

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2009/Jan. 2010



Volume XII, Issue X

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

Calendar of Events

November 4 - December 4

Village School Book Fair. Books for children, selected by parents and staff. Shop early for best selection. In hallways during school hours, 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F.

December 2 Wednesday

2:30 a.m. **Full Cold Moon**

5:45 pm **1st Congregational Church Live Nativity**

6:15 **Town Tree Lighting** on the common with caroling. Santa should arrive at 6:30pm with refreshments to follow inside the Town Hall.

December 3 Thursday

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting.** All welcome to plan winter events, library support and this newsletter.

December 4 Friday

7 pm **First Friday Open Mic** at Town Hall with house band "Work in Progress". Sign up to play by calling Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arriving early at the open mic. Free admission. Homemade food on sale. Sponsored by the cultural council.

December 5 Saturday

9 am - 2 pm **Jingle Bell Fair** at 2nd Congregational Church in south royalston village. Fabulous Finnish baked goods, raffles, white elephants and face painting.

December 7 Monday **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

December 12 Saturday **First Day of Channukah**

December 13 Sunday

2:00 pm **Wheat Weaving Workshop** in the Royalston Town Hall ages 10 and up. Participants will braid wheat to create golden treasure to hoard or give as traditional gifts. Pre-registration by calling the library required. Friends of the Library will have first priority, followed by other Royalston residents and then all others. The cost is \$5.00 for members of the Friends and \$7.50 for all others.

After dark tonight and tomorrow night, enjoy the **Geminid Meteor Shower**, which, with clear skies, will show on the order of 75 shooting stars per hour. Look to the northeast in the vicinity of the constellation Gemini for best viewing. Given the imminent new moon and clear skies, this should be the best light show of the season.

December 16 Wednesday

11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club "Christmas Dinner"**

7:02 a.m. **New Long Nights Moon**

December 18 Friday

The first day of Hegira - **Islamic New Year 1431**

11 a.m. **Village School Holiday Celebration** at the Town Hall. All welcome to see the children singing and playing recorder, followed by pizza.

December 21 Monday

10:00 am **preschool holiday party** with crafts and goodies. Free, fun and open to all.

12:47 p.m. **Winter Solstice** – First Day of Winter

December 24 Thursday

7 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service** at the Second Congregational Church – doors open at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship

December 25 Friday **Christmas Day**

December 26 Saturday

First Day of Kwanzaa

December 31 Thursday

2:13 p.m. **Full Long Nights Moon**

Happy 2010!

January 1 Friday **New Year's Day**

Japanese New Year 2670

January 2 Saturday

Perihelion – the earth's closest pass to the sun for 2010, approximately 91,402,516 miles

January 4 Monday

Predawn hours **Quadrantrid Meteor Shower**; look to northern skies for a shooting star every couple of minutes.

Classes resume in the ARRSD schools.

January 5 Tuesday

Twelfth Night

January 8 Friday

7 pm **Open mic** at Town Hall. Sign up to play by calling Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arriving early at the open mic. Free admission. Homemade food on sale. Sponsored by the cultural council.

January 15 Friday

2:11 a.m. **New Wolf Moon**



January 18 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed

January 19 Tuesday

7 a.m. to 8 p.m. polls open for **Special State Election for US Senate seat**. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall on the Common; Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

January 25 Monday

10 am **Cabin Fever Fling for preschoolers and kindergartners** at the Royalston Town Hall with Jenny Nanno leading a program of music and movement. All preschool and kindergarten aged children are invited to attend. Funded by the Friends of the Library

January 30 Saturday

1:18 a.m. **Full Wolf Moon** – the seemingly “largest” moon by virtue of its closeness. This is perigee, the moon’s closest pass to the earth in 2010.

January 31 Sunday

2 pm **Art & Nature: Seeing, Studying, Learning with Gordon Morrison** at the Royalston Town Hall. For ages 8 and up. Snow date 2/7. Funded by the Cultural Council.

It's Getting Colder Outside...

Financial Assistance for Heating Costs may be Available

Brian Eno, coordinator

First Call for Help is available to help North Quabbin residents in need of financial assistance with heating costs this winter. If you find yourself in need of heating fuel, but can't afford to schedule a delivery -maybe because you don't have the money or haven't heard yet from other fuel assistance agencies - we may be able to help. Residents of Royalston should contact Avery Oldach, Resource Specialist at (978) 544-8091 x579 to be pre-screened for eligibility over the phone. Arrangements will then be made to meet with staff a person so that necessary verifications can be collected. *First Call for Help/NQ is an information and referral program of Community Action, serving the nine towns of the North Quabbin region. Requests for financial assistance are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and not all applicants will receive assistance. Only complete applications will be screened for program*

Royalston Animal Control

Robin Mowrey, R.A.C.

I would like to thank everyone involved with my surprise litter of puppies. Thank you for the thoughtful and generous donations of puppy food that helped feed eight hungry mouths. Thanks to Pound Hounds, an organization which works with small town animal control officers, the puppies and their mom were spayed/neutered and received veterinary care. Thank you to Jen and Pat from Athol Animal Control for their guidance and donations of supplies. A big Thank You to my wife Sherri and my daughter Allisyn who came to the pound every day to feed, care, and socialize with the puppies and their mom. All of the puppies, as well as the mother, have found good homes.

