

2ND ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume III, Number 1

April 2012

Happy Birthday, Sandisfield!!

Although plans for a big public celebration in late July are well under way, the official 250th birthday of Sandisfield was recognized by a large and spirited gathering at the New Boston Inn on March 6. On that day 250 years ago, Sandisfield was officially incorporated as a town of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and could shed its previous identity as Housatonic Plantation or Township No. 3. We imagine that the founders – the Browns, the Smiths, the Demings and the Kilborns among a few others – raised their own glasses that day, probably right there at Daniel Brown’s New Boston Inn, in tribute to the momentous occasion. Wouldn’t they, our forebears, be pleased (and certainly amazed) to know that the town they created so long ago is cherished and that their efforts and sacrifices are still honored and appreciated?

In the weeks ahead there will be much more information and many activities to commemorate Sandisfield’s sestercentennial. (In the meantime see pages 8 and 9 for a montage of photos from the birthday party!)



Photo: Richard B. Migot



J. Atwater-Williams


Farewell, Tuckers

By Ron Bernard

Route 8 travelers were surprised last month to see that the popular watering hole, Tuckers Place, had closed. Proprietors since 2007, Deb and Scott Stone, put up a large thanks-and-good bye sign before turning over the keys to the mortgage holder, Marty Cormier. The building was erected in 1979 as the new home of Allan’s Restaurant operated

by Tuffy and Joyce Allan Campetti until they retired in 1989. That year Barbara and Ray “Tucker” Cormier arrived to carry on the traditions but under a new name.

Well known for its lively, friendly atmosphere, great pizza and horse shoe pits and spirited competition, Tuckers has always had a loyal customer base, both among local residents as well as motorcyclists and outdoor sports enthusiasts. It is our hope that new owners will be found soon to continue this Sandisfield tradition.

This is good time to remind everyone to support Sandisfield restaurants, Villa Mia, the New Boston Inn and the SilverBrook Café. In addition to dealing with the tough economy, the mild past winter has been unkind to establishments that depend on winter sports traffic. According to Villa Mia owner Dia Klenja, seasonal patronage was off at least 50 percent for 2011-2012. A significant drop in diners was seen at the New Boston Inn as well. Our restaurants – and all our businesses – are very important to the well being of the entire town. Let’s not take them for granted. Your patronage will be very much appreciated. 

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

by Val Coleman

Charleston, Illinois, sometime in 1937. It was dark that night. It was the darkest part of the Depression but Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” was all over the place - tin signs in the broomcorn fields, the CCC camp and the huge, brand- new ceramic generators out on Route 16. My Dad, who was a big supporter of the president, told us we were going out to Tom Whelan’s farm to see a miracle. As we drove across the tracks toward the farm he explained that the guys from the CCC camp had dammed up the Embarras River (pronounced “Am-Braw”), installed a water-powered turbine, built the generators and strung electric lines out to the farms. It was thanks to the REA (Rural Electrification Administration) that the Whelans and their Cont’d on P.5




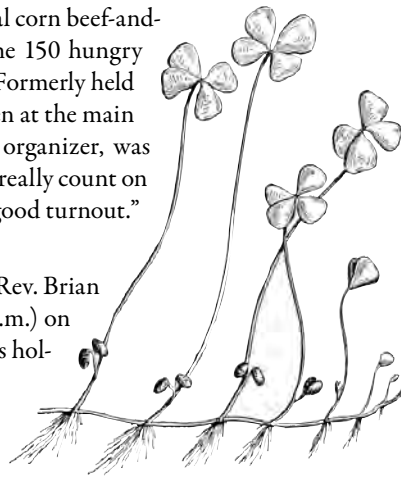
Ron Bernard

Annual Benefit Dinner Held for the New Boston Church

NEW PASTOR ASSIGNED; NEW SERVICES SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

On March 10 volunteers served up a terrific traditional corn beef-and-cabbage dinner at the Sandisfield Fire House to some 150 hungry friends of the New Boston Congregational Church. Formerly held in the old parish hall, the venue for the benefit has been at the main fire station for some years. Sandy Morrison, event organizer, was pleased with the community's response and said, "We really count on these events to help pay the bills and it is nice to see a good turnout." Another benefit dinner will be held this fall.

The congregation will also welcome a new pastor, the Rev. Brian Care. Starting in April he will conduct services (10 a.m.) on the first Sunday of every month and on major religious holidays and on special Sundays. 



