

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXI—Number Five

May/June 2011

Roy and Joanne Bair: Quietly Busy

by Judith Hinds

Light, airy, and full of happy plants—that’s the Bairs’ dining nook, where I was warmly welcomed by Joanne and Roy on a recent sunny morning in mud season. We were surrounded on the outside by fields, mountains, trees, and barns; on the inside by flourishing greenery and the warm tones of fine woodwork. Joanne’s East Montpelier roots stretch back seven generations, to the arrival of the first Peck in 1789. Their present home on Center Road was built by Addison Peck in 1842. Joanne grew up in the house across the street, built by Nathaniel Peck in 1806. Her mother, Ellen Hill, co-authored the popular town history, *Across the Onion*, as well as *The Cemeteries of East Montpelier* and two other historical works about our town.

The farm fields are currently leased to Fairmont Farms. Roy and Joanne’s son, Dan, who now lives across the street in the 1806 house, runs a maple sugaring operation and manages the farm and rental property. The land is host to both a VAST trail and an East Montpelier hiking trail; it will remain open and undeveloped in the future thanks to the Bairs’ arrangement with the Vermont Land Trust. Taking full advantage of the sun on their

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Shaline Kirkpatrick, Rubin Bennett, and Lacey

A Fairy Tale Come True

by Michelle A. L. Singer

Shaline Kirkpatrick, owner of Shaline Bridal, has been designing and sewing since 1990. That is the year she graduated as a fashion designer and launched her own line of gowns in her native Canada. She hasn’t stopped since. Shaline has been offering bridal sewing services in Vermont since 2001. She is known for her impeccable work and beautiful dresses, which she showcased in two Montpelier boutiques, first at 32 State Street and then next door to Capitol Grounds at 27 State Street from 2007 to 2010. Now relocated in East Montpelier, Shaline combines her boutique, sewing, and designing space and her family life in an office next to the home she shares with her fiancée, Rubin Bennett, his son Justin and her son Calen, both students at East Montpelier Elementary School, and their brand-new daughter, Lacey.

Wherever she is, Shaline creates what some of her customers call a “fairy tale” environment. She gave me a tour, six-month-old Lacey in arms, and I marveled at her ability to maintain the calm, peaceful, and sophisticated environment that has become her trademark. Gowns hang on a rack along one wall, and anyone who has seen her work can tell you how gorgeous they are, designed and sewn exclusively for her customers, with

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East Montpelier Green Up Day & Free Community Lunch on Saturday, May 7

Roadside trash drop off: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Community lunch: 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Spring is here! Look around and you'll see robins, flowers, green leaves...and litter on our otherwise beautiful roadsides.

You are invited to join your East Montpelier neighbors on Green Up Day, Saturday, May 7, the day we will clean up our roadsides and public lands throughout town.

Strong plastic Green Up disposal bags are available at the Elementary School, the East Montpelier Town Office, Dudley's Store, and the Riverbend Store. You don't need to use Green Up bags; any bag or box will do, as long as it contains trash collected from our roadsides.

Reward yourselves for your Green Up labors by joining your friends and neighbors at a delicious free lunch in the school cafeteria courtesy of the Jean & Wes Cate Community Fund Committee. (Call Deb, 229-1320, to donate cookies for the lunch.)

Green Up Day happens rain or shine. As you gather trash, please try to separate out recyclable containers. Also, if you find roadside trash that is too big for you to transport, drag it, if possible, to a visible place on the roadside for later pickup. Bring your collected trash to the Elementary School between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday. **Please note that depositing trash in the school parking lot at any other time is considered illegal dumping.**

We cannot accept household trash. Save your household paint, pesticides, cleaning products, spent fluorescent bulbs, or other hazardous waste for a Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Household Hazardous Waste Collection. For more information, call the Management District at 229-9383.

Green Up Coordinator Paul Erlbaum welcomes calls notifying him of the section of roadside you plan to clean. You can also contact Paul at 223-3177 or send him an email at garlicmountain@gmail.com for Green Up Day work project suggestions.

We encourage your family to take part in this great Vermont tradition. Thanks!



Top of the *Signpost*

Charles Johnson

Well, signs of spring are everywhere, except for spring weather which seems to be hiding out somewhere. Actually, I always think of Vermont springs as having two phases: “anticipation” and “reality.” We anticipate a mythological spring with cherry blossoms, sweetly singing birds, and butterflies, all suddenly arriving. “Reality” still looks and feels like winter despite encouraging signs here and there of sugaring, pussy willows, redwings, and crocuses under snow. Experiencing spring here is a lesson in accepting the way things are and not as we might wish them to be.

