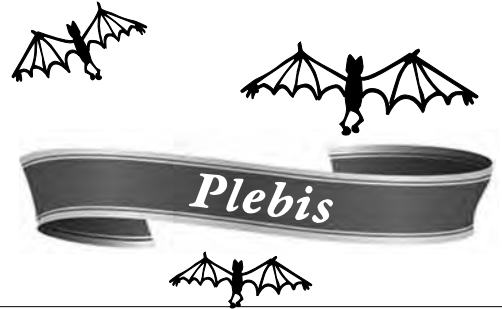


THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

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October 2011

Once Upon a Midnight Dreary... The Ghost of the New Boston Inn

By Francis Deming

Throughout my youth I heard about the ghost residing at the New Boston Inn. With the certainty of youth, I was sure there was no such thing. But as I grew older and responsible, and people told me of various ghostly experiences, I began to wonder if there really was something to this ghost business.

My cousin, Susan Nien, owned the inn for 24 years. She was well educated, honest, practical and certainly of sound mind. She told me of her experiences with the ghost at the Inn. She was sure that the ghost was female and let her presence be known in subtle ways. This ghost was not one to jump out and say "Boo!" It was after these discussions that I began to believe in ghosts.

The basic legend goes like this: Many years ago a young girl,

employed at the Inn, was betrothed to a local young man. While working there she met a traveling man and decided to marry him instead. At the wedding ceremony, which was held in the ballroom, her jilted fiancé came in and shot her dead, then rode off on his horse, never to be seen again. One variation of the story is that her name was "Harriet" and that her killer was soon caught and hung in the tree in front of the Inn.

My cousin Susan and her mother, Jenny, once saw a wispy figure of a young girl dressed in a white, flowing dress, standing at the top of the stairs in the front hall. I, too, saw a wispy figure in the front hall. It crossed the hall and went through the wall in the exact spot where there used to be a door. I went to the next room but saw nothing. I did capture this experience on film (two exposures) but unfortunately I have been unable to locate them or the negatives. *Cont'd P. 2*

Helen Meisl

By Camille Dwyer



Photo: Larry Dwyer

When I went to Mrs. Helen Meisl's home, I was invited into the kitchen by her eldest son, Josef, his wife and two daughters who introduced me to Mrs. Meisl. I sat down at the table and conducted my interview in a charming and tidy home with pictures of her grandchildren on the refrigerator and animal busts on the wall from her late husband's hunting expeditions. Helen is interesting to listen to because her life is full of many stories, such as becoming a refugee after WWII, moving to America and recovering from major health setbacks.

Helen, the youngest of seven children, grew up in Gotschee, an ethnic German community in Yugoslavia (present day Slovenia). Her childhood ended during WWII when she and her family were relocated to Austria. When the war ended in 1945, all Germans in Slavic territories were considered refugees after the defeat of the Axis Powers. Helen and her family were placed in a refugee camp.

Helen's family had the chance to come to the United States after the war. Helen's sister, Maria Kromer, immigrated to the USA before the war in Europe. Maria sponsored her mother and father in 1947 and Helen followed soon after, at the age of seventeen, on November 7, 1948. *Cont'd P. 3*



SHOW US THE MONEY!

By Debbie Harris

In 2002, nine hundred acres of land, then under Chapter 61 designation as conservation property, went up for sale. The land was owned by descendants of the Rowley/Hawley family. It had been in the family for nearly two centuries, but was eventually held in fractional interests by various members of the two sides of the family.

By 1992 this land was identified by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation as one of the most significant land protection opportunities in the state. It is home to diverse and rare animal and plant species and includes historical sites, mature deciduous woodlands, rolling meadows, a 400+ year old hemlock forest and the 62 acre Lower Spectacle Pond.

With seven different owners, it took 5 years before a final decision was made regarding to whom it should be sold.

Although all of the owners were in favor of exploring a sale for conservation purposes, a prospective developer was also interested in the land. This developer wanted to build homes. He initially proposed 60 houses, with more to come in the future. As a result the family was divided as to what to do.

At first, half of the owners agreed to sell their land for conservation purposes, and the other half wanted to sell to the developer. Adding to the confusion was the fact that the State is prevented from buying an Option to Purchase and has a policy against acquiring an undivided half interest in a property. Mass Audubon then stepped in to secure an Option to Purchase the portion of the land that was available for conservation purposes.

However, the developer wanted to partition the property, which would compromise the conservation goal of protecting the diverse landscape intact. And, because the land was Chapter land (i.e., under Chapter 61 protection), the Town of Sandisfield had the right of first refusal on the sale. Therefore, the Town was in a position to be the deciding factor in the disposition.

As intent as the developer was in pursuing the sale, the conservation interests were fighting back. Sandisfield had to balance the tax benefits of selling the land to the *Cont'd P. 2*

The Ghost of the New Boston Inn

Cont'd from P. 1

In the course of my employment at the Inn (almost 15 years) my experiences with this ghost ran almost parallel to Susan's. When Susan and her family left the Inn they asked the ghost if she would like to go with them. Apparently the invitation was declined as the ghost still resides at the Inn.

The most prevalent evidence is the repeated complaining of the guests that they cannot sleep due to the sound of music and dancing in the ballroom. Both Susan

and I heard this same complaint many times - several reports a month. The guests would also report missing jewelry and pretty garments. Some guests naturally suspected theft. Immediate and diligent searches always failed to turn up the items. Then, some weeks or months later the missing objects would invariably appear in plain sight. I personally retrieved two sweaters, a scarf and a silver bracelet.

After Susan's time as Innkeeper, the next owners were Bill and Anne McCarthy. At first they scoffed at the idea of a resident ghost. They believed it was just a tall tale. But within a few months they too became firm believers. There were times when Bill and I would sleep in the ballroom, hoping to see the ghost and maybe converse with her in some way. Our attempts were to no avail.

One time, while passing the ballroom, I heard the unmistakable sound of a rocking chair in motion. I opened the door and the chair was indeed in motion but slowed to a stop almost immediately. There was nothing in that room to make that rocking chair move.

The family dog, "Rossi," would sometimes scratch and bark at a bedroom door. Investigation would reveal nothing. Very often the dog would pick up her head and her eyes would follow something across the room. Only she could perceive the apparition.



Sometimes, while in the kitchen, we heard unexplained clatter upstairs. On one occasion I recall running up the stairs only to be met by two lady guests, armed with a cane and an umbrella, also investigating the noise. Like always, there was no explanation.

On two other occasions, while babysitting guests' children, we were in the kitchen and heard the children talking to someone in the sitting room. Again there was no obvious presence and we asked the children to whom they were talking. One replied, "the blue lady with no feet." Several months later this event was repeated with one small child who gave the same answer when asked who she was talking to.

At times while working in the cellar at the work bench which was located under the dining room, I heard footsteps and the floor boards creaking overhead. Always the same result: nobody there.

Then I remember hearing music coming from the ballroom. Finally! I had heard it for myself. I ran upstairs to the ballroom only to find the telephone repair man playing the piano. How disappointing.

I am convinced that there is a ghost here. If it is in fact "Harriet," I feel she must have been a sweet, gentle person and not the kind who would intentionally frighten anyone. ♥

Photos: Wikimedia Commons

Did you know...

Sandisfield has a blog!

<http://sandisfield.blogspot.com>



SHOW US THE MONEY

Cont'd from P.1

developer against what it felt was the right thing in saving the land for conservation purposes.

Eventually, after over a year of negotiations, the Commonwealth brokered a deal whereby both sides of the family agreed to sell the entire property, in two lots, to the State as an eminent domain taking. In return for the land, the State agreed to pay Sandisfield an annual sum of money in lieu of the taxes it would have received.

According to the Sandisfield Town Clerk, the State agreed to pay the Town an amount of money equal to what the Town would have received if the property had remained under Chapter 61 protection. According to the Sandisfield Assessor's office, the State has a yearly pool of money that it pays to various municipalities throughout the Commonwealth for land acquired for conservation purposes. The exact sum varies from year to year. In any event, the Town has yet to see any money from the State.

Jacki Bitso of the Assessor's office talked with the Department of Revenues (DOR) representative for the Town. He told her that there is a four to five year process before new land acquisitions can be added to the "Cherry Sheet" (This is the DOR document that tells towns how much they will receive each year from the State.) First the State must assess the land, and then the value must be certified. The DOR representative indicated that the soonest Sandisfield would receive any money for this land would be FY2013, when monies from 2007 and 2008 land acquisitions should first appear on the "Cherry Sheet."

One parcel of land in question, consisting of 582.7 acres, was valued at \$1,137,700 in 2007 (the year it was sold to the State), and the Town received \$3,753 in taxes. In 2010 the DOR revalued this land at \$1,820,600 (the amount that should be certified next year). The other parcel, consisting of 375.0 acres, was valued at \$725,569 in 2007, resulting in \$2,253.34 in tax revenue to the Town. This parcel was revalued by the DOR at \$1,852,300 in 2010 (again, the amount that should be certified next year).