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Volume III

*Stop the presses!
Uncork the beers!
Bless all the agates,
It's been two marvelous years!*

*I should thank all the editors
But they change like the weather
So I'll start with the Tina
Who puts it together*

*Setsuko and Debbie
I hereby anoint
As the materfamilias
Who ran the joint.*

*Then there's Rhee (once was Rita)
The editing screen
Who washes the copy
Till it's eloquent....clean.*

*We've got a surfeit of Susies,
For the earth...Tarasuk
For the arts we've got Crofut
And Van Sickle's got pluck!*

*Larry's out in the boondocks
Trimming a stump
While Forrest's rhapsodic
About the Sandisfield dump.*

*If you listen for sparrows
And their voice is unheard
Spend some quality time
With Margaret's birds.*

*Thank both the Hermans...
But it's too hard to rhyme...
Maybe Sermon? Or Ermine?
Will do till tea time.*

*Ron liberates history
And preaches the choir
While Jean stirs the pot
To get us the wire.*

*If you think we're a bunch
Of unlettered fools
Read Laura on Sandisfield,
Tara on schools.*

*Josephine cooks
A tasty banana.
Hey! It's time to mention
My old friend Liana.*

*Now Laurie does books
And Adam does food
Roberta delivers
And Barrett's a dude!*

*AND!
The upper-shelf prose
Has gone frisky...it's bloomin'
Simon's turned Yankee
E Pluribus Unum!*

Val Coleman

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The trade of a reporter can be a trying thing. To be sure, 'news-papermen meet the most interesting people', as Pete Seeger reminds us every other day on WAMC. But there is another side, a darker aspect to the craft. Reporters from time to time manage to get themselves harrassed, arrested, shot at, killed - Marie Colvin, bombed recently in Syria, is the third friend of mine to have died in the last decade. All have suffered for performing the blameless and worthy task of trying to find out, and transmit to the reading or listening public, their best estimate of what passes for the truth.

I reflect on this slightly somber topic for three reasons, all entwined. I am writing this on the deck of a slowly rocking ship, anchored a couple of hundred yards off the tiny British colonial possession of Tristan da Cunha, eighteen hundred miles off the Atlantic coast of South Africa. Three hundred or so fishing families eke out a spartan existence here, on what is the most isolated inhabited island group on the planet.

I have visited these islands before, many times. But on this occasion, as on three prior attempts, I have been barred from stepping ashore. The island immigration officer stamps my passport in scarlet letters Not Permitted to Land, and while all my shipmates go off happily to photograph the albatrosses and the penguins, I have to stay behind, fulminating - and all because of something I wrote about Tristan, sixteen long years ago.

What I wrote is immaterial here: the details won't mean a thing on Shade Road or West Street or in the SilverBrook Café. All that matters is that it was entirely true. No-one here argues the point; and in any case those about whom the words were written have long since passed away.

But the publication caused a brief flutter of island embarrassment, and for that I have been officially banned.

Trivial. Nothing more. One small and rather laughable example of the trouble that newspaper people can on occasion attract. In the continuum of journalistic misery, an event barely worthy of notice.

And yet, interestingly, it had just the faintest of echoes last month in Sandisfield, eight thousand miles away. This made me reflect again that few in this trade ever manage to escape some form of hostility, if truth is the banner we choose to try to fly.


You may recall that in last month's issue we ran, quite prominently, a small piece about a local man who had been accused - rightly or not the courts would decide - of shooting a local cat. The article attracted not inconsiderable attention, such that in places as distant as East Otis, those who kindly stock our paper, quickly ran out.

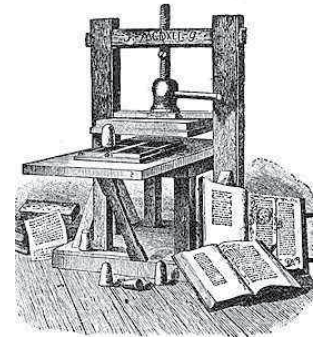
But not all were happy (leaving aside the cat and its alleged attacker). There was grumbling. Serious, semi-official grumbling. It was suggested, for instance, that the Sandisfield Times should only print good news. Items suggesting local malfeasance should be ignored.

This month marks the second anniversary of our newspaper, the beginning of our third year of publication - and as such provides the third

reason for my reflection. For there is a certain connection between what happened down here on Tristan, and the rumbles of disapproval back home. Both are indications of the way in which Authority can react when uncomfortable truths are revealed. A moan here, a ban there - and elsewhere further out, an arrest, a deportation, a thump on the head...The spectrum of authority's behaviour is broad indeed.

Nothing so serious would of course ever occur in our little town. But the principle that guides us, and in my view should be, no different from that which underpins the workings of all this country's great newspapers. As our Latin motto has it: we stand for the people. We are the voice that questions Authority, and tries to make certain, as best we can, that all the truth is told and all the right is done.

If that means that some of the news we print here is sometimes not so good - then I have to retort: so be it. For if it interests the public, and is in the public interest, then at least during this editorship, I hope you'll be able to read all about it, here in the *Sandisfield Times*. - S.W. 



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Henry David Thoreau*




THE SANDISFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

New books soon to arrive:

- *Calico Joe* by John Grisham
- *A Wandering Heart* by Thomas Kinkade
- *Aunt Dimity and the Village Witch* by Nancy Atherton
- *Death Comes Silently* by Carolyn Hart
- *Dorchester Terrace* by Charlotte Pitt
- *Gypped* by Carol Higgins Clark
- *The Limmopo Academy of Private Detection* by Alex McCall Smith
- *Letters From A Stranger* by Bradford Taylor
- *The Witness* by Nora Roberts
- *Capital Murder* by Phillip Margolin
- *Come Home* by Lisa Scottoline
- *The Innocent* by David Baldacci
- *The Lost Years* by Mary Higgins Clark
- *Fall From Grace* by Richard North Patterson
- *Henry Knox and The Revolutionary War Trail in Western Mass* by Bernard Drew

One of the Sandisfield Library's newest acquisitions is a new work of fiction, titled *Shameless*. The author, Sadie O'Rourke, is the Library Director as well as a busy mother. Sadie lives in Sandisfield with her husband, Brian, and their six children.