Luncheon Club & Council on Aging



The Royalston Luncheon Club will be Celebrating the Holidays with a visit from the Village School, whose students will provide some vocal and instrumental selections announcing the arrival of winter and the holiday season. As always, the first Wednesday will feature a Chinese Auction, second Wednesday means it's time for a BP check, "Christmas Dinner" is planned for the third Wednesday, Dec. 16th, and on the fourth Wednesday, "Brown Bag" participants can collect their goodies. The Club's New Year's Eve meal is the fifth Wednesday, Dec.30th. The Royalston Luncheon Club is open to all ages and provides a warm room, hot lunch and plenty of socializing each week from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meals are \$2 for seniors and \$2.50 for pre-seniors. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904

With debris removal completed, REMA is now concentrating on identifying residents willing and able to help when public safety resources are stretched thin, for example, residents to transport, set up and generate electricity for residents during a wide-spread, extended power outage. To answer that need identified last December, REMA is planning a one-session "Generator School."

Our Fire Department generally handles calls for generators during power outages. Some heat sources to keep plumbing from freezing may require electricity and many septic systems need electricity to pump contents. For longer-term outages fridges and freezers may need a boost. "The Ice Storm" also pointed out the fact that sump pumps in wet cellars require electricity – and sometimes they require it on short notice. Do you have a generator you'd transport and operate for others in an extended, wide-spread event? Do you have a pick-up and would transport and operate an EMA-owned generator? Would you be willing to go from home-to-home, monitoring and refueling generators for residents in need?

REMA is planning a "Generator School". A one-session program will be offered, and depending upon level of interest, multiple times throughout the next few months. Various brands, types and sizes of generators will be on display, a written sheet with general information will be provided, and all participants will have the opportunity to go through set-up, connecting, generating electricity, disconnecting, breaking down and maintaining generators. If you're interested in the listing, please send a note of interest to ema@royalston-ma.gov or call 978-249-2904.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

A H1N1 flu clinic was held for students at Royalston Community School. Clinics were held in the other schools in the district prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Kudos to Supt. Anthony Polito, the school committee for supporting the clinics, Arrsd Staff That Helped Out, And Nurses Sally Quinton And Sheila Hall for all the prep work and immunizing over 600 students. Public clinics will be scheduled in December when vaccine supplies are adequate. The first one will be on a Saturday morning at the Athol Middle School. Details will be released once a date is determined. In the meantime, wash your hands, cover your cough, and stay home if you are sick. Call the toll free public health hotline 211 for questions about the flu. Or on the web at mass.gov/flu. \

The book container has been removed at the transfer station. The town would have had to pay a monthly rental fee in order to keep it. You can recycle books for free across from Narrangansett High School in Templeton. Exit 20 off Rt.2. There is a container in the parking lot across from the school. And at Barnes and Noble parking lot in Leominster.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

Election reminders – mark the dates:

December 8, 2009 – Special State Primary

December 30, 2009 – Last day to register to vote or change party for the January 2010 Special State Election. Special voter registration hours will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, Whitney Hall, 5 School St.

January 19, 2010 – Special State Election

Polls for the Primary and the Election will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall on the Common; Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

2010 Annual Town Election:

In January, look for a posting of the town seats open for election in 2010, along with deadline dates relating to the election, which will be held in April.

Community Preservation Committee

Marsha Charest, chair

Royalston has established a CPC (Community Preservation Committee). The committee will study the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. As part of this study the committee will make recommendations regarding the acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of open space, historic resources, land for recreational use, and/or community housing. The public is invited to any and all of the committee's meetings.

Meetings are currently scheduled and will be posted for the following dates: Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10 and June 14.

Board of Selectmen's Notes

Andy West

Budgets: Budget season is upon us again. The Board will soon ask department heads to submit budgets for the fiscal year 2011, which begins July 1, 2010. We will increase our meeting schedule to meet with department heads and Finance Committee. The budget process represents hundred of volunteer hours calculating and reviewing proposed changes to budgets. Once again, the outlook from the Statehouse is bleak. We will ask departments for level-funded and 5% cut options. We may be forced to cut the current budget mid-year, as well. The current state cuts spared our budget directly for the moment.

Route 32: The project has been advertised. We are awaiting the end of the 120-day bid period in December. A contractor should be chosen sometime in January.

Broadband: The Board will be issuing a Request for Proposal for cable service shortly. The request is simply a question to see if anyone is interested. A similar request in 2003 resulted in no proposals. We hope that the possibility of revenue for voice and internet service will make the cable companies more interested this time.

Office Hours: Here is a reminder of the Board of Selectmen's office hours. Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8am-1pm; Wed, 8am-Noon
The Royalston Board of Selectmen wishes everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!



Members of the Royalston Fire Department (lower left) spray water into the air to make rain at the Long Pond canoe launch for a WGBH production crew recently. The crew was in Royalston during the foliage season for several days of filming for the series "God in America," to be aired next year. Through the rain, an actor can be seen (center) while a production crew member communicates to the film crew by radio. WGBH paid the Town for providing the service.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank yous

Carrie Hutchins and Priscilla Dawd for books and **Tom Musco** for audiobooks

Marcia Charest and L.P. Hoffman for magazine subscriptions

To the Community Readers: **Jen Bartkus, Karen McNiff, Tom Kellner, Jon Hardie, Sharon Hood, Bobbie Newman** and to the **Athol Public Library, Jean Shaunessey, Karen McNiff, and Anne Cutler-Russo** and their Green Grant for purchasing the books and organizing the event, and the **Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library** for purchasing recycling bins for each classroom and to **Phil Leger** for recycling stickers for each classroom **Robert Anthony** for wooden paper holders complete with paper

Emily and Brenda Putney for an informative, fun and fragrant-wreath making workshop and to the Putney family for all the work gathering the balsam. The wreaths came out really well.