In addition, in February of 2008 an entirely separate parcel of land by Myles Quarry containing 82.0 acres of land was sold to the State for conservation purposes. This parcel, which was never under Chapter 61 protection, was valued at \$199,300 in 2008, when the Town received \$1,644.22 in tax revenue. Again, since the State purchased the land Sandisfield has not received any revenue from it. No State revaluation has yet occurred on this parcel.

Sandisfield residents are urged to write to the State asking them to expedite the release of funds for these properties. Letters can be directed to Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114. Secretary Sullivan can also be reached by phone at 617-626-1000, by FAX at 617-626-1181, or by email at env.internet@state.ma.us. ♥



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Tina Sotis

Writing this letter is an opportunity for the editor to reflect on the month ahead or events just passing, and jot down thoughts, ideas or musings about life in our corner of the world. This letter can be a journal of sorts, and it's personality and subject matter will naturally take on that of whoever is filling the editor's shoes in any particular month.

After reading this month's Letter to the Editor from Joan and Dave Mason, I was moved to write about kindnesses, large and small, of the people of Sandisfield. Time after time I have witnessed or heard about neighbor helping neighbor.

We live at one of the highest elevations in the Southern Berkshires and we get more than our fair share of extreme weather. (Remember the ice storm of December 2008?) Fortunately for us however, Hurricane Irene chose to move slightly west of us and we were not as devastated as some of our neighboring communities. Still - we had terrible flooding along the lower elevations of our town and there were people who got into trouble.


In the case of the Masons, Dave is dependent on tanks of oxygen and the couple were worried that they were going to be stranded longer than Dave's reserves would allow. But their description of the attention and care they received from members of our Fire Department brought tears to my eyes. I'd heard similar stories about the dedication of our emergency service workers, but this one really hit home.

As for myself, I have had so many personal encounters with people who's generosity overwhelmed me.

I live alone now, and normally my husband would have taken care of ordering our yearly firewood supply. Because of my new situation, I don't have a lot of money to spare, so I had to call around to get prices from different suppliers. Jeff Grey, the person from whom I normally get my supply, understood my plight. Instead of getting huffy that I was considering another source, he completely sympathized and gave me the names of some other loggers who might be able to give me a better deal. I got, as I always do when I talk to him, the sense that if I ever needed help he would at my door in a shot.

I ended up going to see Joey Maliawco, who I had never met, in my 12 years of living here. He treated me like an old friend and I got the sense that he, too would take good care of me and I was struck by his honesty, integrity and friendliness. I have heard through others, by the way, that he is the soul of generosity and helps many people in our town that can't do certain things for themselves - yardwork, for example.

There are scores of other people that I can think of but I can't mention their names due to space. But I want to thank each of you who have come into my life and given me so much of yourselves. Not just in "favors", but in simple kindness and acceptance.

I'm so grateful for you all. 

Tina



Seasons Senescent

It was cold today
 Life itself is juttered to the seasons.
 Now that I've grown old and sweet
 I've found but nose-gays in the Spring,
 Summer to be insolent and short,
 Fall dressing up to die
 And Winter as my winding sheet.

*September 8, 2011
 Val Coleman*



HELEN MEISL *Cont'd from P.1*

Her sister continued to help by locating a job for her through a nanny agency where Helen worked for Mr. Brainerd, president Hartford Steam Boiler, the insurance company that is now known as Aetna.

Over the years Helen continued to work for Mr. Brainerd in Connecticut, but in 1952 she met Josef Meisl and their lives changed as they fell in love. They married in 1953 and moved to Glendale, NY. They had six children together: Traudi, Josef, Irene, Kathy, Stephan, and Nancy.

While living in Glendale, Helen and Josef discovered Sandisfield through her brother. In 1957 they purchased three acres of land from the Schmidt family. The whole family came up on the weekends and summers to clear the "overgrown piece of woods" with axes. Helen compared their lifestyle to "gypsies" because of their living conditions - they did not have running water or electricity until the mid 1960s and they lived in a 12'x12' shed. To retrieve clean drinking water, the younger children would collect natural spring water on West Street and transport it in bottles on a wagon. Helen still has the kerosene lamps they used


for light during the time they spent there.

In August of 1972, the Meisl family moved to Sandisfield permanently because Helen and Josef viewed New York as unsafe. Josef dug the foundation for their new, high quality, prefabricated home purchased through Aladdin Homes. They had much help from the locals including Phil and Pete Veremko for excavating, Charley and Rudie Annecharico for digging the well and foundation and Bill Riiska was the dowser.

Mrs. Meisl has been living in Sandisfield for almost forty years and she has many stories of her time in this rural community, including the tale of Dr. Erby of Germantown. For the younger generations and new comers to Sandisfield, Germantown was made up of mostly New Yorkers who were born in Germany and Eastern Europe and lived above Route 57 and on West Street. Sandisfield reminded them of their homeland. Dr. Erby was the local practitioner who took credit for the longevity of the inhabitants of Germantown. Helen remembers him as a stocky man, who had a tough demeanor and carried a little black medical bag. Helen's distinctive memory of the doctor is when her eldest child, Traudi, came home from college for

Christmas break and could not breathe. Helen and her family had recently adopted new kittens and Dr. Erby was the one who discovered Traudi was allergic to cats. Dr. Erby gave a quirky diagnosis to the Meisl family in these exact words: "You have a choice—you either get rid of the cats or your daughter." They decided to get rid of the cats.

By talking with Helen for over two hours, it is clear that she has lived a long and prosperous life, with many difficulties. During the past decade, her husband died of cancer (in 2003) and she survived two strokes and a heart attack. Her doctors consider her recovery to be a miracle. Helen has nine grandchildren, including Bobbie Thomason who was a winner of Miss Teen USA and is now studying for her doctorate at Stanford University. One of her grandsons, Josef Meisl, served in the Air Force and will be married later this year.

Helen is charming, friendly and a lady with true warmth and kindness and the dedication to help others. She is truly a remarkable woman who has experienced much, but still maintains a positive outlook on the world. 



Lena and Jack Sandler

Article and Photo By Rhee Kasky

Remember Old MacDonald, the one who had a farm, and on his farm he had some chicks "with a cluck cluck here and a cluck cluck there"? Well, Lena and Jack Sandler outdid Old MacDonald. They housed 25,000 chickens right here in Sandisfield, most under Lena's watchful eyes. How did Lena become such a Mother Hen? She fell in love with Jack, that's how.

Lena Klein was born in New York City while Jack Sandler was born in pre-World War I Europe. Jack's father, Max Sandler, came to the United States leaving his wife and children in Europe while he sought work as a longshoreman in New York City. Max settled in on Henry Street on the Lower East Side and his wife followed him in 1923. A year later they sent for their youngest son, Jacob (Jack). Only 10 years old, he traveled by himself in steerage, and was a big hit on the journey to the States, establishing early on the personality that would win him love and respect from many throughout his lifetime.

How did these two young people wind up in the Montville section of Sandisfield? How did they meet and marry? The story is told that a certain Baron Edmund James Rothschild, a member of the wealthy

French banking family, along with a relative, Baron Maurice de Hirsch (also quite wealthy), had in mind to help European Jews settle in rural agricultural communities. These immigrants could then farm and live comfortably, away from the pressures of cities like New York which were steamy and uncomfortable, particularly in the summer. Montville was the perfect setting for their pursuit, close to the city yet far enough away to soothe the soul. Lena came up and stayed with family friends. Max Sandler came too, choosing Montville because his friend Max Linder was here. Max purchased the Newton Phelps House at the corner of Sandisfield and Town Hill Roads in 1925. Lena is very proud that the town changed her address to Sandler Lane.

Jack's job in those early years was as a driver, carrying people back and forth between the family's Montville "summer resort" and New York City. In the summer the family rented out rooms and the use of the kitchen where each visiting family had its own four-burner stovetop on which to cook. People came from the city to enjoy the serenity and beauty of the Berkshires.

Jack was 23 and Lena was 17 when they met. They were married in 1937 and lived together for 53 years until Jack's death in 1990. Jack was an entrepreneur of the first order. He did everything he could to support his family, starting out on the road crew. When World War II broke out he went to work for the Torrington Brass Factory in Connecticut. Lena says the military didn't take him because by then they had three children, although she adds that if they did decide to enlist him, she wouldn't have let him go! In the early years of their marriage they tended to five cows, and it was then that Lena learned to make butter and cheese - she learned a lot and she learned it quickly from Jack's mother, Feige. Jack worked hard to put food on the table for what grew to be a family of five children.

After the war Jack became a poultry wholesaler. With his partners he bought chickens from all around the area and sold them at the New York City poultry

market. He was quick to see an opportunity and make it work. He bought a barn in Connecticut, moved it to Sandisfield, took it apart and built 30' x 30' cabins with the wood, situating them on the property right behind their home. They were designed to be summer cottages (no heat yet) and people would come from New York to vacation there.