This is her first published work. It has all the makings of a good read with a mix of romance, drama and suspense. It is available at amazon.com in both the paperback and Kindle versions. 



250th Celebration 3 Months and Counting!

By Laura Rogers-Castro

Thanks to all who planned, hosted and attended Sandisfield's 250th birthday party at the historic New Boston Inn! Kathy Jacobs, co-chair of the 250th Birthday Committee, stated how exciting it was to see the enthusiasm of all the Sandisfield residents who celebrated this momentous occasion and the celebration does not end here. Our July 27-29 weekend promises to be filled with many fun activities and entertainment.




Cake with 250th Logo by Fred Swartz.

The most important time-sensitive item currently on the planning schedule is the commitment of additional vendors. Barbara Cormier (258-4402) is collecting vendor forms and payment (\$15 for one day, \$25 for

two days) for craftspeople. She is also seeking food vendors. First option is for food provided by local businesses while additional vendors with fun and festival food are welcome. Local groups, including Scouts and other non-profits, can sell popcorn, cotton candy, refreshing fruit drinks or other items.

Another exciting aspect of the celebration is the opportunity to explore the beauty of Sandisfield through guided hikes. The Berkshires Natural Resources Council has teamed with the 250th Birthday Committee to offer several hikes in the upcoming months. The first two are "Clam River Scrambles" on April 6 and April 7 at 9:00 a.m. The hikes will begin at the end of Hammertown Road, accessed from Route 57 and participants can choose from a gentle or moderate 2-mile scramble based on their abilities. These hikes will be led by Amanda L'Etoile and Doug Bruce. Additional information is available at www.BNRC.net. Participants should bring water and wear appropriate footwear.

There's still much to do and Sandisfield residents are invited to the next committee meetings on April 11 and 25 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex. For more information and to verify meeting schedule, contact Laura at 258-4688. Also, be sure to "friend" the "Sandisfield 250th" on Facebook for up-to-date information on the celebration. 

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Selectmen's Letter

By Patrick Barrett

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen would like to thank members of the 250th Anniversary Committee for the party they put together on March 6th to celebrate the day Sandisfield officially became an incorporated town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This event was well attended and was a wonderful way to kick off our 250th year festivities. We would also like to thank Barbara Colorio for graciously hosting this event at the historic New Boston Inn. Barbara went out of her way to make the many guests in attendance feel welcome and she gave the young kids from our community open access to the grand ballroom for their imaginative play.


A meeting of the Regional Selectmen's Forum was held February 15 at the new Tolland Municipal Building. Highway superintendents from Otis, Tyringham, and Sandisfield were on hand to discuss the potential for sharing equipment as well as common needs. Our next meeting will be held at the Otis Town Hall on Wednesday April 18, at 7:00 p.m. We have invited State Senator William "Smitty" Pignatelli, State Senator Benjamin Downing and State Senator Michael Knapik to attend in order to discuss current issues facing our communities. We will also be inviting United States Representative Richard Neal to this meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

We would like to thank Elaine O'Brien for filling in for Sandisfield Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko during her medical leave. Elaine astutely kept the office running during one of our busiest times of the year, coming through for the town as she has repeatedly done over a long and distinguished career. We would also like to thank Margaret O'Clair for volunteering her time to help get Dolores caught up from her leave.

We would like to thank Sandisfield Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko and the election workers who manned the polls during the March presidential/state primary. Eighty nine Sandisfield voters cast their ballot in the primary. We appreciate everyone helping to make this important day successful.

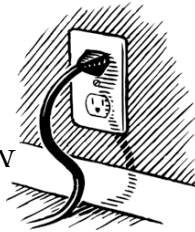
We would like to recognize the hard work put in by the Sandisfield emergency personnel this winter not only responding to numerous calls, but also for taking training classes. The Sandisfield Fire Department recently took a class sponsored by the Massachusetts Fire Academy on the chal-

lenges of fighting structure fires with new building materials being used today. Sandisfield Police officers, firefighters, and EMTs took a course on March 14 to become recertified in CPR. This month members of the fire department will also be taking classes to renew their First Responders certification. Our emergency personnel provide an invaluable service to the Sandisfield community and we sincerely appreciate their efforts on behalf of the town.

We were saddened by the deaths of Audrey Riiska, Rosemary Platt and Carmella Nardi. Audrey drove the school bus in Sandisfield for many years as well as being an election worker for many years. Rosemary was an active and dedicated member of the Sandisfield Council on Aging, serving numerous terms as chairperson for this important town organization. We sincerely appreciate their years of dedicated service to the Town of Sandisfield and our thoughts are with their families during this difficult time. 


RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Cont'd from P.1



neighbors were going to have electricity for the first time and tonight was the night they were going to pull the switch.

