

the Village at Stone Ridge

# QUARRY BULLETIN

March - April 2014

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

By Louise O'Donnell

Once again Donn Hill and Carole O'Shaughnessy provided the village with much humor and a lovely night of songs. Carole connected with the audience and had us laughing at her antics as she mingled with the Villagers. She made us forget



our troubles with a festive tribute to St. Patrick's Day, and we joined in with some of the songs. She also had us sing Happy Birthday to one of the guests, gave a prize to Elaine Tino, who guessed which musical the song "Anything Goes" came from, danced in her bare feet at one point, and made the evening totally enjoyable. She finished with her hilarious Italian Mama routine (left) that is always a crowd-pleaser. Donn Hill accompanied her and added to the fun with his many talents. They are a terrific duo and play off each other perfectly. The room was filled to capacity with partiers. The evening was so pleasurable; we all look forward to a return engagement.



*Donn Hill multi-tasks as he accompanies Carol.*



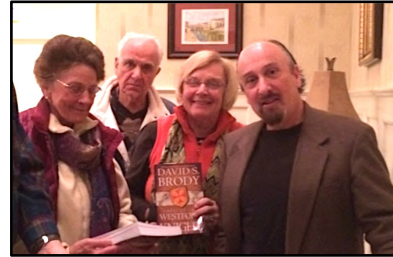
*From left: Paul Currier, Joan Roy, Ann Sullivan, Larry Anzivino, and Jack Gilmartin enjoy the party.*



*Everyone is Irish on St. Pat's Day! Judy Premru and Elaine Tino celebrate.*

## VILLAGE MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT LOCAL AUTHORS

The two most recent Village meetings gave residents the opportunity to meet and listen to two local authors. The March meeting featured Westford resident David Brody who has written a trio of novels (*Cabal of the Westford Knight, Thief on the Cross, and Powdered Gold*) inspired by the legend of the Westford Knight. A locally made film based on the first book has been recently released also. The legend recounts how Scottish explorers secretly visited Westford, Massachusetts in 1398, where they carved an effigy in stone to commemorate the death of a fallen comrade, a carving that remains visible today on the side of Depot Street. David showed slides of the artifacts that he has uncovered in his research and talked about how they have led him to his conclusions. It was a very interesting and thought provoking evening!



*Julie Blaser, Peter Abate, and Barbara Leary talk with local author, David Brody.*

The April Village Meeting was also a hit with residents. Terry Marotta, who writes a syndicated column and appears more locally in the *Westford Eagle* came to speak about her experiences as an author and columnist. Her cousin



*David Malone and author Terry Marotta entertain residents.*

David Malone, a singer-songwriter from California, was in town and asked if he could come along and play a few songs. What a treat! Terry spoke about her Irish upbringing and interesting family and then turned the microphone over to David who sang a few of his original songs. Both of them were so entertaining, and David had the audience tapping their feet. At the end of the second song, he broke into a song we all knew which turned into a sing-a-long. There were more stories from Terry and then a last song from David who then sang an old favorite hymn.

Something happened during that song; folks started humming along and then many began to sing. It was a beautiful hymn and a beautiful moment. Terry's signed copies of her book and David's CD's were gone in a flash. It was a wonderfully entertaining evening and folks who made the effort to attend were greatly rewarded.

*April Meeting reported by Joyce Minosh.*

## LIBRARY MUSINGS

By Linda Anzivino

*“What counts, in the long run, is not what you read: it is what you sift through your own mind; it is ideas and impressions that are aroused in you by your reading”.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Recently, I was enjoying *Reading In Bed – Personal Essays on the Glories of Reading* by Steven Gilbar. In one of the chapters, Robert Louis Stevenson discussed books that influenced him. It made me think that perhaps that would be a great subject for a future *Quarry Bulletin* article! Many of you have no doubt read a book that was a great influence on you or that affected your thinking in some way. Would you be willing to share those thoughts? If yes, please email me, leave a note in one of the library baskets, or speak to me personally, and I will try to collate them into an upcoming article.