Let the Party Begin! Library Centennial Starts in 2010

2010 is an eventful year in Royalston library history. It marks the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking, in August, for the construction of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. The library was completed in May 2011 and dedicated on June 28, 1911. Our celebration will begin this August with the children of Royalston celebrating during the Summer Reading Program. There will be lots of events throughout the year, so stay tuned.

This year also marks my 15th year as Library Director. When I was interviewed by the Trustees (including Barbara Guiney, who is heading towards her 20th year as a Trustee), they asked what my primary goals for the library were. I remember my major goal was to have a complete card catalog. It only took 15 years and a lot of time and effort by staff, the help of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library staff, and the support of the Trustees to acquire a catalog that has 99% of all the circulating materials. That 1% is comprised of accidentally missed books, some hard-to-catalog items, and some large print books. Our long range plan calls for us to start cataloging the historical documents and books and genealogy materials this year.

You might have noticed that as we approach the 100th anniversary we are trying to 'spiff up' the library. In the last couple of years, we've updated some of the electrical work, replaced the water pump, upgraded the furnace and bathroom fixtures, painted the children's room, and just had the rotten fascia and soffits replaced, and the leaking gutters repaired. Last month, the front doors were repaired and varnished. They look beautiful and cure the persistent dampness that had plagued the front entrance. The library also has a new, beautiful, custom-made stand-up desk for the catalog computer and two new lamps to shed some more light. Stop by, see the renovations, browse the shelves, and check out a book, a magazine, a CD, a movie, a Playaway, an audiobook, or a CD-Rom, or rest, relax, and read or use a computer. It's your library. Enjoy it.

Upcoming Library Events

Holiday Wheat Ornament Workshop

On Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 pm in the Royalston Town Hall, Kathy Morris will lead a wheat weaving workshop for those over 10 and adults. Participants will make braids in two different four-straw weaves and from that create either: 5 love knots; two hearts and a love knot; or, an ornate, three dimensional 'crown' ornament. You must pre-register by calling the library to participate. Friends of the Library will have first priority, followed by other Royalston residents and then all others. The cost is \$5.00 for members of the Friends and \$7.50 for all others.

Preschool Parties at the Library

Holiday Bash: On Monday, December 21st at 10:00 am at the library there will be a holiday party with crafts and holiday goodies for preschoolers and their caregivers. This free fun event is open to all preschoolers and no pre-registration is required. For more information, call the library.

Cabin Fever Fling: On Monday January 25th at 10:00 am at the Royalston Town Hall Jenny Nanno will lead a program of music and movement designed to shake off the winter blahs and break cabin fever for preschoolers and kindergarteners and their caregivers. All preschool and kindergarten aged children are invited to attend. This free program is funded by the Friends of the Library.

Art & Nature: Seeing, Studying, Learning with Gordon Morrison

On Sunday, January 31st at 2:00 pm at the Royalston Town Hall, Gordon Morrison will lead us through the process he uses in his art by displaying the tools he uses and examples of his field studies and original art. After a drawing demonstration of his techniques, participants will circulate around to four tables containing different artifacts and draw each example in a proscribed amount of time. Everyone will then take time to draw and receive tips and comments. This program is open to mature 8 years olds through adults. The program is funded through a generous grant from the Royalston Cultural Council. The snow date for this program will be the following Sunday, February 7th at the same time and place.

Art Exhibit at the Library

Art Exhibit The photographs from the Photo Contest will remain displayed during the month of December. During January and February, Donald Shambroom, who has owned his home on Blossom Street since 1982 but just moved here permanently last summer, will display his oil paintings and sculptures of clay, wood, and paint. His painting represents the cycle of growth, death (war), and growth.

Some of the New Books at Your Library

Adult Fiction

Auster, Paul *Invisible*
 Baldacci, David *True Blue*
 Bretton, Barbara *Casting Spells*
 Brokaw, Charles *The Atlantis Code*
 Castle, Richard *Heat Wave*
 Evans, Richard *The Christmas List*
 Grisham, John *Ford County*
 Harris, Charlene *Sookie Stackhouse series Books 1-9*
 Henry, Sue *The End of the Road*
 Howard, Linda *Ice*
 Irving, John *Last Night in Twisted River*
 James, Bill *Full of Money*
 Kellerman, Jonathan *Evidence*
 King, Stephen *Under the Dome*
 Kingsolver, Barbara *The Lacuna*
 Lamb, Wally *Wishin' and Hopin'*
 Munro, Alice *Too Much Happiness*
 Patterson, James *I, Alex Cross*
 Penny, Louise *The Brutal Telling*
 Rice, Anne *Angel Time*
 Roberts, Nora *Bed of Roses*
 Shaara, Jeff *No Less Than Victory*
 Wells, Rebecca *The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder*