I remember the yellow glow of the oil lamps coming from the Whelan farm house as we drove up. Maybe I didn't understand it entirely but I was seven years old and somehow I knew it was the biggest deal in the world! The big knife switch was on the near end of the barn and we all stood around waiting for old Tom Whelan to pull it. I remember how excited my mother was - she was Nell Whalen's best friend. In fact, all the grownups were behaving like kids until somebody, said "Nine o'clock! Let 'er go Tom!"

You should have been there. The whole world lit up! Tom had strung light bulbs from the house to the chicken coop and on to the barn and everything, I mean everything, suddenly turned bright white and blue like it was high noon in Charleston, Illinois. What I remember most were the chickens who came busting out of their coop and ran crazy around the yard, screaming and squawking and bumping into each other - and us. For some reason that seemed perfectly sensible at the time, Tom Whelan picked one of the chickens up and gave it a kiss. 



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The Gardeners' Almanac



By Sue Tarasuk, Horticulturist

RAISED BEDS

I love our raised beds. When we first started vegetable gardening many years ago, I was adverse to the raised bed idea. I felt you could get more vegetables in a traditional straight row garden than you could with using raised beds. However, over the years, I have come to appreciate the value in having raised beds, not only for vegetables, but for any gardening be it perennials, annuals and even shrubs.

The benefits of gardening in raised beds far outweigh the time it takes to build them. Let me tell you some of them.

First of all, if you happen to live in an area where the soil is not so great, perhaps it is sandy or clay or just not so fertile, building a raised bed lets you amend and create soil that will fit what you are planning to grow. I have a very deep raised bed just for carrots. Secondly, your soil is contained and therefore easier to maintain. If you build a raised bed that is as tall as 12", you could even sit on the edge. How easy is that! A bed that is no wider than 4' will allow you to work in the bed without stepping in it. This prevents compaction of the soil and keeps the soil friable and loose. You can make the length of the beds as long as you want.

Your raised bed can be constructed of any material. I would avoid using pressure treated wood as it may contain some toxins that you would not want in your vegetable garden. We used Hemlock boards. They are 8" x 2" x 12". Use whatever height (8", 10" or even 12") and any length that works for your site. The most beautiful raised beds I have seen were constructed using flat rocks.

Your next step is to fill the beds. You may have a nice pile of compost you can use to fill your beds or you will have to get some topsoil and mix it with farm manure. It takes a lot more soil/compost than you think to fill it and each year you will probably need to add to it as it will sink, but it is worth getting your soil built to a good quality from the beginning. In Patricia Lanza's book *Lasagna Gardening*, she describes a method of making soil whereby you add layers to your bed over the year. I will sum it up for you here. She makes her raised bed using whatever mate-

rial you have or would like (wood planks, railroad ties, stones, bricks, etc.) The bottom layer would consist of several layers of wet newspaper on the ground. This will smother the weeds or grass. You next cover the area with grass clip-



tings, plant prunings, vegetable compost from the kitchen, etc. After you have a good thick layer of material, say 2-3 inches deep, add 2-3 inches of manure or composted organic matter. Then add 2-3 inches of soil. Repeat these steps all summer and in the fall you can add a layer of shredded leaves (not whole leaves as they take too long to decompose). You can add soil and plants from your planters and spread this evenly. When these layers have reached the top of the bed, cover with a layer of wet newspaper and then mulch it with wood chips, shredded bark or even shredded leaves. Do not turn this mixture. It will all decompose in about a year and become a wonderful crumbly mixture of nutritious soil.

Raised beds have changed our ideas of vegetable gardening and I think they have simplified them. You still have to weed them, but I feel it is much easier to keep the weeds in control. Your garden of raised beds can be elaborate or simple. You can add vertical structures or arches and arbors. Take it as far as you like, but do plant those vegetables. If you have any questions, you may contact me at susantarasuk@gmail.com or call (413) 258-4929. 🍷

TOWN BUSINESS



Edited by Rhee Kasky

Planning Board Meeting, January 12, 2012 Summary

In attendance: Gary Bottum, Sr., Gene Riiska, Willard Platt and Kathleen Segrin.

Guest: Douglas Segrin.

Old Business

Discussed, revisited and reviewed "Right To Farm", Special Permits, Land Use Change, and By Laws/Zoning Laws.

Draft of proposed change to Driveway Permits (Chapter IX, Section 6, Special Provisions C, Driveways Bylaws). Change to be made as current bylaws don't meet criteria for emergency vehicles to have access. Committee approved changes and then discussed protocol/procedures for the making the bylaw change.

Introduced "Right To Farm" issue to be included on Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Committee decided that in the interest of saving money, both the Driveway and Right to Farm bylaw changes will be implemented at the same time.

New Business

Reviewed and approved figures for Budget FY 2012. Gary to turn in completed budget to Selectboard. 🍷

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A Nudist Colony in Otis Wood Lands?

By Ron Bernard

Sandisfield is known for its beautiful rugged countryside and rural character, for its agricultural tradition, and for its bounty of cherished antique houses, the former homes of pioneer families.

What else? A nudist colony! Here? Really? Actually, yes.