Michael York is the state librarian for New Hampshire. In a recent interview he was asked to name his favorite library in New Hampshire. One that he mentioned was the Daland library in Mont Vernon. He said, “It’s a neat building – architecturally it has a lot of the Stickley arts and crafts-style. There is a lot of wood in this building.” It is not that far away, and a visit would be a fun way to celebrate National Library Month in April!

Do you wish our library carried a certain author or had a book you would like to read? If you would write down your request and put it in one of the library baskets, I will see what I can do.



## Village Snowfall

Okay, what’s your guess at how much snow we had this winter? Our resident snowfall totaler, **Bob Eddy**, has the data from his “weather station” at 2 Sandstone. Based on twelve storms, we have had – answer found on page 10!

## Business and Community Guide Published

The Town of Westford recently published a very impressive new brochure designed to highlight Westford’s desirability as a place for doing business. This glossy publication is full of pictures and descriptions of the many amenities that Westford boasts, among them The Village at Stone Ridge. We can also be proud that four of our residents were greatly responsible for putting the guide together as members of the Westford Economic Development Committee: **Tom Barry, Ron Caterino, Eli Demetri, and Bill Nussbum.** **Tom West** also serves as an alternate on the Committee. You can pick up a brochure at Town Hall or see it online at:

<http://www.westfordma.gov/guide>.



## Book Club News

By Dianne Marston

Every six weeks the VSR Book Club meets at the Clubhouse on a Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. First we are treated to refreshments and socializing. Then we retreat to the Library for our choosing of the next book, followed by our discussion of the book of the day. On February 27 we met to talk about Thrity Umrigar's *The Weight of Heaven*, and on April 10 we examined *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Members of these groups shared many interesting observations and thought-provoking viewpoints.

On May 22 we will be discussing another true story, *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestrup. "When the oldest of Kate Braestrup's four children was ten years old, her husband, a state trooper, was killed in a car accident. Stunned and grieving, she decided to pursue her husband's dream of becoming a Unitarian minister, and eventually began working with the Maine Game Warden Service, which conducts the state's search and rescue operations when people go missing in the wilderness. Whether she is with parents whose 6-year-old daughter has wandered into the woods, or wardens as they search for a snowmobile rider gone under ice, or a man whose sister left an infant seat and a suicide note in her car by the side of the road, Braestrup provides solace, comfort, and spiritual guidance when it's needed most. And she comes to discover that giving comfort is both a high calling and a precious gift. In her account of her own life and the events of her unusual job, sometimes joyful, sometimes heartbreaking, Braestrup is warm, unsentimental, and generous." [*Barnes and Noble Overview*] Winner of the 2007 Discover Award, Nonfiction

All Villagers are welcome to join us for these discussions!



*Some recent visitors to Dave and Loretta Auld's back yard*

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE NOTES

By Buzz McArdle, Property Committee Chair

## SPRING REMINDER

Now that we have the winter behind us, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Many people are unaware that even though your smoke detector runs off the house electricity, it has a 9-volt battery for backup. There should be a smoke detector at the entry of each bedroom and over the cellar stairwell.

To change the battery, twist the smoke detector clockwise and it will come loose from the ceiling. Disconnect the plastic cable and take the detector down. Open the door on the back of the detector and you will see a 9-volt battery. Replace the battery and write the date on the back of the detector in pencil. Press the test button on the detector on the front side. It should sound an alarm that will assure you that you have installed the battery correctly. Re-install the detector on the ceiling and once again press the test button; this time, all your alarms will go off as they are interconnected.

As always, never attempt this yourself if you don't feel comfortable on ladders or heights.