In 1951 Jack and Lena started their own poultry farm. They built two coops and then purchased a third from a neighbor. In those three coops the Sandlers raised 25,000 hens, rotating the chickens and letting them range free. They used silos to store the grain, which then fed via an automatic revolving system. They had a distributor who candled the eggs and packaged them for market. While it took ten years for the egg market to become profitable, the Sandlers were among the few poultry farmers in town who didn't go bankrupt. It was a way to make a living.

In 1964 one of the coops was hit by lightning and in 1966 the Sandlers got out of the poultry business. By that time Jack owned a number of properties in the area. He purchased several Victory homes (post-war modulars) from Becket and moved them to Sandisfield where he refurbished them with the help of local carpenters. He didn't make a lot of money on these homes, but they offered him yet another career. It is the rental from some of these properties that provides an income for Lena in her retirement years.

By the 1970s Jack had had three heart attacks and was semi-retired. Lena then began a career working on Madison Avenue in New York City with her children's facsimile communications business. She was in charge of reconciling accounts. Lena loved walking up Madison Avenue, window shopping on the way home from work. Jack and Lena spent over ten years commuting between Sandisfield and New York City. They re-invented themselves several times in their lifetimes. Who would have thought that someone from Sandisfield would end up living on Fifth Avenue in New York City! Jack and Lena,

Cont'd P.6

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*"Be true to your work,
your word, and your friend."
Henry David Thoreau*

Image: Tina Sotis ©2011

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK

By Debbie Harris


With approximately \$750,000 already estimated as Hurricane Irene-related road damage in Sandisfield (and FEMA is anticipating this to be a low figure), it is inevitable that our homeowners and farmers also suffered some property, crop and/or livestock damage. If so, FEMA and the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) have several programs that can help.

Non-agricultural homeowners can register with FEMA by calling 800-621-3362 between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily. They will be asked for their phone number (for callback purposes), their Social Security number, current mailing address, address of the damaged property, a brief description of damages and insurance information (if they are insured). They will then be issued a FEMA application ID number for all future contact with FEMA. A FEMA disaster housing inspector will call them to set up an appointment to view the damage. FEMA assistance may include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help recover from the disaster. Registration can also be done online at disaster-assistance.gov or by accessing ma.fema.gov and following the link "apply online for federal assistance."

After registering by phone, applicants can also visit a FEMA disaster recovery center where representatives from FEMA, MEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies can assist them in their application. In addition to centers in Pittsfield (at the Athenaeum), Williamstown, Greenfield and Shelburne Falls, there is a disaster recovery center in Great Barrington at the Housatonic Community Center, 1064 Main Street. This center is open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, until further notice.

Programs specific to farmers include the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Emergency Loan Program (ELP), the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), the Program Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Each of these programs has its own eligibility requirements and procedures.

Farmers in need of assistance should contact the local FSA in the Conte Federal Building at 78 Center Street, Pittsfield (telephone 413-443-1776). Program information is also available on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Also, please note that if you had any personal property damage from Irene you should also contact Emergency Manager John Burrows at jtburrows@verizon.net or by phone at 258-4943. FEMA is compiling the information for possible assistance. 

Arts and Culture Review

DEMARS PHOTOGRAPHS FROM SANDISFIELD DAYS GONE BY

By Jean Atwater-Williams

Photo: www.DeMarsImages.com


Ever since she was a child, Peg Giles has been captivated by the images her grandfather, Frank DeMars, whom she never met, took or collected for "The Art Store", his "Artistic Picture Framing" business in Winsted, Connecticut. Frank died in 1942, years before the birth of the granddaughter who would carry on his legacy using technology inconceivable in his lifetime.

After the death of a dear aunt in 2009, Peg inherited the object of her childhood fascination: a vast collection of 5,000 glass plates that had lain undisturbed for almost 70 years in the attic of the family home. She and her husband, Bob, have spent the last 2 years cataloguing and scanning the images. The result is a treasure trove of antique images from over 50 towns dating from around the turn of the 20th century, including about 100 of Sandisfield.

Many of the Sandisfield images were likely taken

by Gilbert Ives (1850 - 1915), a Sandisfield resident who had the rare ability to capture images that were not only beautiful and well composed, but that conveyed the genuine personality of the town and its inhabitants. It's all there: the bittersweet life of simplicity; the hard work and the fierce independence of the townspeople; the beauty and ruggedness of the rural countryside; the sloe-eyed sweetness of a slightly bony cow in a summer pasture. The razor sharp quality of the images gives the viewer a finely detailed, faithful glimpse of life a century ago. You can feel the swift, cool waters as they tumble down our rocky streams and rivers. You can imagine perching high on a granite boulder overlooking miles of nearly treeless rolling hills while a horse and buggy plods toward you. And you can see the glint of hopes, dreams and disappointments in the eyes of folks who could be your neighbors. Come meet them.

The DeMars Images are on display at the Sandisfield Arts Center now through the end of October. They may be viewed during any scheduled Arts Center event or by appointment. On Saturday, October

22, there will be a free reception from 3 - 6 p.m. followed by a slide show and lecture at 7 p.m. (Admission \$10). For a private showing, call Ron Bernard at 413-269-0012. 



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Leaf Craft – Just Don't Leaf it Alone

By Debbie Harris

It's October and New England is in her glory. The deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves every year) are exhibiting beautiful reds, oranges and golds. Mixed in with this vivid display of colors are the green pine needles and brown pine cones of the ever-green trees. It makes for a restful beauty we all look forward to after the activities of summer.



These leaves and pine needles and cones can also serve as a way to learn about the flora (vegetation) we all take for granted. Kids should be encouraged to collect the leaves, ferns, seeds and pine needles and cones. They should bring them home and identify what kind of tree or fern they came from. The maples (both sugar maple and striped maple with its larger leaves) and oak leaves are easy to recognize. But there are many other trees in Sandisfield that should become familiar to us. Keeping a yearly notebook of different shapes of leaves will serve as a useful resource for children as they progress in school science classes.

Instructions for Leaf Decorations:

To collect leaves, walk around your neighborhood and pick up colorful leaves, green leaves, ferns, seeds and pine cones and needles from the ground. Try to avoid leaves that are moldy or have begun to rot. If you can't find leaves on the ground, ask the neighbors if you can pick the leaves from their trees.

In addition to identifying these leaves, you can make many creative items from them. The first step is usually to press the leaves you have collected. Make sure your leaves are dry and flat. To do this, place the leaves between two sheets of newspaper and then put a stack of heavy books on top. Allow the leaves to flatten and dry for at least 24 hours.

Next, you can preserve your leaves for use in many craft projects. Place the leaves between sheets of waxed paper. Then, with adult supervision (so you don't burn yourself), gently press the waxed paper

with a medium hot iron moving slowly over the entire surface for about 10 seconds. Be sure to keep your hands away from the hot surface of the iron as well as from the waxed paper after pressing (it will be hot!). Allow the pressed leaves to cool before using them.

There are many things you can do with the preserved leaves. You can trim around the edges of the waxed paper and place the leaves on cards. This makes a great card for sending to friends and relatives to say Happy Halloween or Happy Thanksgiving. You can even save the cards and make them into your own unique holiday greetings. Be sure to identify each leaf so the person receiving the card knows what kind of tree it came from.

Preserved leaves also make great sun catchers. You can attach a string to the leaves and hang them in a window.

Another idea is to make an autumn bouquet, which can serve as a centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table. To do this, here is what you'll need:

- Pressed leaves, pine cones, seeds, etc.
- Popsicle sticks
- Hot glue gun or craft glue
- Styrofoam ball or large lump of clay
- Flower pot
- Fall colored ribbon (optional)

If you are not using pressed leaves, bake your leaves, pinecones, pine needles, seeds, etc. for 45 minutes at 200 degrees to kill any insects and eggs. If you are using pressed leaves, carefully cut the waxed paper around the edges of the leaves so you have a piece that is the shape of the leaf.



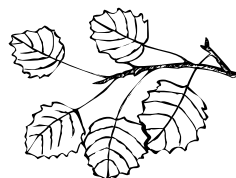
Use the hot glue gun or craft glue to attach the leaves, seeds, pinecones, etc. to the ends of the popsicle sticks. If you are using craft glue let the popsicle sticks dry before continuing.

Put the Styrofoam ball or large lump of clay in the bottom of the flower pot.

Poke the ends of the popsicle sticks into the styrofoam or clay to make your autumn bouquet.

If you wish, tie the ribbon around the pot with a big bow. The pot is then ready to be placed on your party or holiday table. If you're holding it back for Thanksgiving, it might be best to let Mom or Dad put it in a safe place until ready to use.

There are many other crafty things you can do with the leaves you've collected and identified. Just use your imagination and have fun. Happy leaf hunting!



Sandler

Cont'd from P.4


with their drive and ambition, proved to be valuable role models for their children.