As improbable as it may seem, perhaps the second-ever nudist camp in the United States was established in Sandisfield. The first mention of it was a 1939 Federal Writers Project points-of-interest guide. "In 1933, the Burgoyne Trail Association opened the first Nudist Colony (no visitors) in the Berkshires, founded in the belief that physical and mental health, a relaxing of nervous tension, a normal attitude toward sex, and a spiritual re-creation are fostered by properly regulated nudism."

The leader of the movement was the Rev. Henry S. Harrington of Scarsdale, N.Y., who purchased a parcel on North Beech Plain Road, including land on both sides of the town line with Otis. He named the place after defeated British Gen. John Burgoyne, who supposedly stayed at the old Issac Norton House on the property in 1777. Burgoyne's surrendered army, or a portion of it, passed by on the Knox Trail on its way to Boston from Saratoga, which is a historical fact. However, historians today are convinced that Burgoyne was not with the contingent and he took a different route east.

The camp operated for only a few years, without incident, but it created a considerable buzz among Otis residents. Membership was not significant so Harrington lost interest and sold most of the land by 1937. In 1958, The Con-



Early image of the 10-room c.1770s Issac Norton House that stood near Beech Plain Road on the Otis side of the town line. It burned in 1978. (Our Otis Heritage, Barry Hawley, 1976 and 2009)

necticut Trails Council (Girl Scouts of America) opened Camp Sequena on 345 acres with three existing houses including the old Norton place, a barn and a cabin. In 1964, the organization built an earthen dam to form a brook-fed pond or lake.

In 1972, Ross Williams, inventor and manufacturer of Wash 'n' Dri towleets, bought the closed Camp Sequena for \$240,000 with plans for a private community to be called Otis Wood Lands (OWL). Sandisfield approved development plans in March 1973 that included 250 home site lots and about 100 acres of common area. The Girl Scouts' 22-acre lake with about 1½ miles of shore line was improved and became a community centerpiece. The old Norton house served as a clubhouse until it burned in September 1978. After prolonged litigation a new community facility opened in 1981.

Williams turned title over to the home owner's association, OWL Club Inc., in 1979, and it assumed responsibility for all aspects of property

management, including the lake and the roads.

Prolonged heavy rains in June 1984 created a scare both for residents of OWL as well as those in Otis and Sandisfield who lived along Route 8 and the Farmington River down to New Boston. The earthen dam suffered a breach and part of Route 8, below, was flooded. Authorities feared the dam might give way entirely. About 60 residents were evacuated, some twice, but the dam held and was subsequently reinforced

The town line runs directly through the community with lots about equally divided on either side. Owl Lake is entirely in Sandisfield while the clubhouse and most of the community facilities are on the Otis side.

The great majority of Otis Wood Lands residents are seasonal. Almost every lot has a house, producing considerable net revenue for both towns. Because the association maintains the roads, including snow plowing, and there have been few if any resident school-age children, Otis Wood Lands has been a model and beneficial addition to both towns.

This concludes the series of town section histories. The articles will be included in the upcoming book, Sandisfield Then And Now: 1762-2012, due in June.



Note to All Subscribers:

In the past few months, we have received back some copies of monthly issues marked by the Post Office "Return to Sender, Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward". We realize that some people change their residences at different times of the year. We have made an effort to contact people if they have furnished an email address or current phone number. If you have not received your subscription issue to the Times, please contact us at editor@sandisfieldtimes.org and let us know which issues you have missed along with a current mailing address so we can supply you with these missing issues. You can also drop us a note at The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Thank you for your understanding.

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Happy 250th Birthday!

Photos by Richard B. Migot



March 6, 2012





EDIBLE SANDISFIELD

By Adam Manacher



New England towns “center” themselves around traditions: the town green, the town meeting, holiday parades, and annual community suppers. Bringing people together to discuss, to honor, to celebrate and to share is the cornerstone

of every strong community. Sharing stories, sharing ideas and sharing traditions are brought out in all cultures through sharing food. There is nothing better to capture the heart of a New England country town than a community cookbook. *Sandisfield Eats*, our new cookbook published this spring, is a marvelous representation of how a community “centers” itself.

Compiled by our own Josephine Alessi Freedman and her group of editors, *Sandisfield Eats* brings us to the center of every Sandisfield household: the kitchen hearth. This is where family recipes, along with family stories and town lore are passed down from one generation to another. Reminiscences of the old country and dreams from the new are all documented here in a fabulous collection of memoirs and recipes from our community.

Sandisfield Eats gives us a rich picture of the special mix of people that make up Sandisfield.

The book begins with some historical narratives about our town, those who live and lived here, and some of the magnificent old homes dating back to the 18th and early 19th centuries. Great meals came from the stoves of these old houses

and *Sandisfield Eats* provides us with more than 350 local recipes in 16 sections. Each section begins with a historical photo of Sandisfield and fabulous stories from town residents describing the adventure of creating and eating good home cooking, and the recipes follow. Reflecting the true immigrant nature of American cuisine we encounter foods originating from Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Sweden and many others. We find traditional “American” recipes that mix cultures right in the mixing bowl! In the melting pot of America, here there are recipes in which everyone can connect. As one note exclaims, for a Dandelion wine recipe, “Although my Polish grandmother claimed this wine for her own nationality, it is really the wine of the ‘grandmothers.’ Mention it and most people will wistfully say with historical romance, ‘Oh, yeah, my grandmother used to make that.’”