*Last year's volunteers  
get assignments.*

## WORK/PLAY DAY COMING UP!

Work play day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 (rain date April 27). Projects include picking up trash, cleaning around the quarry, thinning out scrub brush in back of 18-24 Highland, cleaning the clubhouse, washing windows in clubhouse and gym, painting front porch decks, repairing/replacing damaged signs and posts, and repairing storm drains. As in the past we will convene at the clubhouse at 9 a.m. where work parties will be organized. Please sign up at the clubhouse so we can plan our work and play (BYOB). Dom DeFronzo (with help) will be manning the grill for hot dogs and hamburgers at 4 p.m.

Work/play day pays off. By all of us pitching in a couple of hours we save thousands of dollars in maintenance costs. Please do your part.

**SIGN UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD!**

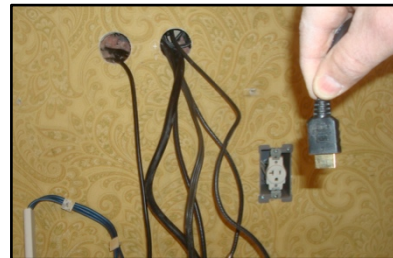
## CLUBHOUSE TV GETS AN UPGRADE

By Buzz McArdle

A new 60" Samsung Smart TV has been installed in the clubhouse. Not only will we get high definition television for TV broadcasts, but the TV also can connect to the internet, whereby you can download Netflix movies, Pandora music for parties, and has access to Verizon Internet and hundreds of channels like the Movie, NFL, and Golf channels. Installed along with new TV is a Sony Blue Ray DVD player that will allow us to show the latest movies in fantastic Blue Ray High Definition.

The selection committee (**Steve Currier, Buzz McArdle, Rick Culver**, headed by **Bill Townsend**) reviewed all the TV technology available by visiting several stores and by doing research. Not only were current needs defined, but the committee also tried to see how we might utilize this technology in the future, such as for accessing web content, theme parties, group presentations, and interconnecting computers to the TV for Board and Finance Committee meetings.

The old TV was removed and because of its age and weight (over 100 pounds) it could not be re-used and was sent to recycling. An example of the upgrade in the technology is the use of one HDMI cable to replace 9 cables as seen in the picture at right.



*Editor's Note: A huge THANK YOU is due to Buzz and Rick Culver for their daylong efforts in installing this new equipment. I saw them as they were working and it was no mean feat!!*

### OUTSIDE GARAGE LIGHT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

**Rick Culver** and **Bob Morton** are responsible for the replacement of the outside garage lights in the village. The schedule for changing these lights will now only be on the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month.

To report garage light failures please fill out a work order on line, by email ([scarr@evergreenmgt.com](mailto:scarr@evergreenmgt.com)) or call Sarah Carr at 603-622-7000. Sarah will coordinate these requests with Rick and Bob.





## Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

### *Twenty Feet from Stardom*

We were pleased to see *Twenty Feet from Stardom* win the Best Documentary Academy Award this year. It is a very entertaining and informative film about the backup singers for some of music's greatest legends. These women fully deserve the recognition they get here. They helped Bruce Springsteen, Ray Charles, The Rolling Stones, Frank Sinatra, Bette Midler, and many others achieve stardom, and have immense talent on their own.

We watch and hear beautiful performances by the women, both in archive footage of their roles as backup singers and in singing their own versions of popular music. We also hear stories about their careers and testimonials to their ability by many of the stars with whom they have performed.

You probably never heard of most of these women. Darlene Love does sing on the David Letterman show every Christmas, and you may have seen videos of Judith Hill singing at Michael Jackson's memorial service, but after this film you will marvel at their ability, as well as that of Lisa Fischer, Tata Vega and Merry Clayton. A thoroughly enjoyable 90-minute experience!

## WENDY'S WINNINGS OUR DELIGHT

When Wendy Wolfberg bid on an evening of music with Jim Barkovic at a Westford Chorus Auction and won, she knew immediately that she would share her good fortune with the Village. About twenty-five lucky folks got to join her recently as Jim played gorgeous classical music for us and then led us in a rousing sing-a-long of favorite show tunes. It was a wonderful evening – thanks, Wendy, for bringing it to us!