Adult Non-Fiction

Auletta, Ken *Googled*
 Bowers, Sharon *Ghoulish Goodies*
 Collins, Gail *When Everything Changed*
 Cox, Harvey *The Future of Faith*
 Davis, Wade *The Wayfinders*
 Egan, Timothy *The Big Bun*
 Ehrenreich, Barbara *Bright-sided*
 Freeman, John *The Tyranny of Email*
 Greenlee, John *The American Meadow Garden*
 Jason, Julie *The AARP Retirement Survival Guide*
 Jones, Judith *The Pleasures of Cooking for One*
 Maitland, Sara *A Book of Silence*
 Murphy, Jim *Truce*
 O'Dell, Chris *Miss O'Dell*
 Palin, Sarah *Going Rogue: An American Life*
 Peterson, James *Baking*
 Phillips, Mackenzie *High on Arrival*
 Reisen, Harriet *Louise May Alcott*
 Reynaud, Stephane *French Feasts*
 Shawcross, William *The Queen Mother*
 Spiegelman, Art *Toon Treasury of Classic Children's Comics*

Young Adult Fiction

Barry, Dave *Peter and the Sword of Mercy*
 Cast, P.C. *Tempted*
 Elliott, Patricia *The Pale Assassin*
 Harrison, Lisi *Charmed and Dangerous*
 Horowitz, Anthony *Crocodile Tears*
 Mankell, Henning *When the Snow Fell*
 Melling, O.R. *The Book of Dreams*

Young Adult Non-Fiction

Amara, Phillip *So, You Want to be a Comic Book Artist?*
 Chevat, Richie *The Omnivore's Dilemma*
 Sakai, Stan *Usagi Yojimbo, Book 23*

Children's Fiction

Arnold, Tedd *Fly High, Fly Guy!*
 Arnold, Tedd *Hi! Fly Guy*
 Aylesworth, Jim *The Mitten*
 Barrett, Judi *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*
 Benedictus, David *Return to the Hundred Acre Wood*
 Bunting, Eve *Sunflower House*
 Cabot, Meg *Stage Fright*
 Corwin, Jeff *Your Backyard is Wild*
 DePaola, Tomie *Strega Nona's Harvest*
 Haddix, Margaret *Sent*
 Hest, Amy *When you Meet a Bear on Broadway*
 Kann, Victoria *Goldilicious*
 Lowry, Lois *Crow Call*
 Mora, PatGracias *January's Sparrow*
 Polacco, Patricia *The Wizard of Rondo*
 Rodda, Emily *Dog and Bear*
 Seeger, Laura *In Too Deep*
 Watson, Jude *Puffling*
 Wild, Margaret *How do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?*

Children's Non-Fiction

Bishop, Nic *Nic Bishop Marsupials*
 Card, Orson Scott *Ender's Game*
 Decker, Timothy *For Liberty*
 Dennis, Brian *Nubs*
 Hendrix, John *John Brown*
 Heuvel, Eric *A Family Secret*
 Mandela, Nelson *Long Walk to Freedom*
 Partridge, Elizabeth *Marching for Freedom*
 Shange, Ntozake *We Troubled the Waters*
 Vincent, Zu *Catherine the Great*

Adult Audiobooks

Connelly, Michael *Echo Park*

DVD's: *G.I. Joe, House M.D. Season 4, Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, The Proposal, The Taking of Pelham 123, Transformers, Revenge of the Fallen, The Ugly Truth, Up*

Music CD's: Underwood, Carrie *Play On*



Emma O'Connor writes:
 Benny and Shrimp by Katrina Mazetti was a fun to read book about a mis-matched couple. It provided a good insight into the tough life of farmers and the Swedish way of life.

Resident Recommended Reading

Pat Jackson thinks *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* is a must, must read for every one. Journalists for the New York Times, Nicholas O. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, have written this book after much field work worlds far from Royalston. "Half the sky" is a Chinese saying which means: 'women hold up half the sky'. The authors show that, contrary to biology, men often outnumber women. They describe how acknowledgement and fundamental empowerment of women might transform the world. They are concrete. On the last page they offer "four steps you can take i□

The book has several strands with apt and poignant photographs. There are touching portraits of individuals as well as stark statistics of female abuse in the third world. Kristof and WuDunn give descriptions of individuals who have succeeded in making positive contributions to ameliorating abuses of women. They talk of big programs which have succeeded and ones that have not, even to the surprise of careful planners. They hope to underline abuse of women as the moral issue of the 21st century, as slavery was in the 19th and civil rights was in the 20th. They mean to drive a movement to achieve this. They pull no punches about the difficulties and they 'tell it like it is' even when they have to allow that something 'is not politically correct'.

This book is a comfortable read, very well written, conversational, and provocative. Systemic and covert workplace abuse of professional women exists in our world. Though subtle, that kind of abuse is psychologically destructive and wasteful and like sex slavery or rape of very young women, it is far from our eyes.

A double issues calls for two swell holiday recipes: one to serve the kids, the other to entertain them.

Recipes of the Month

Elizabeth Phelps thought her cinnamon ornament recipe would tie in perfectly for the holiday season. She makes them and brings them to the library for preschool story time with her kids, Alexandra and Jackson. The kids all love to make these. They smell yummy and make great additions to the Christmas tree too.