Of course, by the time you read this, we may well be having a summer-like day!



Roy and Joanne Bair (continued from page 1)



south-facing barn roof (as well as rebates from Uncle Sam), the Bairs installed solar panels last year. Their electric bills plummeted and they’ve even been able to “bank” surplus electron production with Washington Electric for credit when the sun doesn’t shine.

Roy, a New Jersey native, came to East Montpelier by way of his undergraduate studies at Norwich University, graduate degrees at the University of Cincinnati, and a stint in the Army near the end of the Vietnam War era. After returning to Norwich to teach biology, anatomy, and physiology on the Vermont College campus, he met Joanne there. She had majored in education at Ohio Wesleyan, taught for several years, and earned her master’s at V.C. Together they raised their two sons and Joanne’s daughter from a previous marriage. Daughter, Sarah Bancroft, lives and works in Burlington. Dan and wife Leila, their neighbors from across the road, are the parents of Abigail, the newest addition to the family. Son Doug, married Charlotte Strantzen from Australia and settled on that side of the globe a few years ago. They and their daughter, Elisa, visited for five joyous weeks at Christmas time.

The Australian connection has motivated Joanne and Roy to become world travelers, although they prefer road trips in their RV to those long flights across the Pacific. Since Roy’s retirement ten years ago, the RV has taken them and their Newfoundland dog to many parts of the country. Like many of us, they still feel that Vermont offers some of the best camping and prettiest views anywhere.

Besides travel and family, their lives are full with creative endeavors. Roy spends hours in his shop turning out beautifully crafted woodwork, from marble-topped tables to toys and toy chests for his grandchildren, nieces and nephew. He even shipped a toy chest to the grandbaby in Australia, which he says helped reduce the Postal Service’s deficit by a significant margin. Joanne has been a “hooker”—of rugs—for 20 years, with a group that meets in Maple Corners. Various family members have been the lucky recipients of her wall hangings over the years. And let’s not forget Norwich hockey. As we spoke, Roy was preparing for a fan trip to Minnesota for the NCAA Division III “Frozen Four” competition. Go, Cadets!

They describe themselves as “pretty quiet” and “not very active in town affairs,” but you be the judge... Roy coached the youngest Little Leaguers for several years. Joanne is the lay pastor at the Adamant Methodist Church, where she organized and taught the church Sunday School for 18 years. Roy is a Church trustee, chair of the Administrative Board, handyman and chief groundskeeper. Joanne is an active member of the East Montpelier Historical Society and former board member of the Central Vermont chapter of the League of Women Voters. Our community is certainly richer for their contributions of time, talents, and land.

Judith Hinds, a resident of North Street since 1976, is happily retired from a career that included teaching, translating, and 21 years in transportation safety with the Federal government.

twenty years of experience coming to bear on each design. A large framed mirror faces the gowns with handmade veils and headpieces hanging down one side. A vanity against the back wall showcases local artisans' jewelry and custom accessories. Her sewing table takes up another corner in front of windows that look out to the back garden. It is a bright beautiful space, and affords Shaline a place to sew and design, her true passions. "Having a location downtown was great," she says, "but I spent a lot of time just running the shop." When she and Rubin were expecting, and Rubin was making plans for a bigger office for his information technology business, rbTechnologies, they decided to transform Rubin's former office into Shaline Bridal.

They hadn't expected to buy the hangar building adjacent to their home, former location of Twin City Masonry on Route 14, but that's exactly what they did, moving rbTechnologies there and making Rubin's commute to work very short. Rubin has been the owner of rbTechnologies since 1997, and is sometimes known as simply "That IT guy." He is anything but anonymous in the community, however, with a seat on the EMES school board, CVCAC Board of Directors, and the East Montpelier Fire District committee. He has steadily grown his business of designing and installing computer networks for commercial clients. His new office at the hangar building allows for the growth the business has seen, and continues to see, as they take on new clients and support the ones they have had for years. The rest of the hangar is managed by Rubin and Shaline together as yet a third business, which they offer as commercial rental space to another local business.

Both Shaline and Rubin have built their businesses on great products, attention to detail, extraordinary customer service, and a tireless work ethic, (Shaline was sewing almost up to the minute Lacey was born). Their plans for the future include more renovations, both at home and at the hangar building, and of course their wedding this June.