Of personal interest to the Sandlers was the Sons of B'Nai Abraham Synagogue in Montville. In the 1950s this was a vibrant part of the small Jewish community that had evolved. They held Bingo and dinners and Bar Mitzvahs. In the 1960s Jack became the President of the synagogue and Lena the Treasurer. They were one of the three fulltime Jewish residents in town. Jack brought people in to officiate at services and Lena fed and housed them in the cottages. When the synagogue roof needed repair, Jack raised \$6,000 and saved the building. His European accent, warm personality and sense of humor encouraged many people to dig into their pockets to support the cause. The last services were held in 1976. Jack and Lena maintained the insurance on the building for almost twenty years with the help of an occasional donation. The building finally found its purpose again when, in 1995, the remaining core families coalesced with other concerned residents and formed the Sandisfield Arts and Restoration Committee, turning the building into the arts center they had long hoped it would come to be. We can all thank the Sandlers and several other families (among them the Kesslers, the Germans, the Dryanskis and the Pinskys) for saving the building and making certain it was put to good use.

Daughter Sharon grew up in Sandisfield, then moved to New York where she married, raised children, worked and eventually returned to the Berkshires with her husband, opening Martin's Restaurant in Great Barrington. She says "My father's philosophy was you go to school, you go to college and you get a job. He believed the cities allowed for the most opportunity, but if you had a vision, you could earn a living anywhere". Asked what is the best thing about Sandisfield, Sharon said, "The thing about Sandisfield is that when you've been away and you come back to town, it's the same. The look of the town is the same, and that's very unique. I think that's what I like best about Sandisfield."

Lena is a wealth of information about Sandisfield. It's very special to sit with her and watch as she recalls her early years in our town. What was life like for the Sandlers in Sandisfield? Lena quickly responds, "When you're on a farm you get very close to your family. You all have to work together. It isn't like going off to a job somewhere and you don't see the family all day. When you work together, you're home with everyone all the time and that makes a big difference. You get very close. It isn't always easy but it is nice if you can have it." What would Lena like to see in Sandisfield today? "I'd like there to be a better way for older people to be together in Sandisfield." Wouldn't we all!

Thank you, Lena, for your story. We look forward to your return to town!

Thank you, Sharon, for helping guide the way through the Sandler family's journey. This piece of history is to be savored. 

SOUTH SANDISFIELD

The Littlest Village

By Ron Bernard

The “South Sandisfield” section comprises the southwest corner of the town, roughly 20% of total area. It is bounded on the north by Dodd Road, east by New Hartford Road, west by New Marlborough and south by the Connecticut line.

Its defining geographical feature is Sandy Brook, a tributary of the Farmington River. It has two upper branches. One rises near the New Marlborough line, and the other a little north of the hamlet. This stream permitted establishment of several of the earliest saw mills and a grist mill, both essential for settlers to build their farms and to be assured of a food supply. (Note: the name “Sandisfield” is not derived from or associated with the name “Sandy Brook”).

The center’s population has always been very low density so it never quite attained true “village” status. “Hamlet” is more descriptive. Yet South Sandisfield had public facilities integral to a community’s identity including a schoolhouse, a post office, a church (1909) and a burying ground. Significantly, South Sandisfield was the last stage line stop in town. But there never was a retail store or a tavern here. (Below, *The Abner Webster House, 1893. From Picturesque Berkshires.*)



Smith, Webster and Sage were among the first settlers near the center (1760s). They were soon followed by Kellogg, Goodrich, Shepard, Wilcox, Hall and Rood. Settlement on the New Hartford Road probably started with Lemuel Smith about 1765. There were a few more arrivals in the early 1770s, but development really picked up after the Revolutionary War. Original homesteads were established by Sears, Dowd, Persons, French, several second generation Smiths, two different Sage family branches and Mills, among others.

Farming was, of course, the principal activity, but several small-scale tanneries were also important to the local economy. There were blacksmiths and a wagon maker in the center. On lower New Hartford Road Elizur Spencer had a “turning” (woodwork) shop. Across the street Benjamin Persons operated a tannery and then a busy boot shop. Proximity to Winsted, a lively regional farmers market with services and good connections to the booming new industrial cities in Connecticut, was very important economically and socially. (Top right, early 1900s. *Plowing fields in South Sandisfield. Courtesy Riiska family.*)

In the 19th century South Sandisfield was the first destination in town for the next wave of European immigrants. The Irish came first, starting about 1850.



Finnish families (e.g., the Wuoris and, especially, Riiskas) followed about 50 years later. These new Americans, already experienced farmers in their homelands, were eager to build a life on farms of their own. Even as the old Yankee stock was abandoning this way of life, these immigrants, undaunted by the economics of the times, were grateful to be in the “Land of Opportunity.” They certainly rejuvenated this community by buying and improving decaying houses, filling the church, making the local school feasible and much more.

Harold Smith (1893-1985), longtime Historical Society president and a pretty fair town historian wrote about the South Sandisfield Post Office, which had been located in his own home. “Established in 1868, it was in the Abner Webster House for over 46 years. Rollin Webster was the first postmaster and was succeeded (1872) by his father Abner until 1886. His daughter, Sarah Webster Smith (*Harold’s great grandmother, seen below*), was postmistress for 28 years until her death in 1914. Every weekday afternoon about 4:30 the stage driver, John Hall, would arrive with mail from Winsted and Colebrook and then go on to Sandisfield Center. Starting in 1889 Mr. Hall carried mail and passengers on the route for over 30 years.”



South Sandisfield continued to be served by its own post offices in homes on and off of New Hartford Road until consolidation in 1956. (Below, c.1900. *John Hall, stage driver. www.DeMarsImages.com.*)

The Chapel, which was made possible by Sarah Smith’s



donation of land in 1908, closed in the 1950s. The building was reopened in 1979 as the second headquarters of the Sandisfield Historical Society. The school building (c.1865) next door was closed in 1926. In 1947 it was moved a short distance by native Helmi Wouri and beautifully remodeled as her home. South Sandisfield boasts the town’s only residence on the National Register of Historic Places (1984) -- the circa 1799 “Philemon Sage House” on Sandy Brook Turnpike.



250th
Celebration:
Eight Months and
Counting!

By Laura Rogers-Castro



Photo: Laura Rogers-Castro

Impending Tropical Storm Irene couldn’t keep a friendly group of Sandisfield 250th Birthday supporters away from the delicious lobsters and ribs prepared by Steve Harasyko and Richard Campetti at the August Lobster Supper fundraiser. Thanks to the dedicated crew of volunteers, the supper was a success with proceeds intended to support the big celebration on July 27-29, 2012.

The Sandisfield 250th Birthday Committee, chaired by Kathy Jacobs and Linda Riiska, has been meeting over the past year-and-a-half and estimates that the weekend celebration will cost a minimum of \$10,000. Some of the expenses include tent and generator rentals, band fees, program printing and other general entertainment costs. Celebration expenses will be achieved through fundraising events, donated goods and services, purchased advertisements in the program and small allocations from the town budget, including \$3,000 in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Most events will take place at Carr Field on Route 57. The Carr Family has generously offered their large, flat, and well-maintained field to use for the celebration. This location will provide a safe environment for a town-wide event with ample parking nearby and the opportunity to close Route 57, diverting traffic to the parallel River Road. Plans also include a town BBQ with music and dancing. The Committee hopes the whole town will be involved in various ways, including hosting town events at additional locations, food sales by local restaurants and sponsorships of select activities by different community organizations. Sandisfield’s 250th Birthday Committee meetings are posted at the Town Hall. If you need more information, please call 413-258-4688. 🍷



TOWN BUSINESS

Edited by Debbie Harris

Board of Selectmen Meetings Summary

Meeting of August 8, 2011

Present: Selectmen Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti and Jeff Gray; Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko; Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Jason Myers and Chris Tooker of Berkshire Trailriders Association requested permission for their group to pass through Yanner Park on their dirt bikes during scheduled events. Their group has held events in town since the 1980s, and proceeds from these events have resulted in donations to the Fire Department and Recreation Committee. The Selectmen provided Myers and Tooker with a map of Yanner Park and members of the group will walk the park and get back to the Selectmen if the park meets their needs.

Steve Nelson from Wired West and John Burrows reviewed the Wired West delegate and MLP votes' paperwork. The Selectmen approved the Wired West agreement and appointed Jean Atwater-Williams as delegate and John Burrows as alternate delegate.

The Selectmen granted Richard Lassar a two-week extension before deciding on his application for a special permit.

Highway Superintendent Steve Harasyko presented updates. The Selectmen voted to award the bid for a new six-wheel truck to Ben Funk. Repair on the New Hartford Road culvert is waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers. Mass Highway is doing core samples of the paving material used for Route 183. Steve will order a magnetic rake for the transfer station.

