **Police:** Business office: 229-8161

**Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911**

### Transfer Station hours:

Wednesday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at  
the Town Hall in Mill River

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### New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.  
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PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244  
(413) 229-8165

*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.  
Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369*

### NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;  
Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Jane Burke,  
Charlie Parton, David Lowman, Larry Burke,  
Martha Bryan, Jon Swan, Peter Schuyten,  
Joe Poindexter, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman  
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,  
Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White

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PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259  
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