It will not come as a surprise that Shaline is currently booked and not taking clients for the summer wedding season, however, brides who are planning ahead can get on her schedule for the future. Shaline also offers alteration services for wedding gowns, prom and formal wear as well as wedding gown cleaning and preservation services. You can reach Shaline at 802-223-4777 or online at www.shalinebridal.com. Shaline Bridal Boutique, at 80 Carleton Boulevard in East Montpelier, is open by appointment. Rubin and rbTechnologies are available to commercial clients only, and can be found at www.thatitguy.com or 802-223-4448 and at 1970 Route 14 South in East Montpelier.

Michelle A. L. Singer is a writer, editor, and mother of three living in East Montpelier since 2004.

EMES Winter Carnival

Robin Gannon



The East Montpelier Winter Carnival, held January 29, 2011, was a lot of fun and a huge success. What a great turnout! Highlights included a dunk tank in which Principal Roddy Cooke, PE teacher Michael Sherwin, School Board member Rubin Bennett, and first-grade teacher Jillian Zeilenga took the plunge for a good cause. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic snow maze, hay rides, games, and goodies. An illuminated hill made great nighttime sledding a real treat.

The event earned \$1,369.70 for EMES Cares—a fund set up by the EMES Social Committee to help support families in need. In addition, the 5/6 grades, led by Beth Ann Porter, made over \$500 for their class trip selling food that was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to organizers and other volunteers who include Jane and Phillip Badger, Cheryl Baker, Angela Bellavance, Christine Christiano, Kathy Christy, Sandy Coffin, Kacie Cordia, Susan DeForge, Pam Dunkling, Robin Gannon, Lisa Gariboldi, Sarah Garland, Seth Gardner, Laura Giammusso, Julia Haynes, Todd Hill, Carol Humphries, Sarah Kinter, Alicia Lyford, Laurie and Bruce Mekkelsen, Jamie O'Hare, Beth and Todd Parker, Carolyn Pastore, Mandy Powers-Campbell, and Ellen Shedd.

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- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

Geologic Mapping Continues

At our 2008 Town Meeting, East Montpelier citizens voted to place a three year moratorium on large withdrawals of the town's groundwater. The express purpose of that moratorium was to allow citizens adequate time to gather information regarding the possible impacts of removing large quantities of water from our town and from our regional aquifer.

Right after that town meeting vote, many citizens formed the Community Groundwater Study Group to gather information about the impact of withdrawing large quantities of water. The Study Group looked into the science, economics, and politics of groundwater. It quickly learned that to best protect East Montpelier's groundwater, the Town would need to secure the services of hydrogeologists to identify the location, depth, and quantity of the water hidden beneath our feet. That process is called geologic mapping.

The Study Group, working with our Selectboard and our Planning Commission, secured a federal and state grant to perform geologic mapping of the eastern third of our town. (The other two-thirds of East Montpelier were mapped over the last 12 years.) This spring, two hydrogeologists and two college interns will start studying the geology of this region. The mapping team plans to provide the town with a report of its findings at the end of May 2012. There may be a call for citizen volunteers—especially to locate residential water wells. If there is a need for volunteers, the Study Group will publish a notice in the *Signpost* and otherwise spread the word. For more information, call Paul Erlbaum at 223-3177.

Paulie's Recipe

White Nut Cake

from the Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier

¼ cup shortening	½ cup chopped nuts
⅔ cup sugar	(not peanuts)
1½ cup cake flour	½ cup milk
1½ tsp baking powder	2 egg whites
¼ tsp salt	½ teaspoon vanilla

Cream the shortening; and gradually work in the sugar. Sift the dry ingredients; stir in the nuts and add alternately with the milk to the first mixture. Whip the egg whites stiff, and fold in. Turn into a well-oiled and floured square cake pan; sprinkle with a few chopped nuts, if convenient. Bake in a moderate oven, 350° F, for 40 min, or until firm in the center and brown on top. Remove from the pan, dust with confectioner's sugar, and cut in small squares.

Display at the Town Office

Enjoy the displays of historic materials at the Town Office. The current display shows artifacts, owned by townspeople, used for weighing and measuring. It includes such things as old scales and old measuring containers: a half bushel grain measure, an old peck basket, a surveyor's steel tape, an egg scale, a maple syrup thermometer, and an Eastern States burlap grain bag. Of special interest is a picture of a surveyor's chain, similar to the one used by Jacob Davis, Ebenezer Waters, and Parley Davis in laying out the town of Montpelier in 1786, 1787, 1788, and 1793.

These items were gathered and arranged by Anne and Conrad Ormsbee.