Cinnamon Ornaments

2 cups ground cinnamon
2 cups cinnamon applesauce
2 tablespoons white glue

Mix cinnamon and applesauce together. Add in white glue. Mix until consistency is not sticking to counter. Use hands to mix. Sprinkle counter with cinnamon. Using rolling pin, roll until 1/4 inch thick. Use cookie cutters for desired shapes. Pierce top of ornament with drinking straw to hang ornament. Let dry on baking sheet in warm place. Drying time may take 24- 48 hours depending on thickness. Remember to flip over throughout day for even drying and to prevent the sides from curling. When completely dry use paint and glitter to decorate. Use ribbon or yarn to hang ornament. Adult supervision required. Adapted from handmadecountry.com

RCS Poetry Club

Turkey Day

On Thanksgiving I like to eat
Pumpkin pie as a treat
Indian corn bread,
Stuffing and gravy
Spaghetti squash
that's all wavy
Turkey skin
Crisp and tan
Cranberry sauce from a can
But best of all is turkey feet
Walking to a turkey beat!

by Matt Davis, Jocelyn Trenga, Gabriel Dawson, Anthony Divoll, Tayiah Neale, Aliyah Neale, Ava, LeBlanc, Alexia Clapper, Cole Benoit, Julianne Trenga, Molly Divoll

Maureen Meausky was pleased to submit one of her favorite recipes for the RCN. The chef says, " I love to cook when I have lots of time and try new recipes often. This recipe actually came from my son David, who requested I make it for our Christmas brunch a few years ago. It has become a holiday favorite with us. On Christmas, with all the other traditions taking place, food takes a back seat to enjoying grandchildren, presents, etc. So I have started cooking foods that are fast and take little time away from family and friends. I usually serve this dish with a nice baked ham and a fruit salad and coffee cake - all made ahead of time. "



Stuffed French Toast.

COMBINE: 2 8-ounce packages of softened cream cheese
1/4 to 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (unless allergic)
1/2 cup raspberry jelly (or other flavor of choice)

Make a sandwich with cream cheese mixture between two slices of cinnamon raisin bread.

MIX TOGETHER: 3 eggs and 1/2 cup milk.

Soak sandwich in egg and milk mixture. Fry on griddle until both sides are golden brown. Makes about 6 sandwiches. Serve with warm (Royalston or Vermont) pure maple syrup, plus ham slices, fruit, etc. (If you need to serve a larger crowd - double the recipe and place in a 13 x 9 pan in the oven at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes each side.)

Maureen and her husband Jim bought the "Woods" property on Athol-Richmond Road in 1972 . They have built a lot of fond memories. She reports, "Our son, David was almost 3 when we moved here and our daughter, Kristen was 2 weeks old! Having both come from "close" neighborhoods in Athol with very small yards, we have loved living here for the past 37 years . We have made many improvements on our country home and are proud of it, while still maintaining the "old fashioned" atmosphere. Jim is a retired school teacher from the Greenfield,Mass. system and I was formerly a radiologic technologist, mammographer and ultrasonographer for more than 25 years at Athol Hospital. I am currently working part-time via computer from my home doing medical transcription. I enjoy my four grandchildren - David and his wife have Lexi Vega, 5, Rocco, almost 3 and new baby Gigi, 2 months and Kristen and Josh have one son, Jack, 2 1/2, whom we kid-sit for twice a week - at least. They are all a great joy to us. "





CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

In the Pumpkin Patch

Mia Saffron Skye Dawson was born at 10:05am on November 9, 2009. In the family line-up, she's the 5th kid, 3rd c-section, 1st girl!!! She didn't have a name until Dawn and Chris were packing up Friday afternoon to go home from the hospital. According to Chris, "Mom's a bit indecisive (or "just looking for the perfect name," as Dawn put it). Mom and baby are doing well, largely thanks to an influx of delicious hot meals from some wonderful fellow Royalstonians. Dad is still utterly in shock that he has a daughter and brothers are already plotting the demise of any potential boyfriends. Chris wrote a blog post comparing her to a Linux operating system. <http://bit.ly/1zbfVI>



Pastor Jeff and Judi's son, Jordan Emanuel Lee arrived on November 18th at 1:34 am! Jordan weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz and was a healthy height of 20 inches. The pastor's family so thankful to all who prayed and supported the arrival of this new Royalston resident.

Well, something grew well in Royalston this year!



There were big things happening in Deb and Joe Nunes' garden this summer -this 88 pound pumpkin (our only one) with a circumference of 56", and this 10" carrot, with a top circumference of 8", for perspective shown here next to a half gallon of milk. The rest of the garden did reasonably well, considering

On Saturday, November 7th, the Worcester County Beekeepers' Association held its Thanksgiving Ban-

quet and Awards Dinner in Leicester, Mass., where Joe Nunes received the top 2009 Best Management Award for beekeeping. Ken Warchol, pictured here presenting the award, chose Joe from the more than 700 beekeepers he visits each year as Worcester County Apiary Inspector. Joe has been keeping bees for 10 years and has twelve hives on his West Royalston farm.



Academic Honor Rolls

Athol High School *Straight A's:* Mackenzie Bennett, Ashley Javier and Amber Simmington. *All A's and B's-* Hillary Whitcomb, Dylan Hall, Samantha Hutchins, Joseph Riddell, Allison Bergquist, Francisco Carra, Alexis Javier, Alyssa Bergquist, Brittani Sanderson, and Patrick Scribner.

Athol-Royalston Middle School: *Straight A's:* Amberlyn Newton and Beau Guimond; *All A's and B's:* Kadaisia LaJoie, Emily Mangum, Katelyn Robinson, Chelsea Sanderson, Devin Bates, Nedjima Bensalih, Gabe Jarvenpaa, Helena Koszewski, Emma LaGrand, McKenzie Spear, Brandon and Nathan Tisdale, and Mary White. *All A's and B's with one C:* Ryan Sawyer and Andrea Linnus.

