



Creating a Cottage Garden

The Struggles and Joys of a Novice

By Ruth Heuberger

Observer Contributor

I BELIEVE there's a landscape to suit every soul and this was mine, though I had never more than dreamed of the possibility. Serendipity had brought us to the gentle hills of the Berkshires, and to an unexpected chance to purchase an affordable little cottage situated on a slope above the town. This would be our first home that was not an inner- or outer-city rental apartment, and our children were just about out in the world. The cottage sat, curiously, in the middle of a .7-acre plot, mostly looking as though it needed some TLC, perfect for imagining the recreation of a childhood memory of an English country garden.

My eagerness to begin was a stronger motivation than my ignorance, and I was on my own. My husband was happy to exercise his chopping skills but was soon convinced that his talents were needed indoors building sturdy furniture, at least until the outdoor plan grew on his urban soul.



Photos by Ruth Heuberger

Old rhododendrons, top, blossom in the Heuberger's garden while textures dominate in rock wall plantings, above.

The first of many lessons dawned on me as I watched in admiration the burly but gentle driver of the backhoe wield his clanky machine with finesse and easily "scatter" excavated boulders around the

Garden *continued on page 2*

Helping Hands Nearby

By Susan Dana

Observer Contributor

COMMUNITY Social Worker Jackie Tripicco is very clear about her most important role at Kimball Farms: it is to build relationships with residents and their families, so she knows them and they know her, in case they need her help.

Jackie holds a bachelor's degree from Clark University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Denver. She joined the Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center in 2005 as the social worker/director of admissions and moved to the Walker Street campus in 2010 to be the first program director of the new Life Enrichment Program. She became the social worker for the Walker Street campus in 2013.

She encourages people to be proactive about their changing needs as they age.

"Avoiding a crisis is best

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My eagerness to begin was a stronger motivation than my ignorance, and I was on my own

Garden *continued from page 1*

muddy yard. I'm sure he sensed my despair, confronted with all that muck, and my naiveté too. I asked him to kindly scoop out a hole and toss in for later consideration a big evergreen bush next to the back door, sacrificed to make room for a sorely needed addition. He eyed me quizzically but complied. Its roots and branches soon lay forlorn and withered in an enormous hole.

Fortunately, I learned not to disparage ungainly bushes too quickly. Our first June, the rhodies next to the cottage front door awed us with exquisite clumps of blossoms that contained an entire band of mini pale pink trumpets. The overgrown and dense privets in the back? Swarms of bees were attracted to their tiny fragrant white flowers. Perhaps these too would need transplanting or "prudent" pruning down the road? Without a doubt, once we learned how. We eagerly came home from our first outing to Flintstone Farm with a fragrant rose-colored tree peony that lived to delight us for many years.

I soon learned that many favorite American non-native wildflowers are naturalized and integrated—just like my family, I thought. I'll leave *their* cultivation to the experts, though. One early spring, lured by

the enticing image on the packet, I scattered seeds of wildflowers on a cleared spot. They bloomed prolifically—to tease, it seemed. The next year there were none. A painless lesson learned. By and by, our garden was graced with other wildflowers, native, most likely, and almost as desirable.

Eventually, helpful and experienced neighbors, close observation, mail-order catalogs occasionally dunked in the bathtub, volunteering at the local garden center, trial and error, and learning to respect the needs of local nature and climate would fill in my willingness and the garden's blank slate. Now, more than twenty-five years on, I feel intense gratitude and joy for the cottage and the "natural" garden I enthusiastically gave my heart and hands to. Other gardeners generously shared plants with us and, happily, we could eventually do the same.

When the saplings, many culled from abandoned spots (with permission, of course), reach maturity with more tales to tell, I like to imagine that future stewards of this small plot of earth will cherish nature's exuberance as well, and count their bountiful blessings.

(A longer version of this article appeared in The Artful Mind in 2019.)

Hands *continued from page 1*

done by looking at changing needs early," she says. "We all often wait longer than we should to reach out for help."

Support groups are one way of identifying needs and helping to cope. Jackie facilitates several for people caring for loved ones experiencing cognitive change and is open to ideas for new groups as well. One is being formed for residents concerned about memory issues.

Some residents may need her help accessing other resources related to community support, home health care, or hospice care.

Jackie encourages residents to tell her about planned medical procedures in advance, so there's time to coordinate with the Nursing Care Center ("Sunset") in case a short-term stay there is needed. Whether the goal is to return to your apartment or

to move to a higher level of care, the social worker's role is always to help you meet that goal, in coordination with the community nurse and other resources.

