



the Village at Stone Ridge

Quarry Bulletin

March-April 2016



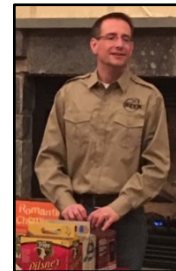
New Event Entertains and Informs

By Sandy Kelly

Thanks to Frank Minosh and Dick Coleman for planning and organizing a fun beer tasting party at the clubhouse on February 20th. Those who attended unaware of the difference between a Bud and a “Craft” beer left with quite an education and newly refined taste buds.

Walter Miska (right), the owner of the Westford Craft Beer Cellar at 142 Littleton Road, came to the Village with a variety of brews to sample. He spoke about each distinct beer, and we tasted six different brews, a small sampling of the hundreds he researches before carrying them at his store. He has beer samplings on most Fridays and Saturdays. See his website for more information. <http://www.craftbeercellar.com/westford/>.

Individual brewers, unlike large corporations like Busch, brew craft beer in small batches. Beer is usually made from malted grain such as barley and flavored with hops. The hallmark of a craft beer is innovation. Craft beer can be flavored with the brewer’s choice of ingredients like oak, molasses, chocolate, fruits and many others. One that we tried tasted very much like wine.



Left to right: Frank Bashore, guest David Hapgood, Judi Gilmartin, guest, Chris DeFronzo, Jack Gilmartin, and Dom DeFronzo enjoy the beer.

The evening was topped off with a special surprise from Frank and Joyce Minosh, who provided their own favorite craft beer called Heady Topper. It is brewed by The Alchemist and is only available at retailers in northeast Vermont. According to Frank, “A limit of 2 four-packs per person is imposed by most retailers. This makes it problematic to accumulate a stash for reselling in the lower 48.” Road trip anyone???

Why Are These Men Happy?



*Left to right, back: Tom Sangiolo, Dom DeFronzo, Bill Townsend, Ken Hyle, Peter Abate.
Left to right, front: Frank Minosh, Dick Coleman*

They are enjoying the Superbowl Party at the Clubhouse – good food and fun despite the Pats not being on the field!

*Right: clockwise from bottom: Nancy McArdle,
Barbara Leary, Eli Demetri, Bill Townsend, Ken
Hyle, Buzz McArdle, Tom Sangiolo*



LIBRARY NEWS

By Linda Anzivino

“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.” Joyce Carol Oates

Please come to the VSR library on Wednesday May 4th. There will be a selection of cookbooks on the coffee table in the library. They are FREE and you may help yourself to any that you can use. All the remainders will be given to the Fletcher library for their book sales.

While you are there please notice that there are a lot of new titles donated by residents of the village.

Thank you to all of you who so willingly share with all of us.



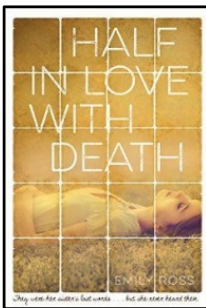
BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Dianne Marston

The VSR Book Club discussion of *The Boys in the Boat* at our March meeting invited great dialogue. Members enthusiastically embraced this non-fiction, yet novel-like, book. If you haven't yet read it, the group would highly recommend it!

Our April 21st meeting will feature *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb. "Riveting . . . Co-written with Christina Lamb, a veteran British journalist who has an evident passion for Pakistan and can render its complicated history with pristine clarity, this is a book that should be read not only for its vivid drama but for its urgent message about the untapped power of girls. . . . It is difficult to imagine a chronicle of a war more moving, apart from perhaps the diary of Anne Frank. With the essential difference that we lost that girl, and by some miracle, we still have this one." *Marie Arana, Wash. Post*

In January of last year we were delighted by the presence of Laura Harrington, author of *Alice Bliss*. On June 2nd we will again host an author. We will be discussing *Half in Love With Death* by Emily Ross, who will join us. She received a 2014 Massachusetts Cultural Council finalist award in fiction for her novel. She is an editor and contributor at Dead Darlings, a website dedicated to discussing the craft of novel



writing.