RCS : *Straight As-* Olivia Kimball, Rebecca Tetreault *All As and Bs -* Haylie Baker, Hannah Bartkus, Cody Bassett, Justin Blake, Amber Mahony, Owen MacPhee, Isabelle O'Connor, Brianna Cauley, Samantha Dodd, Kassandra Frazier, Alyana LaJoie, Ann Reynolds, Erin Snell, Autumn Tourigny, Abby Divoll, Allisyn Mowrey, Dahlia Wright, Dejiah Euvrard-Brewington, Derek Bates, Kariana Tobias, Katelyn Holden, Loryn Killay, Melissa Persson, Rhiannon Fletcher and Taryne Bousquet

Congratulations to the three Adams Scholarship recipients from Monty Tech's class of 2010 – **Michael Demboske** (Welding and Metal Fabrication); **Hannah Kacian** (Graphic Communications); and **Joseph Spear** (Industrial Technology). These students on their first attempt, scored at least proficient on one of the two main MCAS components of math and English and advanced on the other, and have a combined score that places them among the top 25% of the graduating class in their district.

Louisa May Alcott - Who Knew?

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents...." is the first line of the classic book *Little Women*. This year's holiday gift for viewers is the new PBS film biography of author Louisa May Alcott. Several Royalston folks are part of the team behind the film "Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women," premiering on Monday, December 28th at 9 pm on WGBH/2 and other PBS stations.

A presentation of the American Masters series, this film was shot in Hi Def by Director of Photography **Boyd Estus**. **Liane Brandon** was the Still Photographer for the production. **Damon Bundschuh** was a valued member of the camera crew and **Sonja Vaccari** assisted with local shooting.

Royalston Community Coop

Given sufficient orders by Thu., Dec. 10th, the next coop delivery is Thu., Dec. 17th. The Royalston Community Coop is accepting a limited number of new families – prospective members must have internet access to submit orders; most communication is done by e-mail. For additional details, please send an e-mail with COOP Membership in the subject line to royalston_community_news@yahoo.com.

Community School Update



Daniel Somes, Principal at Royalston Community School, (left), thanks community member, Tom Kellner, for reading to Grade 5 on Thursday, November 12, Community Reading Day. Additionally, Roberta Newman, Sharon Hood, Karen McNiff, Kathy Morris, Jennifer Bartkus and Jon Hardie, read to kindergarteners and children in grades 1 - 6. Coffee and pastries were prepared by Cafeteria Manager, Rhonda Bishop. This year's "Green" theme included decorating recycle containers that are located in each classroom. The recycle bins were donated by the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library. Efforts by the librarian, Jean Shaughnessy, of the Athol Public Library, helped to initiate an organized, fun and interesting Community Reading Day.

RCS seeks donations to its Nature's Classroom fund; donations could be sent to RCS 96 Winchendon Rd/ attention Becky Divoll. Also the school is looking for donations of new dvds, card games and activity/coloring books for indoor recess.

Also, the RCS 5th & 6th grade is holding a **gift certificate raffle**, profits to go towards their Nature's Classroom trips. There are 18 different prizes: \$25.00 gift certificate to the South Royalston Store, \$15.00 gift certificate to Pete & Henry's, \$10.00 gift certificate to Eight Dragons, \$10.00 gift certificate to Mount Video, \$10.00 gift certificate to Larry's Variety, \$25.00 gift certificate to Adam's Farm, \$10.00 Subway gift card, \$20.00 gift certificate to Tool Town Pizza, \$25.00 Olive Garden gift card, \$15.00 Hannaford gift card, \$15.00 gift certificate to Donna's Pizza, \$10.00 Dunkin Donuts gift card, Free 3lbs. U-Pick blueberries from Richmond Blueberries, Two Free passes to Gardner Cinemas, children's Lightning McQueen table & chairs set, Princess House Crystal Candle Lamp, Free adult education class @ Monty Tech, \$25.00 gift certificate to Monty Tech's Tea Room. Tickets are \$2.00 or 3/\$5.00 and are available @ the Royalston Post Office, the South Royalston Store, @ RCS or from any participating 5th or 6th grade student. The students would like to thank all businesses who donated to the raffle: YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY APPRECIATED.

Village School News

Fresh Deans Beans Coffee in Royalston Go to the Village School website, www.villageschool.to to order fresh Deans Beans coffee. Next order is due Dec. 4. Pick up coffee at the school.

Save the date: Wednesday February 3 Literacy Night 7 p.m. Come hear how literacy (reading and writing and more) is taught effectively and see how it spirals through all the classrooms. Each teacher will present briefly about the literacy curriculum in his or her classroom. Find out why Village School kids love to read, and how they are well prepared for 7th grade and beyond.

Saturday February 6 Open House 10-12. Meet the teachers, present parents, and alumni. There are arts and crafts projects for children to do in all the classrooms. View plants and more with microscopes in the Science corner. Find out how integrated curriculum is such an effective teaching tool, by viewing the 4th-6th class's study of Ancient Greece. At 11:45 we will all join in an entertaining All School Sing, just like we do every Monday morning.