East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative Taking a Break

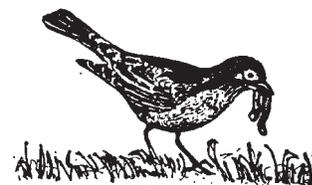
Cherie Staples

Signpost readers haven't heard much from EMSLI during 2010, as we have been working on a particular site: identifying septic capacity and outlining wetland and floodplain areas, creating preliminary designs for buildings, determining feasibility, and getting an appraisal. This work was funded with our Municipal Planning grant from the State of Vermont (through the Town), a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and our Town's Sandy Pines Trailer Park fund. But the landowner chose not to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the appraised value.

This situation leaves EMSLI members feeling at a loss and, frankly, for several, having run out of energy to continue working in the group. So, we've chosen to take a hiatus for the time being. HOWEVER, if other opportunities arose that looked viable, that is, landowners who would be able to live with receiving the appraised value for their land or would even consider bargain-selling their land to our non-profit organization (or to the Central Vermont Community Land Trust as our partner), then we would love to tackle it.

Or if you have other ideas of how EMSLI could serve the community without building a senior housing facility and would like to spearhead such an idea, then we'd like to talk with you.

Our officers are Ross Hazel, Chairman; Dave Coburn, Secretary; and Cherie Staples, Treasurer. Other members are Deborah Fillion, Donna Hall, Molly Wingersky, Bob and Nancy Bisson, Bob and Virginia Bragg, Anna Molloy, Sandy Fair, Austin Cleaves, Norma Raymond, Barbara Eniti, and James Eniti.



Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator:
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Admin: Dina Bookmyer–Baker
eastmontza@comcast.net

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer
karengramer@comcast.net

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher 223-7902

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Listers: Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton &
Ross Hazel 223-3313 x206
eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman
223-3177

Selectboard

Bruce Johnson, Chair
savage1@pshift.com

Carl Etnier Peter Hill
Seth Gardner Casey Northrup

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley
Emily Goyette

Elementary School

Rosie Laquerre, Chair
rosie@vsbit.org
Rubin Bennett
Andrea Colnes
Trevor Lewis

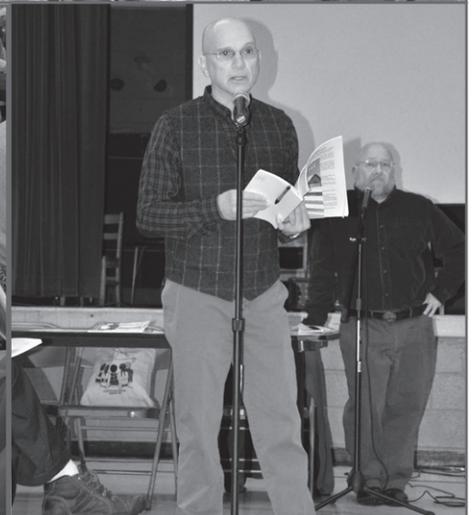
Step up for Rally Day!

Meeting Thurs., May 12, 6:30 p.m

A Rally Day Brainstorming and Planning meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m, at the elementary school. In its 23rd year, Rally Day is one of the cords that ties our community together. People-power is needed to make it happen, so please come and bring your appetite for fun (and snacks!). For more information, please contact Bill Merrylees at 223-4941 or bmerry4@myfairpoint.net.

Town Meeting 2011

photos by Alex Brown



Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births:

- Ezra Kai Chapin, son, born on January 1, 2011, to Elanor & Simeon Darley Chapin.
- Mavis Eva Pew-LaCroix, daughter, born on January 6, 2011, to Meghan Pew & Jean LaCroix.
- Abigail Joy Bair, daughter, born on February 22, 2011, to Leila & Daniel James Bair.
- Isaac Alexander Nadzam, son, born on February 27, 2011, to Brooke P. & Kevin M. Nadzam.

Deaths:

- Carolyn Emily Staples, died January 21, 2011, sister of Charlotte (Cherie) Staples & Marilyn Wingersky.
- Arnold Forrest Johanny, died February 2, 2011, uncle of Christine Zahm.
- Lois R. McKnight, died February 4, 2011, mother of Joyce George.
- Kathryn R. Reed, died March 3, 2011, mother of Christopher H. Reed who resides on VT214.
- Michael Alan Winchester, died March 25, 2011, spouse of Karen Winchester, father of Christopher, Erich & Magdalena Winchester.
- Helen Elizabeth (Betty) Pulsifer, died March 27, 2011, stepmother of Charles C. Pulsifer, spouse of Milton C. Pulsifer (deceased 1991).