From appetizers to pies and tarts; from seafood, poultry, meats to jams and relishes, we read and learn the basics as well as the tricks. All recipes are clearly written and easy to follow. Many provide added notes detailing tips passed down from generations or special thanks to friends for sharing. And each recipe notes the name of the contributor, honoring the cooks of Sandisfield with an index of contributors alongside the recipe index. Adding to the cookbook’s usefulness for every kitchen is a well thought out “pantry basics.” Here you’ll find valuable information about herbs and spices, baking techniques, cooking times, measurements and product substitutions, calorie counting, cooking terms and, my favorite, “quick fixes,” or handy tips to save the day for that dreadful kitchen moment!

Created by the Sandisfield Historical Society commemorating Sandisfield’s 250th anniversary all proceeds from the purchase of the cookbook go directly to the Historical Society. *Sandisfield Eats* is a delicious and creative way to bring all of us together! 🍷

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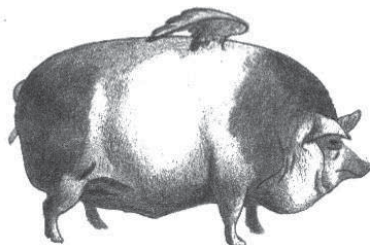
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Henry David Thoreau



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FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN



By Tara Beardsley

Hard to believe winter is over, (seems to me that it only "visited" a couple of times this year) and the signs of spring are everywhere! The children are really enjoying running around outside during the beautiful weather we've been experiencing so far this spring!

Through the combined efforts of the PTO, the generosity of a great number of our local businesses, and the support of our community, the PTO was able to pull off a remarkably successful Cash Calendar Raffle fundraiser for the second year in a row with gross sales reaching an amazing \$11,160 this year! The three top selling students/families were:

Kelly & Haley Couch	\$1,120.00
Dean Argiro	\$1,000.00
Matthew & Collin O'Brien	\$960.00

The proceeds will be used to help offset technology costs of the school, as well funding Field Day and enrichment programs for our children.

The continued success of this fundraiser has ensured that this will be an annual event, and we already have a waiting list of donors who wish to be part of next year's calendar. If you or your business would like to sponsor a day on next year's calendar please contact the PTO at frspto@yahoo.com.

Farmington River began a new paper recycling program in March. Bins have been placed in the classrooms to collect all paper waste. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month students from the 3rd and 5th grade classes will bring the bins to the loading dock, and on Thursday, parent Craig Drenga has graciously volunteered to deliver the collected paper to the Otis transfer station. We'd like to offer a special "thank you" to Craig for helping Farmington River Elementary to become more environmentally friendly.

Preschool registration & screening for the 2012-2013 school year will begin on Wednesdays from 9:00 am- Noon. Please call the school to set up an appointment after March 30th.

Farmington River Regional School District is also now accepting registrations for our nationally accredited full-day kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. Children who are residents of Otis or Sandisfield and will be five years old before September 1, 2012 are eligible to enter our full day kindergarten in the fall. Incoming kindergartners who are not currently enrolled in Farmington River's Preschool Program may pick up registra-

tion packets at the school between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. beginning April 23rd. At that time, you will be given an appointment time for a screening.

Kindergarten screening will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd in the afternoon. A screening is required for all enrolling children. The screening will be conducted in the areas of learning and speech/language. Children currently enrolled in our preschool program will be screened during their preschool morning. No screening appointment is necessary. A registration packet will be sent home with each child for you to complete and return by the date indicated.

Farmington River is also accepting school choice students from surrounding towns to join our 2012-2013 kindergarten class. Call Lynette Gagnon at 269-4466 for more information about school choice.

If you have any questions about the screening or our kindergarten program, please call Mary Turo at 269-4466 or email mturo@frsrd.org

Screen-Free Week will be from April 30 - May 6th this year. The PTO will help sponsor a variety of events this year. They will include, but are not limited to:

- Swimming at Berkshire South
- Ice-skating at Amelia Park
- Bingo
- Hiking
- And much more!

Information with dates and times of all events will be sent home with students, as well as e-mailed to parents. Keep your eyes open, there is a lot of fun in store for your children!

The 6th grade class is sponsoring an energy efficient light bulb sale/fundraiser again this year. Proceeds will benefit the 6th grade class directly for their end of year trip and graduation expenses. The fundraiser will kick off on April 4th with as assembly hosted Western MA Electric.

Mark your calendars:

4/3	Western MA Electric Assembly 10 am
4/5	Musical theater performance - <i>How to Eat Like a Child</i>
4/6	No School - Good Friday
4/12	Anti-Bullying Author Visit PTO Meeting- Library 3:10
4/16-4/20	No School - April Vacation
4/30-5/4	Screen-Free Week
5/1	Spring Pictures

Please call the school directly at 413-269-4466 or visit www.frsrd.org for more school information.

Sandisfield Historical Society News



By Josephine Freedman

March was a great month for the Historical Society!