A common misunderstanding that is frustrating to residents is to assume that Jackie can tell you if a friend is in the hospital or what has happened to a neighbor. In 1996, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was established, protecting sensitive health information in electronic records from disclosure. She and other staff at Kimball Farms are prohibited from disclosing your health information—and everyone else's, too.

Jackie can help best if she knows you and your family before you need her skillful help in a crisis. Her office is just outside the administration offices, across from the Pinnacle Store. Her phone number is 7037.

Lens on the Berkshire Landscape

By Jean Rousseau
Observer Contributor

IF YOU PASS BY apartment #152, you might pause for a minute to look at Lisa Gamble's own photographs on the wall. Lisa is an accomplished landscape photographer who has captured the Berkshires on film for many years and has brought the scenery to life in her own dark-room lab. Her work has appeared in regional books and periodicals and in numerous exhibits, and adorns the walls of many homes hereabouts. She has done the same in her New Mexico retreat, the village of Ribera on the historic Pecos River.

Lisa grew up in Manhattan and attended school there, but came to the Berkshires for a senior year at Miss Hall's School in the early 1970s. She credits the school with inspiring her pursuit of photography ever since, both as student, in photo workshops, and later as an instructor at Berkshire Community College.

Lisa moved to the Berkshires and to "a big red barn" in Housatonic. Later, she and her husband, Bob Bartle, a metal artist and craftsman, settled on scenic Ice Glen Road in Stockbridge,



Courtesy photo

Lisa Gamble

sued arts-related careers. After beginning in fashion with Diane Von Furstenberg and Kate Spade, Kate became an independent consultant and represents numerous designers and merchants in the field. Ben began in construction, learned plastering, developed a special skill in ornate work in the field, and now fabricates it in Stockbridge and sends his work to luxury homes and shops throughout the U.S.

Lisa is finding life at Kimball Farms quite agreeable. Her charming Boston Terrier, Stella, likes it, too, and is already well established in the new dog playground. Lisa enjoys company and making new friends and responds "I pretty much like everything" when asked what pleases her here. It is clear that the feeling is mutual. Be sure to meet Lisa; you will be glad to know her.

Lisa is an accomplished landscape photographer who has captured the Berkshires on film for many years.

on a property with studio space for both and running room for daughter Kate and son Ben, who came along in good time. Lisa and Bob divorced years ago but amicably share their offspring. Those ranks expanded very recently with the birth of Ben and wife Lea's first child, Elliott.

Unsurprisingly, both Kate and Ben have pur-

The Kimball Farms Observer is written and published by and for the residents of Kimball Farms

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President's Letter

It Was a Busy April as We Look to May

WE ARE THRILLED to announce the resumption of movies in the Auditorium. The first ones have been enthusiastically attended. Thank you, Lily Wayne and Dorothy Mandel!

Sharon Lazerson arranged an exceptional performance by the Avery Sharpe Quintet honoring Martin Luther King.

The Lenox Superintendent of Schools thanked us for our support and announced cooperation with the high school. Students gave a Robotics demonstration, participated in an Intergenerational Book Group, and dueled with residents in a Trivia contest.

The Massachusetts RMV held a workshop entitled "Shifting Gears," and the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) helped us celebrate Earth Day.

A reception was held for Archie Gold, who discussed his paintings and drawings on display in the Conference Room.

All our committees have been very active as spring begins.

Fund drive realizes its goal

The Spring Fund Drive has realized its goal of \$10,000 to support our budget as well as scholarships and gifts that we award. We have two staff applicants for scholarships.

There is an excellent new display featuring a colorful array of dolls in the display case. Thanks go to Molly Pomerance, Mary Misch, and Pat Flinn.

Toward the end of April, the Trips Committee sent residents to the Olga Dunn Dance Company, the Williams College Symphony, and High Lawn Farm.

For May, there are plans for trips to Historic Deerfield and the Bidwell House.

In addition, vans will transport Kimball Farms residents to Barrington Stage, Tanglewood, the Mahaiwe, Jacob's Pillow, and South Mountain Concerts this summer.

Summer activities on agenda

At the next Residents Association meeting, on May 5, we will feature summer activities and committees such as Landscaping, Gardening, the Summer Grill Team, Golf, and the Potting Shed.

Also on the agenda is improvement of the bocce court, information on the use of the Dan Dorman Trail, and **notice** from birders on the spring arrival of hummingbirds.

-- Pat Steele, President,
Residents Association

Editor's Desk

Topic of Gardening Tops the May Issue

APRIL WAS a roller-coaster month with tariff turmoil, stock market upheavals, and mild days playing hopscotch with snowfalls. May, we hope, will set a more predictable pace, and where better to start than in a garden?