Property Transfers:

- Joseph A. Cerasoli, Jr. to James M. & Sheila Laperle, 0.20 acre, commercial building US2.
- Eastview Water Company, Inc. to Clifford W. Bowman Revocable Trust, artesian well, Towne Hill Rd.
- Barbara Austin-Hutchins to Clifford W. Bowman Revocable Trust, artesian well, Towne Hill Rd.
- Andrew P. Christiansen to Christiansen Living Trust dated January 26, 2011, Andrew P. Christiansen & Jennifer D. Zollner, Trustees, 240 acres, dwelling and farm buildings, Hammett Hill Rd.
- NorthCountry Federal Credit Union to David Swenson, 1.13 acres, commercial building, VT14 S.
- Cookson Family Trust, Chester J. & Judith Cookson to Daniel & Lori Wilson, 2.09 acres, Cookson Drive.
- Kingsbury Branch Hydroelectric Company, William K. Porter, Thomas J. Stuwe, and Robert K. Porter to Kingsbury Branch Hydroelectric Company, LLC, 2.48 acres and dam & equipment, VT14 N.
- Maurice C. Cerutti to Sue C. (Cerutti) Hudson, 1/2 interest in store, VT214.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

January 19, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to set the tuition rate for the 2011–12 school year at \$13,655.00.
- to table the ESP, Early Retirement Option.
- to approve the winter athletic coaches as presented.
- to approve the board orders as presented.

February 9, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to approve the minutes of 1/19/11
- to approve the ESP Early Retirement Option.
- to accept the resignation of Michael Gilbert at the end of the school year.

February 16, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to approve the spring athletic coaches as presented.
- to accept the resignation of Katelin Barany, paraeducator.

March 2, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to elect Ginny Burley board chairperson.
- to elect Allen Gilbert board vice-chairperson.
- to elect Adrienne Magida board clerk.
- to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m..
- to use the *Times Argus* as the newspaper for official posting, and to place official postings at U-32 and at the town offices of the five WCSU district towns.
- to elect Conrad Smith as representative and Adrienne Magida as alternate to the Washington Central Executive Committee.
- to elect Conrad Smith, Adrienne Magida, and Ginny Burley as alternate to the Washington Central Negotiations Committee.
- to elect Mark Berry the representative to the Washington Central Policy Committee.
- to appoint Dan Violette as truant officer until his retirement at the end of the 2010-11 school year, at which time the board will appoint a replacement.
- to appoint Susan "Charlie" Catlin as district clerk.
- to appoint Ginny Burley as the representative to the Barre Technical Center Regional Advisory Board.
- to retain the same slate of committee memberships as last year: Finance: Allen Gilbert (chair), Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith, Emily Goyette; Policy: Mark Berry (chair), Allen Gilbert; Curriculum: Adrienne Magida (chair), Emily Goyette; Facilities & Capital Budget: Conrad Smith (chair), Ginny Burley;

Personnel: Mark Berry (chair), Ginny Burley; Co-curricular: Emily Goyette (chair), Adrienne Magida.

- to approve minutes of 2/16/11.
- to warn the 4/20/11 meeting as a board retreat.
- to approve a motion to accept the administration's recommendation with regard to Erin Galligan-Baldwin's LOA request.
- to appoint Karen Vigue to fill the paraeducator position vacancy for the remainder of the school year.

SELECTBOARD

January 3, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to warn an article for the Town Meeting ballot to increase the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000.
- to warn an article for the GMTA commuter bus service for \$8,333 as requested. Made: Welch, second: Johnson.
- to accept the report of the Funding Request Committee to be warned for Town Meeting.
- to authorize the TA to pursue another phone line for the Town Office.
- to accept the Municipal Planning Grant of \$8,000 from the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development.

January 10, 2011

- Motion passed to approve the FY12 Proposed Budget for the Town of East Montpelier based on budget spreadsheet dated 12/27/10 and modified on 1/10/11.

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 3, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to approve that the District Commission with two members should continue its hearing and process on the issue of Vermont Compost Company and not wait until April 2011.
- to approve as amended minutes for 1/20/11.