Athol High School Calendar

AHS Spirit Week is the 1st week of December
Senior walking begins in the AHS halls on Dec 1
AHS Winter Concert is scheduled for the evening of Dec 15
School Improvement Council will meet Dec 8 at 6:30 PM
School resumes after Christmas break on January 4, 2010.



Royalston Open Mics 12/4 and 1/8

The December open mic will feature Work in Progress as the house band, which features Pete Travisano on bass and vocals, Lois Somers on fiddle, Dick Hyland on guitar, mandolin, and vocals and Phil Rabinowitz playing guitar and remembering all the lyrics to the ballads. Informal on stage but tight musically, the band plays some folk, country, blues, North American and Celtic fiddle tunes, and some standards. The January Open Mic will be on the 8th to make way for the new year. As always, musicians, poets, comics or whatever who would like to perform should show up early or call Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 to reserve a spot in the line up. Audiences are encouraged to relax, listen, see neighbors and enjoy some of the delicious goodies on sale at these free events.

Also, a gentle reminder that Rene Lake Gagliardi also runs an open mic at Athol Town Hall on the third Friday of every month from 6:45pm until about 10. The remaining dates for this winter are 12/18/09, 1/15/10, 2/19/10, 3/19/10, 4/16/10 Call Rene at (978) 249-4639 for more information.

Congregational Churches News



Pastor Jeff Francis, 978-249-9155

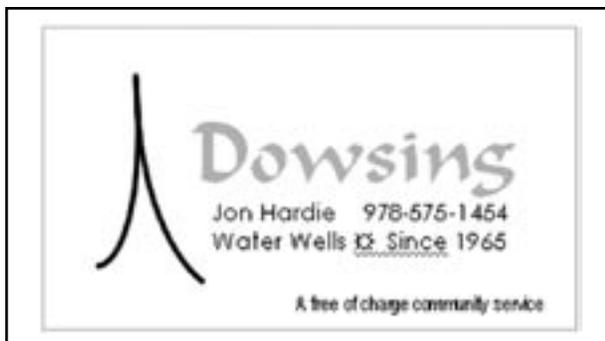
The Second Congregational Church of Royalston is ready for its annual **Jingle Bell Fair** on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Sweet Shoppe baked goods table will range from traditional holiday candies, Finnish coffee breads and cookies to savory quiches, homemade “mixes” and suppers-to-go.

One of Royalston’s best tin can auctions, face painting and the white elephant sale are big draws. Find bargains on home decorations for the holidays, gifts for others and goodies for guests; the fun and fellowship are free! Contact Luann Simula at 978-249-8746.

Thank you to everyone who made this year’s recent “Light the Night” event a success. We had walking “Grapes”, fancy Cheerleaders, and even an unexpected visitation from President Obama among many other “colorful” participants. In addition, we were blessed to host the communities first Mission’s Conference with such a wonderful expression of love and compassion for the nations!

Many are looking for different opportunities to help the poor and financially challenged during the holiday season. Our churches are collecting winter items such as mittens, hats, scarves, and earmuffs in our launch of “Project Hope”. These contributions will be given to families in the area that need help with the colder weather conditions. Please join us as we spread hope and good cheer during the Christmas Season.

Everyone is welcome as we celebrate the birth of our King, Jesus Christ, at the South Church for our annual Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm. There will be special music from local artists as well as an uplifting Christmas message from Pastor Jeff. You don’t want to miss this beautiful service. Let’s gather for an hour long service as we worship Emmanuel, The Christ Child who offers “Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men.” From our church to your home, “Merry Christmas and God Bless you Everyone.”



Ladies’ B.

The Ladies are currently working on a long-term craft project, assembling lap quilts and lap afghans for veterans at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke. ALL are welcome to participate – men, women, children, from Royalston and other communities. Want to “Craft’n’Chat” with the group some Saturday morning or Wednesday evening? Contact President Laurie M. Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807.

December is also election of officers, packing and delivering of holiday cheer baskets, and planning for the next year, which will be the Society’s 186th year of continuous service. All women of the community are invited to do good while having fun.



Recent Supper “Beefs” Up Ladies’ Scholarship Fund: The annual Braised Beef Dinner for Scholarships in November was tremendously successful, earning well over \$900 for scholarships, not to mention providing a delicious meal and great time for family, friends and neighbors to enjoy each others’ company. The annual supper is the single-largest fundraising event each year, and supports grants to traditional, private and home schooled children, as well as adults returning to further their education. Last year alone, the LBS awarded \$1,800 in academic grants and scholarships.

Classifieds

Holiday Wreaths Now Available - Made of fragrant, locally harvested greens. Plain (\$15) or Decorated (\$18). Please call Brenda at (978) 249-7787. Leave a message if no one is home. Larger sizes also available by special order.

Need Christmas Gifts?? Hand Made Items: Towels, dish clothes, baby sweater sets, baby blankets, hats, scarves, mittens and shawls. Call Betty Cook at 978-249-3119.

Hand knitted: Baby sweater sets, ski hats, all size mittens, boot socks, sleeveless cable sweater sets, etc. Great winter gifts! Call Shirley Anderson, 978-249-4013.