Kevin Kiwak from Sears Road discussed the noise from the basketball court at the Community Center. People are using the court very late at night and play music until 2:00 a.m. Signs will be ordered stating the area is a drug and alcohol free zone. Robbin Campetti of the Recreation Committee has been in contact with the offenders and asked Mr. Kiwak to contact her if the problem continues.

Connie Canty Donaldson, John Skrip, Peter Levine and Anina Carr were appointed to the Cultural Council.

A one day, all alcohol beverage permit for the Fire Department, Inc. steak roast was granted.

We locked in at \$3.40 per gallon on the county bid for heating fuel.

The Town Clerk discussed the change in the hunting and fishing licenses. Paper licenses are no longer available. People will have to go online to purchase licenses.

The Fiscal Year 2012 grant for the Council on Aging was accepted.

(Note: The complete minutes are public record and available for viewing at the Town Hall Annex.)



Finance Committee Minutes Summary

September 14, 2011

Attending: Kathy Jacobs, Chair, Rhee Kasky, John Burrows, Ronald Myers.

There was a discussion of posting meeting notices. Ms. Jacobs will take care of this task.

Education of taxpayers in our town on the important business covered by the Finance Committee was discussed. The committee decided to stress this need during the forthcoming year.

It was voted to pay our dues to the Mass Association of Finance Committees and to attend their regular meetings. The Committee also agreed to attend the regular meetings of the local School Committee.

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Adam Manacher

Eat Your Sprouts!

Brussels sprouts...there are those who "love'em" and those who "hate'em". There are few diners who exist in the middle. This love/hate divide is usually the result not of the vegetable itself, but of the way it is prepared. Cooked properly, sprouts inspire wonderful memories. Cooked poorly, they evoke tales of horror.

Brussels sprouts are a cruciferous vegetable. That means they are related to the family that also includes cabbage, broccoli and kale. They are rich in vitamins, fiber and dietary compounds believed to be anti-oxidants, and they offer higher amounts of protein than most other green vegetables. The flavor of brussels sprouts is often compared to that of cabbage. Indeed, they do look like little baby cabbages. The taste of brussels sprouts is greatly influenced by both the method of preparation and the amount of time they are cooked. The first principle in good preparation is never to overcook them. Overcooking imparts a bitter and heavily sulfuric quality that indeed merits the cringes that accompany bad memories from the "hate'em" crowd. Perfectly cooked brussels sprouts, tossed with melted butter, can impart a warm subtly sweet flavor or, when tossed with olive oil and oven roasted, can give a deep rich nutty flavor.


At this time of year we can find brussels sprouts at farmers markets and at some of the small local farms in our area. When you buy them it is best to select smaller sprouts and those that are as uniform in size as possible. Feel them to make sure they are firm and tightly closed. Preparation is easy. With a sharp paring knife trim off the bottom nub and remove the outer layer of leaves (especially anything browned or yellowish). Anything the size of a walnut or larger you definitely want to cut in half. Smaller sprouts can be cooked whole, although I recommend notching a little "x" in the bottom to ensure that the center cooks more evenly with the outer leaves.

For steamed brussels sprouts, cook whole sprouts for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and immediately chill in a bowl of ice water. This stops the cooking and helps retain their beautiful green color. Slice the sprout in half. On medium heat, reheat sprouts in a pan with melted butter for 3 to 4 minutes or just until a paring knife easily pierces the center. Sprinkle with kosher salt and serve immediately.

For roasted brussels sprouts, cut them in half and toss with olive oil and kosher salt. Roast, preferably in a cast iron skillet, in the oven at a high heat for about 40 minutes. Every ten minutes give the pan a shake or a stir. This will promote more even browning and you are less likely to have any sprouts burn, which would only make them bitter. Lightly browned, caramelized brussels sprouts will have a nutty, robust flavor. But do not overcook and try to serve them immediately.

Options for roasting can be to cook them with diced bacon or even Italian pancetta imparting a smoky quality to the dish. Vegetarians can explore tossing the sprouts in a little balsamic vinegar in addition to the olive oil before roasting which adds a little sweetness to the final result. A light dusting of fresh grated Parmesan cheese may be just the thing to make it special for you.

My favorite method of cooking sprouts is the simplest:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Wash and prepare 6 to 8 brussels sprouts per person as described above. Cut in half and toss (rub all over) with one tablespoon of olive oil and sprinkle with kosher salt. Put into a cast iron pan and into the oven. Roast on high heat stirring every ten minutes. Cook until golden brown on the outside and just barely tender throughout. Call everyone to the table and convert friends and family to the "love'em" brigade! 

"We kids feared many things in those days - werewolves, dentists, North Koreans, Sunday School - but they all paled in comparison with Brussels sprouts."

Dave Barry, Miami Herald Columnist
'Dave Barry's Bad Habits' (1987)



"Clarity" Oil on Canvas ©2011 Tina Sotis

TINA SOTIS

New Paintings

"A Year of Grace"

Sandisfield Arts Center

ARTIST RECEPTION

Saturday, November 5, 3-5PM



Exhibiting Nov. 5 - Dec 10

OCTOBER



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413-258-4100

WWW.SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
3PM

\$5 ADMISSION
\$5 PER ITEM/5 ITEMS MAXIMUM

SECOND ANNUAL ANTIQUES APPRAISAL DAY



David J. LeBeau
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
5PM \$20

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FOR CHILDREN BENEFIT
CONCERT

The members include

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EDWARD ARRON, CELLO
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JEEWON PARK, PIANO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
EXHIBIT 3-5PM FREE
SLIDE SHOW 7PM \$10

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Henry David Thoreau



Image: Tina Sotis ©2011

The Gardener's Almanac



By Sue Tarasuk

Root cellaring calls to mind a time long ago when our ancestors did not have the luxury of electricity. Root cellars were a way to keep - throughout the cold winter months - crops that were carefully grown in the summer garden.

When we built our house, a root cellar was on my list of "must haves". We keep food in our root cellar because we know it is fresh and organic from our garden. A root cellar can be a small room in the basement where the walls separating it from the rest of the basement are insulated. The idea is a space that is very cold (32-40 degrees) and very damp (90-95% humidity). Wherever you can mimic this environment, you can keep root crops.


The most important vegetables in our root cellar are carrots and potatoes. We grow lots of carrots - they are so easy to grow and take up little space in the garden. After a hard frost but before the ground freezes, we dig up the carrots, brush off the dirt that clings to them and snap off the top. To store the carrots we simply spread a layer of damp sawdust in a box, carton or barrel (if you have mice, a metal or plastic garbage can works well). We put a layer of carrots on the sawdust, add a one-inch layer of sawdust on this and another layer of carrots. Keep alternating sawdust and carrots until finished. Your carrots will keep well into the spring. We used some carrots from our root cellar in July. They were still firm and crispy and delicious.

Potatoes are even easier to keep, but they do not last as long. You want to dig up your potatoes when the weather cools a bit. Once they are warm, they tend to sprout and shrivel easily. After digging them, they must be cured to harden their skin. Spread them in a place where the temperature is around 70 degrees. Do not expose them to the rain or sun. Sunshine causes them to turn green. Keep them curing for one to two weeks. After that time, place them in the root cellar in boxes or bins. Don't pile them so high. They need to have some air circulating around them. Store them in cold 32-40 degrees and moist 80-90% humidity.

Winter squash and pumpkins are another good "keeper" vegetable. Pick your squash when the skin is hard and leave the stems on. Cure them after picking (the exception is acorn squash). Spread squash out in the grass in the sun for about two weeks in 55-60 degree weather. Although our root cellar is too damp for squash, you can put a box of them in a cold unused bedroom or in a part of the basement away from the furnace. They like temperatures of 50-60 degrees and 60-70% humidity.



There are a great many books on the subject of root cellars and keeping vegetables. My favorite is Root Cellaring by Mike and Nancy Bubel. You can also find lots of information on the internet.

It is such a pleasure to grow your own vegetables, but to store them and use them all winter is a special treat. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 258-4929 or email me at susantarasuk@gmail.com. 

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN



Tara Beardsley

Due to the effects of Hurricane Irene, the opening of the 2011-2012 school year at Farmington River Elementary School was delayed one day, pushing the start to Thursday, September 1st.

The children are enjoying music class with their new teacher, Mrs. Kim Chirichella. Principal Mary Turo stated that "we are very fortunate to have such an experienced music teacher at our school." Mrs. Chirichella spent many years teaching classroom music, band, and chorus in Connecticut before joining us.

We are continuing this year with a three semester school year. All students from first through sixth grade will receive a grade of between 1 and 4. To explain this simply, 4 would indicate a grade from 90-100, 3 from 80-89, 2 from 70-79, etc. Please note that a plus or a minus will only be

used for overall subject grades, not for areas within a subject.

A big "Congratulations" goes out to 6th grader Will Green who won the Summer Reading Challenge again this year! Participating students kept track of the number of minutes read during their summer break. Will read an amazing 16,213 minutes! That's almost twice what he read last summer! He has been awarded a \$50.00 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble. Great job, Will!