Ruth Heuberger leads our May issue with an essay on the trials and triumphs of planting her first garden years ago, an account that may resonate with the green thumb readers.

Along with spring blooms, movies are returning to the Independent Living auditorium after a long hiatus and we encountered a lesson in robotics from some Lenox students and one in AI (Artificial Intelligence) from a Kimball visitor.

Peggy Braun writes about the underlying emotional support we may find in "organ recitals" about health woes, and KF social worker Jackie Tripicco describes her role on the staff to Susan Dana.

April, sadly, saw the passing of a number of Kimball residents, among them Janet Tivy, who once served on the *Observer* staff.

Former editor Andy Pincus recruited Janet, an old friend, as a copy editor. She protested she'd never done anything like that before, but Andy knew her love of music and books and her overall literacy. She was adept at spotting gaps and inconsistencies in stories, even spending time while she was a patient in Sunset, he recalls, reading and correcting copy.

Fortunately, Janet's daughter, Catharyn Tivy, a graphic designer based in Brookline, Mass., continues the family service to the *Observer* long-distance by digitally making up our pages each month.

— Charles Bonenti, Editor



Photo by Charles Bonenti

Soda Service Debuts in Fountain Style

Dining Services Director Mike Paglier fills a glass with a Coca-Cola brand product at one of three new soda fountain dispensers recently installed at Kimball Farms. The switch from a different brand of soda had been advocated by the Food and Nutrition Committee for some time.

Upon learning that serving the premium Coke brand through fountain dispensers, which mix syrup flavors and soda water on site, would reduce cost and increase customer satisfaction, Mike got the go-ahead to change.

Dispensers now offer nine flavors in the Pub, six in the dining room, and four at PineHill. Waitstaff will dispense and serve the beverages in glasses. Sodas will still be delivered to resident apartments in cans.

Movies Make an Encore

MOVIES in the auditorium, on hold since October, when the projector ceased to function, got a restart last month when residents Lily Wayne and Dorothy Mandel stepped in.

“I love movies,” said Lily. “They’re how I made my living.”

As a member of the Costume Designers Guild of the Motion Picture Academy, she routinely receives discs of new releases and chafed at not being able to see them on a big screen.

When a partial projector repair made some screening possible last month, Lily and Dorothy, whose late husband, Loring Mandel, was a screenwriter, took the initiative and arranged for two screenings of *A Complete Unknown*, a 2024 Bob Dylan biopic starring Timothée Chalamet, and three showings of *Maria*, a biopic of soprano Maria Callas starring Angelina Jolie. *Out of Africa*, a 1985 romantic drama with Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, was to follow.

Programming is still a work in progress as they sift through suitable films while the KF administration pursues repairs to allow for a broader spectrum of choices from streaming sources like Netflix and Hulu as well as DVDs.

About 30 viewers have shown up for Tuesday showings, Lily said, half that on Saturdays. Sunday matinees are being test run.

Suggestions are welcome, as are post-film discussions.

At PineHill, Ohinene Asilijoe, activities director for the past six years, has movie screenings in the Activities Room at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and at 6:15 p.m. on the remaining days of the week. Musicals are popular, she says, as are dramas and romances of the 1940s and '50s. Those films are sourced from a Netflix subscription and donated or borrowed DVDs.

Anyone can attend an open meeting on the first Wednesday of each month to suggest titles for future screening.

— Charles Bonenti, Editor

Robotics Come to Kimball

STUDENTS from Lenox Memorial High School's ENGINUITY 8227 team brought a lesson in robotics to a Kimball Farms audience on April 9. Seven students and their engineering class instructor, Matt Cote, assembled a rubberized platform in the center of the auditorium and put an 18- by 18-inch robotic device through its paces before a ring of spectators. The demonstration was organized by KF events coordinator Sharon Lazerson.

The club is part of a worldwide science and technology league called US First (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) that sponsors 10 tournaments a year, of which the Lenox club competes in two: state and world. The last event for the 27 teams in Massachusetts was held on March 21 in Northbridge. The goal in these tournaments is to qualify for future matches, and Lenox qualified by



Photo by Charles Bonenti

Lenox High School students Saisanjana Meesala, left, and Annie Fiegel explain the workings of the robot their club built.

placing 8th.

The team's challenge was to build a robotic device, which they did in five months and named *Mr. NoJangles*. They programmed it to pick up blocks (called "samples" or "specimens") and either drop them in a bucket resembling a mini basketball net on a pole or else hang them on a rack and then park itself. While there are time limits in actual competitions, the demonstration here was informal, with spectators asking questions and students scrambling around the floor and giving answers.