March 3, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to elect the following: Rick Hopkins: chair, Jean Vissering: vice chair of the commission, Kim Watson: corresponding secretary.
- to re-adopt the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure and Ethics of the town of EM.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

December 7, 2010

Motion passed: to uphold the ZAs decision not to approve permit #10-081 as stated in her letter to NCFCU dated 10/26/10

Technology Equalizing the Scales

Priscilla Gilbert



When my children were born in 2006, like many new mothers, I sought to find the perfect balance of the modern working-mother. I knew that I wanted to work both for my own mental stimulation and for the financial benefits. My desire to work, however, was challenging when considering my even greater desire to be a present mother in the daily lives of my children.

Before my children were born I was the Director of Planned Giving and later

the Assistant Vice President for Development at Norwich University. In these roles, much of my work involved phone and email communication with alumni all over the country. In this age of technology - with laptops, smartphones and a cultural expectation for 24 hours a day electronic access - working at home part-time, with my children in tow, seemed the ideal solution to my precarious life balance. My staff knew how to reach me when I was at home and I was able to juggle my multiple hats of mother, wife and professional. The juggling became more challenging as the number of staff I managed grew and my children's naptimes shrunk. My children were no longer content to sit on a blanket and play with toys while Mommy counseled a member of her staff or chatted with an alumnus. When the kids started playing office and told each other "be quiet, I have an important phone call," and then asked for laptops and cell phones for Christmas, I realized it was time to make a change in further pursuit of my work-family balance.

My mother has been an independent financial adviser for twenty years. For more than a decade we discussed a possible partnership but I was deeply entrenched in my career as a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch and later at Norwich and did not see, at that time, how the partnership would fit me. Recently, after a laborious process of soul searching I realized that I could in fact "have it all"—or at least the "all" that I had designed. The opportunity to partner with my mother as an independent financial adviser actually brought the skill sets I had honed from my two different careers together and a home office gave me the flexibility to better juggle my multiple responsibilities and maintain sanity – at least the kind you have when raising two young children. After managing a team of eleven, working on my own in a home office meant less social interaction. However, daily contact with clients and other professionals helped me to

Gift to the Historical Society

Anne Ormsbee, East Montpelier Historical Society

Recently the East Montpelier Historical Society was given a copy of *Child's Gazetteer and Business Directory of Washington County, Vermont, 1783–1889*, a wonderful historical reference. Hamilton Child created many gazetteers for counties in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. He obtained information about Washington County from local newspapers, clergymen, attorneys, and local officials, as well as from work by Abby Hemenway and D. P. Thompson, among others. This was all edited and published in Syracuse, NY, in 1889.

The book begins with a general Vermont history plus a lengthy chapter of biographies of those associated with the "Bench and Bar." Next, Part One, "Gazetteer of Towns," provides descriptions of the early settlement of each Washington County town, from Barre to Worcester. Part Two is entitled "Business Directory" and lists the then-current residents and businesses by town.

Written in the front of our book is "F. M. Snow, East Montpelier, VT, 1889". Looking in Part One, I found that Jonathan Snow was an early East Montpelier settler, locating on what is now Snow Hill Rd. Part Two showed an entry for Fred M. Snow, grandson of Jonathan. The entry gave Fred's address as North Montpelier, that he lived on road 22 (referring to the map in the book), in the vicinity of Guyette/Chickering Rd., he had 250 sugar trees, he raised chickens (Wyandotte and Brown Leghorn fowls), and he was a farmer and owned 56 acres. His brother Alonzo lived on the home place, and he had 500 sugar trees, 10 grade Jersey cows, and 90 acres.

This book is a fine addition to the Society's references. It will be located in the town office vault in an "archivally-correct" box, and while the spine is in poor condition, it is available for use with care. Our thanks to Stuart and Robyn Hall for their generous donation.

quickly acclimate to my quieter work environment.

I feel fortunate to now split my days between being a busy professional analyzing the global financial markets and guiding my clients through the financial planning process, and being a mother, ready to help make a cardboard rocket ship or get elbow deep in Playdoh. At the end of each day, I put my computer to sleep and "leave" the office. Once the kids are in bed and the dishes and laundry are done I may return to the office, but with the quick commute and instant access to a world of resources, it is all in a day's work. Though a home office has its drawbacks, and the balance between work and home for the modern working parent will never be without its challenges, the easy access to high-speed wireless technology has helped my family and me to equalize the scales.

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

John & Molly Ordway	Doug & Renee Kievit-Kylar
Cynthia Tomaszewicz	Leon & Jean Boucher
Fred & Joyce Jacek	Malcolm and Diana Fielder

A Story of Thanks

Barbara A. Nolan

My husband and I moved here in the fall of 2003 after vacationing in Vermont for at least 25 years. Our jobs in New Jersey were being eliminated, and we decided it was now or never. So we took the plunge. Life was great; we so enjoyed our home on the hill and the first winter was a joy for my husband with his snow blower, etc. He definitely loved the snow and the Vermont weather, and so did I. Life was good and then in January 2006 he passed away leaving me alone in Vermont. My son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, that I adore, live in New Jersey.