The sixth graders are holding a Yankee Candle Fundraiser to help pay for their Nature's Classroom trip. They will be attending the program next spring, as opposed to the traditional fall visit.


"Fairness" will be the topic this month in promoting the Character Counts program. The kids will attend an assembly on October 13th regarding the program.

The Senior Lunch Program will begin in October. At the time of this printing, the date and time had not yet been set. Please contact the school directly for more information. Details will be updated in next month's edition.

Below please find a calendar of upcoming school events:

- Oct. 6th Picture Day
- Oct. 7th No School- Professional Day
- Oct. 10th No School- Columbus Day
- Oct. 17th 6th Grade Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Begins

Please call the school directly at 413-269-4466 or visit its website www.farmingtonriverelementary.com for more school information. 





Sandisfield Police Blotter

July 16-August 31

- July 16 Noise complaint (fireworks)
- July 18 Assist other Police Department
- July 19 Investigate breaking and entering on S. Main (unfounded)
- July 22 Alarm on Jamie Lane
- July 23 M/V operation complaint on N. Main
- July 23 Boat/operator complaint on Cold Spring Road
- July 23 Domestic complaint on Town Hill Road
- July 24 M/V operation complaint on S. Main
- July 29 M/V accident on Sandy Brook Turnpike

- July 30 Wires down on Sandy Brook Turnpike
- August 8 Domestic complaint on N. Main
- August 15 Wires down on Town Hill Road
- August 16 M/V accident on S. Main
- August 17 M/V operation complaint on N. Main
- August 20 DMV on N. Main
- August 27 Medical call on Dodd Road
- August 28 Flooding on Sandisfield Road
- August 28 Trees and wires down on N. Main
- August 28 Alarm call on Sandisfield Road
- August 28 Flooding on S. Main
- August 28 Closed N. Main
- August 28 Flooding on New Hartford/Sandy Brook Roads
- August 29 Medical call on N. Main
- August 30 Traffic complaint on N. Main
- August 31 Road/traffic issue on N. Main



Thanks for Dinner

By Zsuzsi Galik Photo by Laura Rogers Castro



To thank those businesses who donated to the **Lobster Supper** on Saturday August 27th, let's take a ride through town. We'll start at the southern tip of Rt.8 with **Tucker's Pub** (258-4945) great salads. Cross the street to **Villa Mia** (258-4236) have you had their garlic bread? Let's go a little further north and cross the street again to **New Boston Crane Service and Sleds** (258-4653) mowers and snowmobiles. At the corner we're going to go up Rt 57, just a tiny bit to **A & M Auto Service** (258-3381), get my car inspected and repaired here. Back down to the corner and **New Boston Store** (258-4522)- if Pete doesn't have it you probably don't need it. A quick stop at **Southern Berkshire Fuel** for the propane to boil those lobsters and it's on to the split at Rt 8 and Rt 57. In the middle of that split is the **New Boston Inn** (258-4477), have you had their meatloaf? Sit back, we're going to travel for a while, past the **Post Office** and the **Town Hall Annex** and around the corner to **Bucks River Farm** (yum swiss chard). A quick stop at the **Arts Center**, then keep going up and up and now we're at the top of the hill and we need to travel around a bit. Turn left onto New Hartford Road and keep going and going and going. **Riiskas Orchard** is where you can get some mighty fine apples. Turn around and go back to Dodd Rd on your left and go up to **Joshua's Farm**, joshuasfarm.com. What a story (you've got to meet Brigette.) Done with the cows? Then let's go back to New Hartford Rd, and back to the top of the hill and go straight onto Rt. 57 to meet our next contributor, **When Pigs Fly Farm**. Just look for the green house on the right, and the pig with wings. Stop by and get some celery. Take your next right and go to **Red Barn Alpacas**. I left out **Jo Alessi Freedman** (258-4786) because she's new to making her ceramic jewelry. You can catch her at the Botanical Gardens Harvest show, Oct 1-2. **Mary Slater** (258-4778) who bakes Apricot bars to die for. And **Kathy and Tom Jacobs**. **Maxine Kupperman** and last but, not least **Price Chopper of Gt. Barrington**, who gave us paper goods and other supplies, plus a deal on the lobsters and free coleslaw and well...they really helped a lot. I'm turning around and going home now. I'm trying to think if I forgot anyone. Gee I hope not. **Everyone save the date, last Saturday in August 2012 for our next Lobster Supper. And the last weekend of July - we are having a Big Birthday party to celebrate our 250th Birthday!**



TALES FROM THE DUMP

By Forrest Hull

HASTE MAKES HAZARDOUS WASTE

Massachusetts is one of the most progressive states in the union in dealing with hazardous waste. According to Elizabeth Royte in Garbageland, eighty percent of the United States' electronic waste (e-waste) is shipped overseas, mostly to Pakistan, India and China. Laborers mine e-waste for precious metals and then dump the refuse into fields and streams. High levels of lead, barium and chromium have created astronomical rates of birth defects, infant mortality, blood diseases and severe respiratory problems. These toxins can then find their way back to the U.S. in products grown, manufactured and fish-farmed near these dumpsites.

Massachusetts recycles all e-waste at home. Unlike other states, NOTHING GOES OVERSEAS. At the Sandisfield Town Hall, a collection receptacle exists for e-waste and other hazardous objects: computers, TVs, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, printers, fax machines, copiers, tube fluorescent lights, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and batteries.

To make it easier for Sandisfield residents to dispose of the more common items, I have set out a box for batteries and one for CFLs at the Town Dump and have driven them to the Town Hall weekly. This system has tripled the amount of batteries being deposited in the Town Hall receptacle, causing some worry on my part. I wonder what happened to the batteries in the past when residents had to drive them to the Town Hall themselves. Did some go into the garbage and subsequently into the water table?

Unfortunately, your ease will turn to difficulty after Wednesday, October 19th. I will not be able to take these items since the collection bin at the Town Hall will be removed for the winter. It will be very important for residents to do their part. Please remember that Massachusetts is doing its part, Sandisfield is doing its part and you need to help. During the winter, please save batteries and CFLs at home. Wrap CFLs in several layers of newspaper and place them outside of the home in an area where they will not break. In the spring, I will again be accepting these items.

PLEASE do not throw batteries in the garbage. CFLs and batteries contain mercury, a powerful neurotoxin. Some may question, why use CFLs at all if they contain mercury, but according to Wendy Reed in a recent NPR interview, even though CFLs contain mercury, using them contributes less mercury to the environment than using regular incandescent bulbs. That's because they use less electricity - and coal-fired power plants are the biggest source of mercury emissions in the air.

So CFLs have their place in saving the environment. They just don't have a place in the landfill where mercury combines with bacteria and forms the "evil" methylmercury, which merges into the food chain and drinking water. Overtime, our (your) grandchildren and their grandchildren, could be drinking mercury soft drinks and smoothies. Maybe some of these future children could be the geniuses who will find the solution to the earth's energy problems. Maybe... if we protect them from toxins like mercury. It was after all, mercury, used in his alchemical experiments, that killed Isaac Newton.

Editor's note: Mr. Hull works for The Master Garbologist. His job is to site monitor the transfer station, also called the Town Dump. His collection and carting of batteries and CFL's to the Town Hall is not part of his job description and has been done on a volunteer basis.

Christopher J. Tryon
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Drainage Design

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Driveway Design & Permitting

Scenic Mountain Act Permitting

Wetland Permitting

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Letter From The Selectmen


By Patrick Barrett

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen would like to thank all those who stepped forward to help our community in preparing, weathering and cleaning up after Hurricane Irene. We appreciate the efforts of our emergency services, highway department, and all those who helped out at the emergency shelter established at Fire Station #2. This is yet another example of how the Sandisfield community pulls together during trying circumstances.

Sandisfield Highway Superintendent, Steve Harasyko, and Sandisfield Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko, spent the days following Hurricane Irene assessing the damage done to town roads during this storm. They have estimated that \$750,000 worth of damage occurred to roads in town, and have submitted the appropriate paperwork to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association. We are hoping that the Federal Emergency Management Association will come through with funding to pay for two thirds of the cleanup costs. To date, the Sandisfield Highway Department has made the roads passable for residents. We are holding off on restoration of the roads until we hear from FEMA as to whether or not we will be receiving their help in rebuilding our town's infrastructure. The wet, muddy conditions have delayed the fall grading of our dirt roads. We sincerely appreciate the patience town residents have shown during this most challenging stretch of inclement weather.

We would like to thank the Assistant Treasurer, Teresa DellaGustina, for her hard work in organizing a direct deposit option for any interested town employees. This program will make life easier for those whose busy schedules make finding time for a trip to the bank difficult. With the high price of gas this will also help people cut down on their fuel expenses.

We would like to thank Forrest Hull for organizing/running/monitoring the swap shop at the Sandisfield Transfer Station. This provides a way for residents to part with unwanted items that still may be put to good use by others. We appreciate Forrest's willingness to go above and beyond his job duties for the good of the town.