"*Half in Love with Death* paints a beautifully disturbing picture of a fairly typical 1960s family. The juxtaposition of such a sweet, innocent, naive girl against the potential horrors of what happened to her sister is a theme that has been skillfully threaded throughout the book. *Half in Love with Death* sneaks up on you. It pulls you in with its beautiful prose, only to set you up for a thriller so true to life it will make you question how well you truly know your neighbors." –Hypable

As always, you are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings. We begin with refreshments at 1:00, followed by the discussion at 1:30.

Paraprosdokians

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them.)

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

(Thanks to Bob Eddy for this contribution.)

WORK PLAY DAY MAY 7



Ed Kern works with the brush crew last spring.

THE WORK Our annual Village cleanup day is fast approaching – the snow will be gone by then! On May 7 we will gather at the clubhouse to grab supplies and assignments, so start locating those gloves and clippers and old sweats now. There will be a sign up sheet in the mailroom soon, so sign up early to snag your favorite task and help the leaders with their planning. They need coordinators for each category as well as many willing helpers. You can choose from quarry or neighborhood cleanup crew, brush gang, clubhouse interior cleaning (kitchen, storage cupboards), clubhouse maintenance, gym interior cleaners, or trail crew. Other specific tasks will also be listed as the leaders identify other needs.

THE PLAY As your reward for jobs well done, at 4 p.m. the volunteers will gather at the clubhouse for a well-deserved party (it wouldn't be a Village event without a party!). The theme again will be Kentucky Derby so you can come in appropriate attire or not, as the spirit leads. Watch for details on the bulletin board soon.

The party ladies, including left to right: Jayne Currier, Ruth Coleman, Loretta Auld, Barbara West, Judi Gilmartin, Gail Sergenian, Louise O'Donnell, Sharon Erickson, Louise Tamoush, Sandy Kelly, and Chris DeFronzo, enjoy the 2015 Kentucky Derby in style!

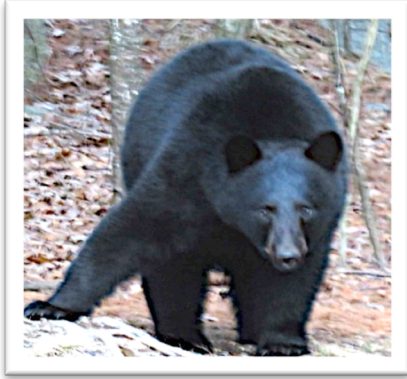


ARE YOU STAYING IN TOUCH?



Have a new email address? Interested in receiving current news periodically about events and news happening at VSR? Sign up to be added to the VSR BLAST list by emailing your address to Sandy Kelly at ms.sandyk@gmail.com.

SEEN AROUND THE VILLAGE



Above left: Dave Auld caught this visitor to his backyard in March.



Above right: Doug Craib documented the Village eager beavers' handiwork on the edge of the pond

Right: Larry Lief spent three and a half hours watching this barred owl from his window one rainy day in February. This was the best of the over 240 pictures he took of this beautiful creature.

Editor's note: For the best look at these wonderful photos, check out the color version on the website, www.villageatstoneridge.com.



VILLAGER MAKES HIS MARK AT TOWN MEETING

By Carlene Craib

Last weekend was the Annual Town Meeting. One of the articles was a citizen petition to ban the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers, commonly used for restaurant takeout and even more widely in lunch trays in the Westford Public Schools. **Dick Coleman** was one of the leaders of the group The Green Action Team from First Parish Church that brought the petition, and he spoke at length at town meeting. After lengthy debate, the motion passed by a two-thirds majority. As a longtime Town Meeting attendee I can say that I have rarely seen a more well-organized and prepared presentation of an article. Dick said, "After a period of explanation and asking for feedback, the bylaw was supported by the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and implicitly by the Board of Health and School Board. There was strong support for the basic idea and so the rest was working through wording and details. For me with no experience with town politics, there was a steep learning curve. But in the end it was worth it to know there will be a lot less Styrofoam going into the trash." The ban doesn't go into effect until 2017, but in the meantime you can recycle your clean Styrofoam on Saturday, April 16th at the Westford Highway Garage 28 North Street from 10:30-3:30.