The robot is programmed to take directions from an off-the-shelf control device similar to those used in PlayStation games. It cannot see the way a self-driving car sees via computer vision, explained leader programmer Saisanjana Meesala, but responds through its wheels. And *Mr. NoJangles* did just that.

— Charles Bonenti

A Novice Test-Runs AI

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is in the news. It's the ability of computers or computer-controlled robots to solve problems that usually require human intelligence. It's best at specific tasks like medical diagnosis, voice recognition, and playing chess, but doesn't yet match the full spectrum of human intelligence.

Those of us who have lived much of our lives before computers took over might consider AI a threat to our thinking ability. I did until I got an eye-opening tutorial from the daughter of a Kimball resident. She uses it often in her work and offered to give me a quick introduction before heading out after a visit with her mother. I jumped at the opportunity and led her to the *Observer* office, where thoughts of AI danced in my head.

We searched online for ChatGBT.com, which brought up a prompt to "Get Started."

I had three choices: Log in, Sign Up, and Try It

First. Naturally I chose to Try It First.

"What can I help you with?" I was asked, with a choice of five responses: Brainstorm, Analyze Dates, Summarize Text, Surprise Me, and More.

I chose Summarize Text and copied and pasted the preceding paragraphs of the above text into a text box.

Here in italics is what came back in an instant. You be the judge.

AI, or computer-controlled robots, is gaining attention for solving problems that require human intelligence. While it excels in tasks like medical diagnosis and chess, it doesn't yet match the full spectrum of human intelligence. A visiting daughter of a Kimball resident offered a tutorial on AI, prompting the author to try ChatGBT. The prompt asked for five responses: brainstorm, analyze dates, summarize text, surprise me, and more.

— Charles Bonenti

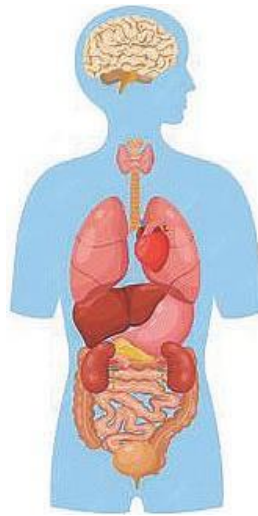
A Lovely Conversation

By Peggy Braun
Observer Contributor

YESTERDAY a resident told me she had had “a lovely conversation about colonoscopies” with a friend. I burst out laughing.

Later, I thought more about it. When I was younger (remember, we were all younger once), I would have referred to this, with some scorn, as the “organ recital”—one of those talks that older people had that we would sort of chuckle about and secretly vow to never indulge in because, after all, they were *so* boring.

But now? The organ recital has come into its own. In the '70s there was a book called *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. Now, in old age, our bodies have become ourselves. Most of us at this age have something physically wrong. When your negative physicality is peaking, that is what is foremost on your mind and, therefore, what you talk about. Most of us are somewhat shocked at this unexpected physical turn of events. In the younger years our bodies did what they were told. Of course we got sick, but we expected to get over it and to go on as usual. But now we are living in an unpredictable physical container which seems to have a mind of its own and no longer follows orders. We try to exercise, eat properly, and drink enough water, but despite our best efforts, we find we have cancer, AFib, arthritis, hypertension. We need hip replacements, cataract surgery; the prostate has betrayed us; the list is endless. And we talk with one another about it and no one, as far as I know, feels the least bit scornful because their



bodies have also stopped obeying orders and they understand. And even if they are the lucky ones who are relatively intact, physical disobedience is all around them. Therefore, most of us are understanding, supportive, and caring. It is an unspoken bond — to give and get help when needed and to care about what happens to your neighbor.

I came here to feel safe, to take the burden of worry off my children, to have a community I no longer had the energy to create on my own, and to feel somewhat taken care of. I’m actually *not* safe because something could happen at any time that no one could prevent, but I feel safer and that helps a lot. The community is here, my children are less worried, and I do feel more taken care of. Many elders are not so lucky. So gratitude is called for.

Aging is a very difficult process and not one I was prepared for; none of us were, really. In fact, we weren’t prepared for anything that happened in our lives; we just adapted to it as best we could. Most of our lives weren’t at all what we expected, in better and worse ways. Now there is some talk about an ideal of aging gracefully; I have no idea what they are talking about and frankly don’t care; I’m willing to be as awkward as I actually am.

In closing, I hope to talk about more interesting subjects when my body gives me a break, but I will have “lovely conversations” with anyone who needs to share about their knee replacement, the mystery of their fatigue, or whatever way their body is doing some unwelcome thing.