Our thoughts go out to the Campetti family on the unexpected death of Angelo Campetti. Mr. Campetti served the Sandisfield community for many years as a member of the Board of Health and as a dedicated cemetery commissioner. A civic minded individual, Mr. Campetti devoted a great deal of time to the betterment of Sandisfield, even donating land for the town library. Sandisfield lost a true friend and we wish his family well in the difficult days ahead. 

SANDISFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Sandisfield Eats" Memoir Cookbook Advance Sales

The Sandisfield Historical Society (SHS) is accepting orders for the *Sandisfield Eats* cook book which will be published in March 2012. Most of the preliminary work for the book is complete and the following is a list of the contents:

- Articles about the Sandisfield Historical Society
- Over 240 Recipes with additional notes after most recipes
- 16 pages of memoirs about food experiences or stories
- 16 photos of Sandisfield from the past
- 16 personal pages containing information from recipe contributors and food related events as follows:
 - Fundraising suppers, general stores, Villa Mia, short descriptions of old houses
 - Statements listing peoples' favorite foods
 - Index of recipes
 - Index of recipe contributors


The advance sale price of the book is \$13 before March 1, 2012, and \$15 thereafter. The books can be picked up at the 250th events during the year, or at the SHS fairs or activities. If you need to have the book mailed, there is an extra \$3.50 charge per book for shipping.

You can reserve your book by sending a check to

The Sandisfield Historical Society
C/O Theresa Blanchard
P.O. Box 153
Sandisfield, MA 01255

Her e-mail address is tblanchard55@yahoo.com and phone number is 413-258-4290. Please include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Thank you for helping our organization!

Josephine Freedman, Chair of Book Committee 

Below is a sample of one of the wonderful memoirs included in the book:

Blueberry Picking by Hannah Barrett of Sandisfield

My earliest childhood memories of summers in Sandisfield revolve around blueberries—picking them, eating them, spilling them, and ultimately baking with them. I grew up picking berries at Windy Hill, my folks' place on Rood Road, where I now live with my own family including three more little girls whose summer days are filled picking fruit from the very same bushes. I just learned that the recipe for Huckleberry Buckle, which we've enjoyed for years, was given to my mother by Flora Rhoades, long time Sandisfield resident and Town Clerk, whose house on Viets Road I remember visiting as a child when my Dad needed a fishing license.

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Dear Neighbors,

This summer Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, located on Sandisfield Road, was the recipient of a beautiful, new 5 x 8 American Flag which flies in front of the nursing center daily. It is not only a symbolic tribute to our great nation, but a reflection of the country served by the 38 proud Veterans who reside at the facility.

Through the coordinated efforts of Veterans Administration employee & Veteran Advocate, Pauline Skawera, who pursued locating and arranging for the donation of the new flag for the home, the mission was accomplished. The flag was donated by Normand Ruel, an Army Veteran who served during the post-Korean era, and currently lives in Chicopee, MA.

The flag was hung with the assistance of John Fields, a resident of Sandisfield, who donated his talents to see the new flag be hung properly. Thank you so much John!

The residents of Berkshire Rehabilitation thoroughly enjoy seeing "Old Glory" each day as a reminder of the great country we live in & that they served.

Lisa Valenta, Marketing Coordinator
Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center



Hello Sandisfield!

After spending nearly half of my life here in Sandisfield, the opportunity to move very near to our daughter, her husband and their growing family has presented itself. So, in mid-October, I will be heading west to begin the next adventure in our lives!

As most of you know, our house and its 15 acres have been for sale for nearly two years now. No, it has not sold. But when we were out there welcoming our newest grandson!!!, we were blessed with an offer from someone out there willing to work with us until we do sell here!

We returned home to welcome our newest great-granddaughter exactly two weeks later!

Therefore, I will be leading only three more services

at the church - Sept. 4; a special service on Sept. 11; and my last on Oct. 2. Thank you to ALL of you who have supported this beautiful little church's efforts and wonderful suppers! Without you we would not be here.

May my many mistakes be forgiven. I have learned from each of them and have tried to make things better when given the second chance. I have learned how crippling fear of the unknown can be and am continuing to work on overcoming it. Thank you to all who have extended their patience and understanding during this growing experience.

God is good! I don't know where I would be now if it weren't for the countless time spent discussing things with Him and His gentle, unconditional guidance that I am getting better at heeding. He's not done with me, yet! So much more to learn!!!

It will be a very heavy day when I make the last drive out. Sandisfield will always have a very deep and special place in my heart. So many wonderful people here!

God Bless You All!!!! Until we meet again.

Louise Daigle



Dear Editor:

As you are all well aware, we were hit by Hurricane Irene on August 28, 2011. Although we did not feel the full fury of the storm, we did lose power for 5 hours. Our first concern was how long we would be without power, since Dave uses an oxygen machine and needs it for most of the day and especially at night. Although he does have back-up tanks, they were only good for 15 hours. Almost immediately after the power was off, Zoe Nelson was at our door asking if everything was OK and did we need anything. She then called back almost every 1/2 hour to check on the conditions. The F.D. emergency center offered to pick up and transfer his oxygen machine to the firehouse and hook up to the generator. However, he decided to stick it out at home as long as possible. Fortunately, the power came back on.

We would like to thank the Sandisfield F.D. and emergency crew for the very quick response and needs of my husband in this scary situation. They are truly an outstanding and compassionate organization. Thank you again Sandisfield Fire Department.

Joan and Dave Mason



To the Editor:

Here is a personal note on the natural gas pipeline rupture in 1981: I remember our neighbor, George Etzel, (On the Civil Defense Committee, I believe) calling and directing me to go immediately to Otis Center. At the time, we had 50 sheep, some pigs and chickens, as well as a dog and a cat, and I was distressed because there was no way I could get my sheep and other animals to Otis Center. But I scooped up the cat and dog and complied. There were no injuries and the pipeline was operational within a

day. Meanwhile, the network of other pipelines kept gas supplies uninterrupted.

Our relationship with TENNECO (now Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co.) has been low-key; all we see is the truck coming occasionally to read the meter to the cathodic protection unit and some orange markers along the road, but the memory of that day in 1981 occasionally crosses my mind.

Roberta Myers

Cold Spring Road



Hello,

I read the article about the Woolly Bears with great interest. I believe my grandsons would enjoy this project. They live in Princeton, NJ. Does that particular caterpillar live in NJ? If not, can this be done with any type caterpillar?

Many thanks for your attention to this question.

Maria Vitrano

Note from Debbie Harris: Woolly bear caterpillar inhabits meadows, pastures, uncultivated fields and road edges through North America (except northern Canada). So, yes, it should be found in New Jersey. Also, the instructions for this activity should generally work for other species of caterpillars, but most caterpillar species eat only very specific plant material, so check what they eat before trying this with anything but the woolly bear.



Nothing of note is happening for this project at this time.



Comings and Goings

Angelo “Jappy” Campetti

March 10, 1923 – September 1, 2011

A Tribute to Angelo “Jappy” Campetti by his daughter, Susan C. Murray

Angelo “Jappy” Campetti was born in Sandisfield, at home on the family farm located in Roosterville. He was always a builder, building cages for his 100 rabbits and a cart for his goats as a child. When Jappy was older, he and his brother, Maurice “Tuffy” used their father’s team of horses to deliver ice to the store. His older brother, Steve Campetti, and his sister, Mary Lundgren, owned the store from 1940 to 1972. Jappy was a graduate of Hartford Technical School in 1942. He joined the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Sergeant. After the war, he became a contractor, building many homes around our town and the surrounding areas. In 1948, he married Carol Thomsen, whom he met at the local square dances. They started the New Boston Fuel Company together in 1948. My Dad never said no to anyone, always going out in the middle of the night to deliver fuel. After the flood of 1955, we moved to the big white house across from the New Boston Inn. He bought the Inn in 1955 and held it till 1957, when his sister Mary bought it from him. Steve and my Dad helped start the Sandisfield Fire Department around 1947. There were seven people to start with. In 1948 they got the first fire truck. Dad helped build the fire house where it stands today as Fire House #1. Dad owned the property where the nursing home is today, which he let the Town use for the Bi-Centennial in 1962. My Dad also built the New Boston Nursing Home for his sister, Italia Henri, in 1967. Dad’s family were hard working people, owning many businesses. My Dad and his family served the Town in many jobs: Steve as Fire Chief, Zoa (Steve’s wife) as Town Clerk, Mary Lundgren on the School Board, George Lundgren as Selectman and Maurice “Tuffy”, on the Conservation Commission. Angelo served many years on the Planning Board, as Sanitation Inspector, and as Building Inspector, as well as serving on the Cemetery Commission from 1960 until the time of his death.

New Boston will always be home to Angelo “Jappy” Campetti. He has a big family who will always be here in Sandisfield to carry on his legacy.