Neighbors quickly came to my side—neighbors that I didn't even know before my husband died. Burr Morse, a good friend of my husband, said Larry was watching me from above. Well, Burr helped where ever I needed help: a driveway to be plowed, water needed because of frozen pipes—just so many things going wrong that first lonely winter without my husband.

Along comes Chris Lyford who has been like another son to me. He now does the plowing when the snow falls, and if I need anything I can call at any time and he takes care of the little things because he says they are “neighborly” things to do.

Rena Pearson was my first true friend when we moved here. Always checking on me and making sure I was OK. Her husband Ken has been my lifesaver during the past few winters. He digs me out when I can't open the door and he does some snow blowing.

After the first winter I needed a lawn mower—along comes the Hopkins Family, recommended by Rena. Ginger and Rick have been like true Vermont family to me also. Along with their young son, Alden, they have helped me make it through quite a few summers and winters.

This past winter has been exceptionally hard for me. I am not getting any younger, but along came my neighbors to roof-rake and snow-blow and clean off the decks that were under two feet of snow. I couldn't open the doors!

There have been others, you all know who you are, that have greatly helped me make it through these past few and very difficult years. I want you all to know that I say a great big THANK YOU to all of you who have been so wonderful to me.

Love and Thanks, Barbara A. Nolan

China Exchange This Summer!

Bill Merrylees, Community Connections

For two weeks this summer our local communities will be hosting a group of 30 high school students from China. These students will be housed in pairs with local families, and will participate in educational, cultural, and recreational programming along with a select group of our local students. From Monday through Friday of each week, this mix of students will meet for spoken English language sessions in the morning, and in the afternoons will travel around the area, sampling the best of Vermont.

Here are two ways that local community members may get involved in this exciting exchange project:

Host Families: We are seeking community members who are willing to house at least two of these students from June 26 to July 9. Visiting students will spend evenings, weekends, and mealtimes with host families. Ability to transport these students to and from Montpelier on weekdays is required. There is a small stipend to cover expenses.

Peer Leaders: Students in grades 9 through 11 from U-32 and MHS are invited to apply to be a part of the weekday language & recreational programming alongside the Chinese students. Be prepared to have fun communicating while sharing your time and interests with these visitors, from kicking a soccer ball to sharing music to swimming and visiting Ben & Jerry's. You will be asked to fill out an application, be interviewed, and attend a training session at Vermont College on May 3.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact Bill Merrylees at Community Connections, phone 223-3456 or email bmerrylees@u32.org.

Our Good Neighbors



Do you have a good neighbor? We're guessing you do. “Our Good Neighbors” is a regular *Signpost* column. Send your story, about 250 words, to P.O. Box 184, East Montpelier 05651, or e-mail to signpostbcp@hotmail.com.

Rec Board Busy and Changing

Phillip Heinz, East Montpelier Recreation Board, Co-Chair

Let me start off by thanking all of our volunteers from the past year; coaches, coordinators, and of course the moms and dads behind the scenes. We would like to extend a thank you on behalf of our community to a few members who have resigned from the board over the past year.

Patrick McCoy served on the board in many roles over the past decade: co-chairperson, coach of multiple sports, and giving countless hours of time and effort to improve the facilities and fields that our town's youth (and adults) enjoy. Patrick moves on to continue to serve as a coach in AAU Basketball.

Kris Bador has left the board after several years of helping lead the way to a growing and successful youth basketball program. Kris can still be found helping out as a coach but he will be missed as an enthusiastic member of our board.

CJ and Kristi Flynn have also resigned from service this winter. CJ served on the board for several years, served as the EMES Athletic Director and has coached in soccer and basketball always looking to include as many children in the programs who were interested in playing. CJ also served as one of the board's co-chairpersons. Kristi Flynn is thanked for giving her time to take the minutes of meeting.

With these departures we are currently welcoming anyone interested in participating and becoming part of the Recreation Board to submit a letter of interest, listing any possible experience or talents you might bring to the board. The most important quality you can offer is a sincere interest in bettering the opportunities for our youth through sports. No particular type of experience is required. Please forward your letters of interest to me (Phillip Heinz) and our other co-chairperson, Ben Winters. We are looking for 2–4 more members.