We participated in the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the town on March 6th at the New Boston Inn. At the well-attended celebration, we distributed and sold over thirty memoir cookbooks, *Sandisfield Eats*. Josephine Freedman baked a Ricotta cake using a recipe from the cookbook. The cake, whose recipe had been submitted by Betty Annecharico and Lynn Rubenstein and can be found on page 155, was a huge hit. In addition to this there was lots of delicious food and beautiful sheet cake displaying the town shield. That evening, in addition to hearing the proclamation, the SHS received a great gift from Steve and Lorraine German. It was a family tree of the Sears family, including Edmund Hamilton Sears who was a resident of Sandisfield in the 1800's and who, as you probably know, wrote "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." The tree was created by Olive Sears Kelley in 1874, and actually begins with Richard Sears who was born in England in 1590 and died in Plymouth, MA in 1632. The tree was drawn by George Jones of Boston and was entered into the Library of Congress in 1874.

The family tree, which really looks like a tree, is now housed in the historical Meeting House in South Sandisfield. Just call Norton Fletcher or Marcia Ignace for access to the building or attend one of our monthly meetings, held the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM.

Mark your calendars! During our March 10th meeting, the Society set dates for the following events:

- **July 7th, 2012 Summer Fair**
- **October 6th Apple Fest**
- **November 4th Wine and Cheese party**
- **December 1st Christmas Fair.**

If you have ordered your cookbook, you can pick it up at any of these events, including the 250th celebration at the end of July. If you have any questions, call Josephine Freedman at 413-258-4786.

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Snapshots of Sandisfield



A Call for your Photos, Drawings, Paintings, Quilts

The Sandisfield Arts Center is holding a special exhibition of photographs and works of art describing the Town of Sandisfield. We want you to bring us those pictures, drawings, paintings, quilts, anything that tells a story of Sandisfield and we will display them in the downstairs gallery as part of the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Grab your camera. Search in your attic and old files for photos and art works which capture some aspect of Sandisfield that is dear to your heart: houses and barns; animals, wild and domestic; landscapes; people.

Bring your photos and art works to us on Saturday, July 21, 2012 from 1 to 3pm and we will hang them in the gallery.

There are a few rules:

1. Your pictures or works of art should be ready to hang and should not be bigger than 30 inches in any direction (including frame or mat).
2. Please fill out the form below and bring it with you. Three entries per person.
3. You can offer your entry for sale, just indicate the price on the entry form. The Sandisfield Arts Center will take no commission.
4. A Special note: Every effort will be made to safeguard the art work, but, by entering your work, you will exempt the Town of Sandisfield. The Sandisfield Arts Center and all individuals involved from liability regarding harm to or loss of the work.

ENTRY FORM • SNAPSHOTS OF SANDISFIELD

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Age, if under 18 _____ Signature _____

No. of Entries _____ Description of entries (Price if appropriate) _____



Comings and Goings

Carmella L. Nardi

1919 - 2012

Carmella L. Nardi died February 26 at home. She was 92. Carmella was born in New Jersey on November 1, 1919. She was predeceased by her husband, Paul A. Nardi Sr. She is survived by two sons, Paul A. Jr. and Domenick, and a daughter, Laura M. Sanchez of Sandisfield. She is also survived by three brothers, three sisters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on March 1 at St. Peter's Church, Great Barrington, where Carmella was a communicant and a member of its choir.

Rosemary Anne Platt

1932 - 2012

Rosemary Anne Platt died on February 24 at the Laurel Hill Nursing Home in Winsted, CT. Rosemary was born December 30, 1932 in Westfield, MA. to Victor and Mary George, and had been a long time resident of Sandisfield. She is survived by her husband, Willard R. Platt and nine children and seven grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Barbara. She is also survived by six siblings. While living in Sandisfield, Rosemary was chair of the Council on Aging, and she was also instrumental in re-establishing the Sandisfield Congregational Church. There was a gathering of friends and family on February 29 at the Villa Mia Restaurant in Sandisfield to celebrate Rosemary's life.

Audrey K. Riiska

1936 - 2012

Audrey Kandler Riiska died on Friday, March 9 at the home of William and Barbara Riiska. Audrey was born on March 21, 1936 in Tivoli, New York to Karl and Helen (Quimby) Kandler. She was predeceased by her husband Austin T. Riiska. She is survived by five children: Kathleen Riiska-Lovejoy, Jeanne M. MacBurnie, Brenda L. Riiska, Helene S. Riiska and A.J. Riiska. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and two grandchildren. Audrey served as Tax Collector for the Town of Sandisfield and was also a member of the Planning Board and Ballot Clerk for many years. A funeral service for Audrey was held on March 15 at Montano-Shea Funeral Home in Winsted, CT followed by a graveside service on Friday, March 16 at Sandisfield Center Cemetery.

Death leaves a heartache

no one can heal,

Love leaves a memory

no one can steal.

~ from a tombstone in Ireland





To the Editor:

I would like to say a big thank you to the Sandisfield ambulance crew. On February 25th they had to come get me. I was in so much pain with spasms in my back I could hardly walk. They couldn't get up my driveway, it was all ice and snow. They put a backboard on a sled type object. They bundled me up and took me down the driveway like they would at a ski slope. Yes, it was snowing and sleeting. They did a great job getting me out of here and to the hospital. Thank you again, Sandisfield ambulance crew. You do a great job. You know who you are.