To Those I Love

*If I should ever leave you whom I love
To go along the Silent Way, grieve not,
Nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk
Of me as if I were beside you there.
(I'd come-- I'd come, could I but find a way!
But would not tears and grief be barriers?)
And when you hear a song or see a bird
I loved, please do not let the thought of me
Be sad... for I am loving you just as
I always have... You were so good to me!
There are so many things I wanted still
To do-- so many things to say to you...
Remember that I did not fear... It was
Just leaving you that was so hard to face...
We cannot see beyond... But this I know:
I loved you so-- 'twas heaven here with you!
~ Isla Paschal Richardson*

Linda Cormier

1951-2011

Linda Fay Cormier, 60, of Town Hill Road died Monday evening, September 12, 2011 at her home. Born March 29, 1951 in New York, N.Y., she was the daughter of Marvin Mirochnick and the late Tillie Rubin Mirochnick. She attended local schools and graduated from SUNY Buffalo. As a Registered Nurse Linda dedicated her life to helping others. She was a school nurse at Crosby Middle School in Pittsfield, a Community Nurse, a Public Health Nurse and she worked with Head Start. She also taught Nursing at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. To best serve those in need, she never worked anywhere for more than 3 years. Along with her father, Marvin Mirochnick of Sandisfield, Linda is survived by her husband of 28 years, Dennis Cormier at home. The couple was married on June 12, 1983 in East Meadow, N.Y. She also leaves her daughter Aviva Cormier of Sandisfield, her brother Mark Mirochnick of Hingham, MA, sisters-in-law Diana Clarke and Brenda Cormier, brothers-in-law Ralph and Steven Cormier as well a several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her mother Tillie in 2004. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Head Start through Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.



NOW HEAR THIS!

If you have an event that you would like to see listed here, please email calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.

We reserve space for those events that involve Sandisfield residents or that take place in Sandisfield and neighboring communities.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Saturday, October 1, 3PM, Second Annual Antiques Appraisal Day, David J. LeBeau, MFA, Professional Appraiser, Sandisfield Art Center, \$5 admission, \$5 per item (Maximum 5 items.)

Sunday, Oct. 2, 9AM Louise Daigle's last Worship Service and Communion, New Boston Congregational Church.

Wednesday, October 5, 6PM, Last Kiwanis Roadside clearing of the year. Meet at the Otis Town Green.

Wednesday, October 5, 7PM, History Book Committee Meeting, Sandisfield Library, Ron Bernard 269-0012.

Saturday, October 8, 10 AM, Berkshire Natural Resource Council walk/talk about habitat improvement project for the benefit of the New England Cottontail rabbit, Clam River Reserve on Hammertown Road. Public invited. For information contact Doug Bruce, Stewardship Manager, 413-499-0596, www.bnrc.net,

Saturday, October 8, 11AM, Sandisfield Historical Society meeting and pot luck lunch, Historical Society building.

Saturday, October 9, 5PM, Arron Ensemble, Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children Benefit Concert, Sandisfield Arts Center, \$20.

Wednesday, October 12, 7PM, Finance Committee meeting, Sandisfield Library.

Saturday, Oct. 15, Deadline for Cultural Council grant applications.

Monday, October 17, 7PM, Let's Get Organized, Senior Center. All town fundraising organizations invited to meet to discuss and coordinate efforts for 2012. Susan Galik 258-4113, Maria D'Amato, 258-4578.

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00PM, Sandisfield 250th Birthday Committee Meeting, Sandisfield Library.

Wednesday, October 19, 7PM, Women's Book Group, Sandisfield Library. Discussing *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand.

Saturday, October 22, 3-5PM Opening reception for DeMars Antique Photos (1900-1920 of Sandisfield, Sandisfield Arts Center, free.

Saturday, October 22, 7PM, Slide Show and Recollections, hosted by Ron Bernard, to benefit the Sandisfield History Book. Sandisfield Arts Center. \$10.

Friday, October 28, 5-7 PM Trick or Treat time.

Friday, October 28, 7-9PM Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis Halloween Party, Otis Town Hall. Parents, friends and children invited to come in costume to the party and spook house.

Saturday, October 29, 5-7 PM, New Boston Church Harvest Dinner, Fire Station #2. \$10, Childrens menu available.



ONGOING

Town Meetings (Info call 258-4711)

Selectmen, every Monday at 7 PM, Town Hall Annex.

Planning Board, second Monday of the month, 6 PM, Old Town Hall.

Board of Assessors, second Tuesday of the month, 5 PM, Town Hall Annex.

Board of Health, first Wednesday of the month, 6 PM, Old Town Hall.

Boy Scouts, every Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Otis Town Hall, Elizabeth Kuzmech, Scoutmaster 258-4906 kuzmech5@verizon.net.

Conservation Commission, third Tuesday of the month at 7PM, Town Hall Annex.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11AM -2 PM, Senior Center – Town Hall Annex. Pot Luck Lunch at noon, Bingo at 1 PM. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

Finance Committee second Wednesday of the month, 7PM, Sandisfield Library. Public welcome.

Farmington River Regional School District first Monday of the month, 7PM, Farmington River Regional School, Rte 8, JoAnn Austin, Superintendent. Public Welcome.

Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis every Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Otis Town Hall. 269-6060.

SANDISFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS: Monday and Tuesday 9 AM-12:30 PM, Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 PM, Thursday, 2:30-5:30 PM, Sat: 9 AM-12 noon 258-4966.

DUMP HOURS: Saturday and Sunday 9 -3PM, Wednesdays 1-4PM.

POST OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8:00-4:00. Closed for lunch 12:30-1. Saturdays 9 - 11:30AM. Lobby hours - M-F 8-4:30, Sat 8-Noon. 258-4940

TAX COLLECTOR: Edna Leavenworth: 258-4977. Mon – Wed: 9 AM – 12 AM

TOWN CLERK: Dolores Harasyko
PO Box 163 sandisfieldtownclerk@verizon.net
Town Hall Annex: 258-4075
Mon-Thurs: 8 AM – 2 PM Mon: 6 PM – 7 PM

TOWN GARAGE: 258-4979

TOWN TREASURER: Clare English: 258-4712
Mon, Wed 9 AM – 3 PM

VETERANS SERVICES Laurie Hils
Great Barrington Town Hall: 413 528-1580
Mon – Thurs: 7 AM – 3 PM

STATE OFFICIALS
Benjamin B. Downing, State Senator: 413 442-4008
Email: Benjamin.Downing@state.ma.us

William "Smitty" Pignatelli, State Representative.: 413 637-0631". Email: rep.smittypignatelli@house.state.ma.us



OF INTEREST

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 10 AM - 3 PM, Community Tag Sale and Crafts, Tolland Town Green, sponsored by Tolland Ladies Aid Society. Exhibitor spaces \$20. Contact Shirley Warner, 258-4255, email swcedar@verizon.net. Rain date Sunday, October 9

Friday, October 14, 8 PM, A Rare Show with Sandisfield resident, Jeffrey Folmer and Friends! Lion's Den, The Red Lion Inn, Main Street, Stockbridge, MA, 413-298-5545

Editors note: In Sandisfield, Batteries, appliances, TV's, computers and other electronics are usually collected at the Town Hall Annex—Contact the Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko, during normal business hours for rules. 258-4711.

OCTOBER 18TH - LAST DAY TO BRING YOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE FOR DISPOSAL TO THE TOWN HALL.

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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*Jane & Larry Dwyer
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We are always truly grateful for your donations. They are vital to our ability to continue publishing *The Times*.

If you would like a mailed subscription to the paper, please use the form below and enclose your check for \$25.00 to cover costs to

The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255.

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The Sandisfield Times does not yet have a 501(c)(3) designation, therefore donations are NOT tax-deductible at this time but **donations of all sizes are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper.** Please send checks to: *The Sandisfield Times*, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. For more information visit our website www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

Copies of *The Sandisfield Times* are available in Sandisfield at A&M Auto, the Dump, Post Office, Town Hall, the New Boston Store, the New Boston Inn, the Silverbrook Café, Tuckers, and Villa Mia. Copies are also available in Otis

at Katie's Market, Papa's Fuel, Southern Berkshire Realty, Otis Library, the Farmington Elementary School (during the school year) and Terranova's. Other locations include the The Roadside Store and Café in Monterey, the Monterey General Store (There is a box affixed to the front of the building containing *The Sandisfield Times*), and the Southfield Store.

The Times can be mailed to your home by paid subscription (see form below) or you can read it (free) online as a PDF document at www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

We welcome submissions, comments and suggestions, including letters to the editor **BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR**. We will try to publish Public Service Announcements when we have room, with priority given to Sandisfield organizations. No portion of the *The Sandisfield Times* may be reproduced without permission.

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Contributors: Jean Atwater-Williams, Ron Bernard, Francis Deming, Camille Dwyer, Josephine Freedman, Zsuzsi Galik, Debbie Harris, Rhee Kasky and our regular columnists

Photos: Laura Rogers Castro, Larry Dwyer, Rhee Kasky

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