Groovy Movies Dear Frankie (2005)

By Gail Sergenian

Thanks to Joan Roy for recommending this tender film. We had seen it years ago and enjoyed watching it again. It is about a single mom, Lizzie (Emily Mortimer), who lives in Glasgow with her 9-year old deaf son Frankie (an excellent Jack McElhone) and her mother, Nell (Mary Riggans). The son has been told that his dad is a sailor on an imaginary freighter whose travels all over the world are the reason Frankie has not been able to see him for years. In reality, Frankie's father was abusive, and Lizzie, Frankie, and Nell move frequently to avoid being found. Frankie writes letters to his dad that Lizzie intercepts and responds to in order to maintain the illusion. She finds Frankie's letters an avenue towards understanding him.

When Frankie discovers that a ship with the name Lizzie made up is about to land in Glasgow, he is eager to meet his dad. Lizzie hires an impersonator to spend a day with Frankie. The stranger she hires, Gerard Butler, is silent about his background, but turns out to be perfect in his assumed role. He and Frankie develop a touching bond, while we observe an attraction between Butler and Lizzie.

Dear Frankie is beautifully acted and directed and well worth your time.

Thanks to our VSR Volunteer Deck Committee

By Sandy Kelly

Over the past year a dedicated group of neighbors donated some **five hundred** hours of their personal time to evaluate our decks for safety and structure, analyze their spiraling maintenance costs, and come up with the best way to provide residents with an attractive new finish. Under the leadership of Ron Caterino, Buzz McArdle and Bill Townsend represented the Property Committee, Tom Sangiolo and Bill Nussbaum worked out details for building specifications and material requirements with the Architectural Standards Committee, and Tom Barry and Ken Hyle studied all the financial aspects of this undertaking.

The men took field trips to manufacturing plants as far away as Maine, visited other condo associations, consulted with distributors and lumber yards, searched for quality contractors and even consulted trash removal companies! A sample deck has been built at 2 Rockwell if you would like to see one.

The committee's reports were given at the February Trustee meeting, and the Board voted unanimously to begin work with the suppliers, contractors and Northern Bank and Trust. The work will begin in May and continue throughout the summer. An extensive Question and Answer Bulletin has arrived in our mailboxes to inform you about the plan. The Deck Committee and Trustees will also be holding a Village Meeting on Thursday, April 14 at 7 PM in the Clubhouse to answer any other questions.

Once again, "It has taken a village." On behalf of our Board of Trustees, thank you to our outstanding Deck Committee!

Fledgling Time Again

By Dave Auld

Last spring I reported on some webcam sites for watching young birds grow up. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has added webcams with different views, all in high definition, at several bird nesting sites. These cams can be reached on computers, iPads, and smart phones, and are provided free of charge at <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org>. In each of the nesting sites you will find tabs below the viewing panel that will tell you about highlights and facts and questions. There are also movie clips on various stages of the development as time goes on. This year the first great horned owl chicks hatched in Savannah, GA on February 25th and 28th. They grow fast. Last year Loretta and I particularly enjoyed seeing them begin to venture out on the limbs and fly a few feet as well as the interaction between the siblings during this time.



Another interesting site shows the red tailed hawks in a light tower at Cornell University. The two red tails, named BR (Big Red) and Ezra, have had three eggs each year for the past 7 years. Last year they were named the F troop, F1, F2, and F3. This year they will be named G1, G2 and G3 if all goes well. The eggs were laid on March 13th, 16th, and 19th. They will be named in the order of hatching, which may not be in the order the eggs were laid. In the previous years all three have survived to fly away eventually. Both the owls and hawks develop rapidly and fledge within a couple months.

In Kauai, Hawaii, we find a much slower growing bird, the Laysan albatross. These young ones take nearly six months to reach maturity. One of the parents stays near the chick for the first three or four weeks. After that time the chick may be alone for as long two weeks since both parents may fly up to three thousand miles to gather food for them. They may sit in or around their nest for weeks without eating. During this period they can lose 50% of their body weight.



Another Cornell nesting site is the barred owls in Indiana. This is a relatively small bird in a small birdhouse. They have three eggs, laid on March 5th, 7th, and 11th. Two ospreys named Iris and Stanley are due back to their

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