On a programming note, we enjoyed another successful basketball season serving approximately 75 children in grades K–6. We also enjoyed some great success in the Twinfield Tournament. We entered 3 teams at both the 3/4 and 5/6 grade levels. Three of our teams were able to progress through this double elimination tournament to take the title and bring home a very nice trophy! Congratulations to our 3/4 girls team coached by Brian Gallagher and Greg Farnum, our 3/4 boys team coached by Pete Richards & Kent Bigglestone, and our 5/6 boys team coached by Robby Porter & Kris Bador.

Summer is right around the corner! This summer we hope to again offer a discounted rate or rebate on youth swimming lessons through the Montpelier Recreation program. Watch for more information in the EM Elementary School newsletter.

Finally, see the next issue of the *Signpost* for a calendar of regular yearly events and sports seasons. Please feel free to contact us about any ideas or concerns regarding activities and handling of the East Montpelier Recreation Board. (Rec. Field use and maintenance, youth sports, swim lesson program, etc.)

Best Regards, Phillip Heinz

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Policy Change and New Program

Robin Sales, KHL Librarian

While exciting programs and activities continue to be planned for all ages this spring at the library, there is an important policy change that visitors should be aware of.

Effective April 1, children who are 8 years or younger, must be accompanied by a responsible person age 16 or older, while on the Kellogg-Hubbard Library property. This policy, adopted by the Board of Trustees, ensures a safe environment for all visitors and is consistent with other Vermont Public Libraries.

And a special treat for East Montpelier youngsters: Story Time comes to the Four Corner School on Fridays, April 15 – June 10 between 10:00–11:00 a.m. Don't miss the fun of lively narratives, rhymes, finger plays, crafts, and games.

Link to a complete listing of programs at KHL from the *Signpost* website at emsignpost.com

The Hazards of Secondhand Smoke

Dave Grundy, East Montpelier Town Health Officer

Recent research is showing the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, the smoke from cigarettes, cigars, and pipes that is breathed in by non-smokers. People exposed to secondhand smoke experience increases in asthma as well as ear and respiratory infections. The EPA estimates that secondhand smoke is responsible for 3,000 lung cancer deaths a year: 800 from home exposure and 2,200 from exposure at work or in social settings..

In addition to cancer deaths, secondhand smoke is implicated in increased risk of heart disease, diseases caused by asbestos and radon, and even Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

If you are a smoker, it may be time to consider quitting. At least, don't smoke in areas that will affect others, especially younger children.

Summer/Fall Project for Knitters and Crocheters

Dave Grundy

Though winter is barely behind us, EMES is thinking ahead to next year. Do you love to knit and crochet? EMES would like winter hats, gloves, and mittens to provide to students who are going out in the cold and may have lost or forgotten to bring theirs—or maybe just don't have them. Join me in making winter items for the school nurse to give to these students.

If you don't knit or crochet and would like to learn to produce winter hats or scarves on a knitting loom that costs only a few dollars, contact me at 476-4300 or at ddgrundy@com-cast.net. It only takes a few minutes to learn.

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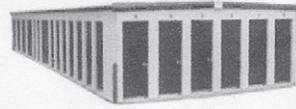
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- Up-to-date calendar listings
- *Signpost* archive
- Organizations in town

Volume XXI–Number Three
 May/June 2011

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EVENTS

Green Up Day, Sat., May 7

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Green Up Day roadside trash collection at EMES
 11 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Green Up Lunch for volunteers at EMES (free)

Sat., May 7

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **All-you-can-eat Pie Breakfast**, Christ Church, Montpelier, sponsored by Orchard Valley Waldorf School. Also features a Silent Auction.

10:30 a.m. **Free performance of No Strings Marionette Company**, Christ Church, Montpelier, sponsored by Orchard Valley Waldorf School.

Thurs., May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Rally Day Planning Meeting, EMES

Sun., May 15, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Orchard Valley Waldorf School, **Mayfest 2011**, featuring Maypole ceremony, puppet shows, children’s activities, live music, and more. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy under the apple blossoms.

Fridays through June 10, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Story Time, Four Corners School

NOTICE

Monday, May 16, 2011: 2nd Installment of 2010/2011 Property Taxes due by 5:00 p.m. at the Town Office to avoid penalty.

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: www.emsignpost.com
 East Montpelier announcements welcome.
 To be notified of new announcements, join the e-mail list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your e-mail address.

It’s a great way to know what is happening in town.

Deadline for Next Issue: June 1, 2011, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School