Squier Davis Farm Honey for Sale; \$5.00/1 pound jar - makes great Christmas or hostess gifts. Call Deb Nunes at (978)-249-4000

Photographer Paul Rezendes of the Royalston-side of Bearsden Rd has photography books, calendar, cards, and prints for sale. Tel: 978 249-8810; Fax: 978 249- 3907; <http://www.paulrezendes.com>; photos@paulrezendes.com

Help! Our dryer died dramatically in bright flashes and fire. Does anyone have an old electric dryer they would be willing to donate to us? Or sell for a nominal price? I can offer some homemade baking in appreciation. Thanks, Allison Zettel, 978-249-3301

Housekeeping or other odd jobs upon request, \$16.00/hr. Call 978-249-9774

Almost FREE! 1990 Buick Tornado, still runs! But it costs too much to register it. \$75 to the first taker! Call and ask for Arlyn or leave a message for him at 978-249-3301

Child Care in Royalston: Little Farmers' Childcare Lic #2086547. Next to RCS, 10 minutes from Winchendon. Toddler-pre-school curriculum. Ages: birth- 5 years. For info, call Joni, 978-575-1083.

Deer Hunting Seasons

shotgun Nov. 30 - Dec. 12
primitive firearms Dec. 14 - Dec. 31
no hunting on Sundays

Birch Hill Rangers Snowmobile Club

Meeting dates have been set for the 2009-2010 season. Meetings will now be on the 2nd Thursday of each month from December thru April at 7:30 p.m. at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. Dates are Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11 & Apr 8.

SAM (Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts) stickers are \$30 each this year along with the SAM requirement of club membership. The snowmobile club charges \$15 membership for each SAM sticker. The membership helps cover costs for joining SAM and for grooming trails. We are working to have SAM stickers and memberships available at the Royalston Country Store this year.

Garden Notes

Nov. 22, 2009

The garden has never been this green so late in the season. The leafy things (spinach, chard, bok choy, lettuce, and kale) are sending out new leaves quicker than I can harvest the older ones. The roots remaining in the ground (carrots, beets, rutabaga, celeriac) have begun new top growth. The herbs (parsley, sage, cilantro, and chervil) are ready for picking. The brassicas, bless them, are in their element. My late broccoli has re-defined the term late. In early July I set out a hundred or so seedlings in the expectation that I would be peddling them at market in mid-October. A month later, I've harvested my first head (and that was a bit premature). In the meantime I look out at a drift of broccolis-in-progress (serving up the mass of leaves to the steers as I wait).

November, like Novembers past, has been a busy time, busier still since more must be squeezed into the dramatically reduced daylight hours. Garden clean-up and preparation for spring planting continue. There is a light at the end of the tunnel but the end does not appear particularly near at hand. Oh, for a couple more weeks of moderate weather. In spite of a smaller crops of leaves (a fringe benefit of last year's ice storm), there is no shortage. I continue to rake, as archaic a practice as that may be, amidst the roar of leaf blowers surrounding me. Short of winter mulch and long of energy, I've been raking hay from the fields and spreading it on the garden beds. The garden, the leaves, the hay, they are all filler for the overriding task at hand: getting in the winter's supply of wood. Our heat and our ability to cook depend on it. It is an increasing challenge in these, my mature years.

In the meantime there is no compelling need to extract what remains in the garden. I've dug some of the roots, not out of necessity, but simply to begin the process. Our Thanksgiving meal has always been graced with freshly-harvested garden produce. It would surprise me not at all if we pull off the same stunt at Christmas.

I know, I prattle on about continuity, the ongoingness of the garden. It is not without justification. Garlic, planted a month ago, is setting down roots, preparing to emerge early next spring. Parsnips will definitely survive; the spinach and parsley may or may not. At the same time I am hauling finished compost to the garden, I am starting a new pile nearby. The 2010 seed catalogs have arrived. Notwithstanding, in the not-so-distant future, there will be a sense of closure in the garden. (There is nothing like a snow-covered garden, all remaining patches of green grazed back by marauding deer or escaped steer, to suggest closure.) I will experience it with mixed emotions. On one hand, I will stand tall, having successfully negotiated another season. On the other hand, I will bend some, reflecting on the fact that there are many more gardens in my past than in my future. So it goes.

Larry Siegel



Ghosts of Newsletters Past



Glaring Errors: Karen LeBlanc pointed out that in the Life Savers section of November RCS in the Congratulations and Good News: Roger LeBlanc is the son of former Selectman Roger LeBlanc and the last name is spelled LeBlanc not LaBlanc.

ed note: Oops. We are sorry. Mistakes in the RCN, while somewhat inevitable, are always unintentional.

Pink Pages Correction Revisited

To the new owner of 978-249-7413, I'm sorry - we got rid of that line four years ago when we got a satellite for the internet connection. To those who are trying to reach me or my husband, we went to cell phones. My number is 508-364-3339. John's is 9778-790-7876, which is also Birch Hill Computers.

Thanks, Barbara Guiney

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Beth Gospodarek
Layout and Sponsorships: Stephen Chase
Circulation: Becky Divoll, Lorraine Casinghino
Treasurer: Barbara Willhite
Staff: Maureen Blasco, Theresa Quinn, Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel

Submission deadline for Feb. issue is: Jan. 22

Please Contact Us

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

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

RCN reserves the right to edit and restrict all submissions. This Newsletter is mailed out free of charge to all Royalston households as a public service provided by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library with support from the Fieldstone Press, the Royalston Cultural Council, our sponsors and the entire community.

Out of Town Subscriptions

are available for \$10/calendar year (10 issues)
by mailing a check to: Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton
Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
ATHOL MA
PERMIT NO. 42