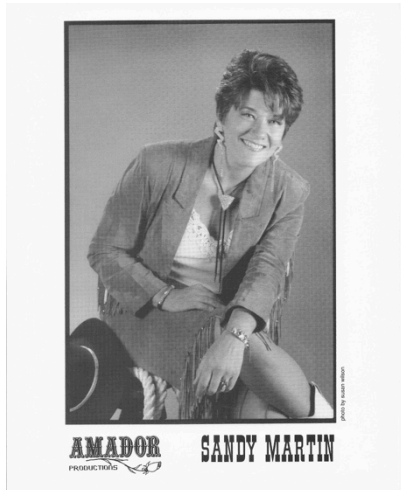
*Wendy Wolfberg and Jim Barkovic*

## AN EVENING OF PATSY CLINE

By Skip Giles

**Friday, May 2, 2014**

**Cocktails 6:30 Show 7:00**



Sandy Martin originally held the lead part in *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* at the Charles Playhouse in Boston. It was supposed to be a six-week run, but it broke all of the advance sales records for the venue, and the show continued for almost a year. Since then she has been performing her own tribute show, *An Evening of Patsy Cline*, at many theater venues across New England to flattering reviews and full houses.

Sandy is one of New England's most accomplished performers in and out of country music. In addition to her starring role as Patsy Cline, she was a member of the tremendously popular all-girl rock band Girl's Night Out and has been a consistent winner of Massachusetts' Bass Guitar Player of the Year award. She was the leader of the Massachusetts Country Music Award Show All-Star Band and produced the show for a number of years. She has now also taken up the steel guitar and is sought after by many local leading country bands.

**Don't miss this outstanding show!**

### HAPPY HOUR BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Join your neighbors for another fun Happy Hour on May 4 at the Clubhouse. Once again – BYOB both drinks and snacks and remember – this is a “self-cleaning” event. See you there!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



This month we highlight the work of **Buzz McArdle** and **Rick Culver** (noted earlier in the article on the new TV and that of **Bill Townsend** who purchased and set up the new shelves in the clubhouse office for the Social Committee to use for storage of seasonal decorations. You can see the results below. The Social Committee thanks you heartily!

**Before**



**After**



### **VSR's Intrepid Hiking Group**

*By Doug Craib*

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with wind chills expected to be minus 15°F on Mount Monadnock, our hiking group thought a more sheltered hike prudent. We decided on the Gage town forest in Westford. This 3-mile walk is

accessible from our own Long Trail with just a minor fording of Bridge Meadow Brook. On the way back we stopped at the House and Barn boulders. Here's the group in front of the House. Or is it the Barn?

*Editor's Note: Can you spot VSR residents Bill Townsend, Dick Coleman, Frank Bashore, Joyce Minosh, and Doug Craib?*

## VILLAGE TIP

By Louise Theofilos

Just look into the faces of the people who have come from near and far to race or to cheer on the marathoners each April. Here along the route from Hopkinton to Boston you will not only see but also begin to understand what Boston is all about. The route actually encompasses a 400-year history of the beginning of Boston and its great waterway, the Charles River, which is the backbone of this great city. The Charles meanders through some twenty-three towns and made a livelihood for the people who so long ago settled here. Read more about the historic Charles River and the people who made Boston strong in *The Charles River: A History of Greater Boston's Waterway* by Ted Clarke.



*This year's bitter cold forced even the robins into the refuge of Dave Auld's feeder.*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Will you be around on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? We need a couple of volunteers to coordinate our festive 4<sup>th</sup> cookout. There will be plenty of helpers; we just need some leaders. Contact Clara Currier to sign up.



Did you guess the correct snowfall amount? It was 79 inches. Thanks, Bob!

## QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

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*This month's photographs are by Dave Auld, Carlene Craib, Doug Craib, Buzz McArdle, and Joyce Minosh. The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed about events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge. Contributing writers please send copy to Carlene Craib.*