Kathy Ives Wilcox



To the Editor:

Just wanted to take a minute and thank you for the wonderful article that Tina did on our farm. We just cannot express enough what a beautiful person Tina Sotis is and what an incredible job she did on our behalf. The article has helped us in our new CSA endeavor. Since the article came out we have signed up several new people, people who had never heard of us before but who love the CSA concept.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.
Andy & Sandra Snyder

The Farmington River Elementary PTO would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following local businesses who sponsored a day on the 2012 March Cash Calendar Raffle:

- John Field Tree Service*
- Ameriprise Financial*
- Tonlino & Sons*
- Tolland Mountain Builders*
- A&M Auto*
- Harvest Moon Realty*
- Berkshire Bank*
- Ski Butternut*
- John Stanmeyer, Photographer*
- Jody's Floor Sanding*
- L&M Auto*
- Otis Poultry Farm*
- Berkshire Woods Realty*
- Papa's Healthy Food & Fuel*
- Farmington River Diner & Deli*
- New Boston Store*
- Hair in Otis*
- FRRS Kitchen Staff*
- Otis Ridge*
- Knox Trail Inn*
- Alice Berke, MSW*
- Villa Mia Restaurant*
- Meyer Well Drilling*
- Fratelli's Restaurant*
- SilverBrook Cafe*
- The Bookloft*
- Other Brother Daryll's*
- Terranova's Market*
- Anonymous donor*

Without their generous support, this year's wildly successful fundraiser would not have been possible.

Please patronize our local businesses!



PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

MAY 6, 2012

Registered Voters: 594
Total Voting in this Primary: 90

By Party:..... Votes Cast

GREEN/RAINBOW PARTY:..... 0

REPUBLICAN PARTY:

FOR PRESIDENT

- M. Romney..... 15
- R. Paul 9
- N. Gingrich 5
- R. Santorum..... 3
- R. Perry 1
- J. Huntsman..... 1
- S. Palin 1
- No Preference/blank..... 1

FOR STATE OFFICES

- For State Committee Man
- Michael Case 27
- No Preference/blank..... 10
- For State Committee Woman
- Robin Alngreen..... 22
- No Preference/blank..... 15

DEMOCRAT PARTY

FOR PRESIDENT

- B. Obama..... 41
- R. Paul 1
- P. Barrett 1
- No preference/blank 9

FOR STATE OFFICES

- For State Committee Man
- Michael Wilcox 42
- For State Committee Woman
- Mary Palmer 41



Explore the Clam River on our free guided hikes. See March and April at www.bnrc.net/events or call Amanda or Doug at 413.499.0596 for more info.

BNRC.net
BERKSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

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.

APRIL EVENTS

Tuesday, April 3, 7 PM, Town caucus, Old Town Hall.

Wednesday, April 4, 9 AM to noon, Registration/screening for Preschool at Farmington River Regional School. For registration/screening appointment call beginning Friday, March 30. For more information contact Jill Lenny at 413-269-4466.

Monday, April 9, Last day to object or withdraw nomination papers.

Monday, April 23, 2:00 – 4:00 and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Town Hall Annex - Last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & ELECTION

Saturday, May 12, 10:00 a.m. Annual Town Meeting at the Old Town Hall

Monday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Annual Town Election at the Old Town Hall

*Please note that the following offices are up for election this year: Moderator, Selectman, Treasurer, Auditor, Board of Assessors, School Committee, Board of Health, Planning Board and Library Trustee.

ONGOING EVENTS

Town Meetings (Info call 258-4711)

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

The Children's Health Program Play Group, every Monday when school in session, 9:30 AM - 11 AM,

Farmington River Elementary School music room. Led by Laura Mesina. For more information call 413-644-0104 X 1159.

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

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

Senior Lunch Program, every Tuesday when school in session, 12:15 PM, Farmington River Elementary School. For more information or reservations call Lynette 413-269-4466. Cost \$2.

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

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

Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis, every Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Otis Town Hall. For more information call Andy Pyenson, President at 413-269-6060.

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.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 AM - 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, 7 PM, Sandisfield Library. Public welcome.

PTO, second Thursday of the month, 3:15 P.M., Farmington River Regional School. Child Care provided.

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.

OF INTEREST

Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. Clam River Ramble, Meet at the end of Hammertown Road, off Route 57. Led by Berkshire Natural Resources Council. Wear appropriate footwear, bring water. Participants will have the choice of a gentle or moderate hike based on abilities.

Saturday, April 21, at 7 p.m., Jay Mankita, guitarist, singer and songwriter will perform at **The Knox Trail Inn** for their free concert series. For more information call 269-4400.

Wednesday-April 25, 6:30 - 8:30pm: "Climbing Your Family Tree" Genealogy assistance with Laurie Foulke-Green at the Sandisfield Library Please join us. The library now has a subscription to Ancestry.com, which is available to library patrons.

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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 and Villa Mia. Copies are also available in Otis at Katie's Market, Papa's Fuel, Southern Berkshire Realty, Otis Library, the Farmington Elementary

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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.

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