Because we are a community of elders and that’s how it really is.

The organ recital has come into its own.

Inside Look with a CT Scan

By Stephanie Beling, MD
Observer Columnist

CT SCANS (formerly referred to as CAT scans, for computed axial tomography) work by rotating an X-ray beam around the patient's body while detectors capture the radiation that passes through. A computer then processes this information to create detailed images, called "slices," of the bones, blood vessels, and soft tissues inside the body. This process is non-invasive and relatively quick. CT images show much more detail than plain X-rays do. The first CT scan was performed in 1971 and created an enormous amount of excitement because of the detailed look into the body once the (very slow) computer did its job. Many years passed before the computer technology caught up enough to give us the almost instantaneous pictures we now get.

A CT scan can create an image of almost the entire body in a few seconds. These scans can be performed on nearly any part of the body and are particularly useful in diagnosing injuries, tumors, internal bleeding, blood clots, bone fractures, spinal and brain injuries, and other conditions such as prostate or uterine cancer that are not well visualized even with an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).

An especially important use of CT scans is to diagnose and stage cancer, checking whether it has come back, and monitoring whether a treatment is working. It's very effective for surveying the entire body to look for metastases—places where the cancer might have spread, such as the lungs, liver, or bone. Most of the time, CT is the first choice to determine the growth and spread of the patient's cancer.

One of the key advantages of CT scans is their ability to provide much more detailed images than traditional X-rays. For example, a CT scan of the brain can reveal signs of stroke, bleeding, or tumors

that might not appear on a standard X-ray. In trauma situations, CT scans can rapidly identify life-threatening conditions, such as organ damage or internal bleeding. They are also valuable in planning surgeries and guiding certain procedures, such as biopsies. Another benefit is the speed at which CT scans can be performed. A complete scan may take just a few minutes, which is crucial in emergencies. Additionally, CT scans are relatively painless and do not require any recovery time, allowing patients to resume normal activities soon after the procedure.

However, CT scans do have some drawbacks. One major concern is the exposure to ionizing radiation, which is higher than that of regular X-rays. Repeated or excessive exposure to this radiation can increase the risk of cancer over time. While the risk from a single scan is usually low, doctors are cautious about ordering unnecessary scans, especially for

children and young adults.

Another disadvantage is the potential for allergic reactions to the contrast dye sometimes used to enhance image clarity. This contrast material, typically iodine-based, is injected into the bloodstream and can cause reactions ranging from mild (such as itching or nausea) to severe (such as difficulty breathing). Additionally, patients with kidney problems must be carefully assessed before receiving contrast dye, as it can affect kidney function.

In conclusion, CT scans are powerful diagnostic tools that play a vital role in modern medicine. Their ability to produce highly detailed images quickly and non-invasively makes them invaluable in a wide range of medical scenarios. However, like all medical procedures, they come with risks, including radiation exposure and possible reactions to contrast dyes. As technology continues to evolve, efforts are being made to reduce these risks and make CT imaging even safer and more effective for patients.



A Journey of Self-Discovery

By Charles Bonenti
Observer Editor

LOOKING BACK, as one is apt to do in later years, Andy Pincus said he “was impressed by how much Germany was part of my life.” As a soldier, he was stationed there in post-WWII years and returned subsequently for vacations and to study its culture.

Invariably, Germany’s treatment of Jews during the Holocaust emerged as a thread in these recollections as Pincus, a self-described agnostic, considered his own Jewish ancestry. Pondering Germany’s outer struggle to overcome its dark past and reunite after the Iron Curtain fell, he saw similar inner struggles in his own life “over joy, love, and death” and began asking himself: “Who am I?”

A successful music critic and published author, Pincus, a former *Observer* editor and current contributor, turned to writing in order to assemble his thoughts.

“I started a year and a half ago,” he said, “was interrupted three times by physical problems (pneumonia among them), and finished three months ago.”

He writes drafts by hand. “Writing like this needs the physical contact of pen and paper,” he explained. “It’s as if a thought is flowing from head through pen to paper.”

He self-published his 80-page *Corporal Pingus: A Snoop in Germany* through Combray House

Books and was to speak at a Kimball Farms book signing April 29.

The opening paragraph states his problem: “Oh, Germany, *Du bist ein Rätsel*. You are a puzzle even today. I began my encounter with you as a soldier in the Occupation. I ended it 37 years later as a student in Weimar. And I understand no more about you than I did at the start.”

He goes on to describe mingling with German civilians as a postwar U.S. soldier in uniform, being welcomed by music lovers among them, and bonding with some as friends. The *Pingus* in the book title is a play on their German pronunciation of his last name.

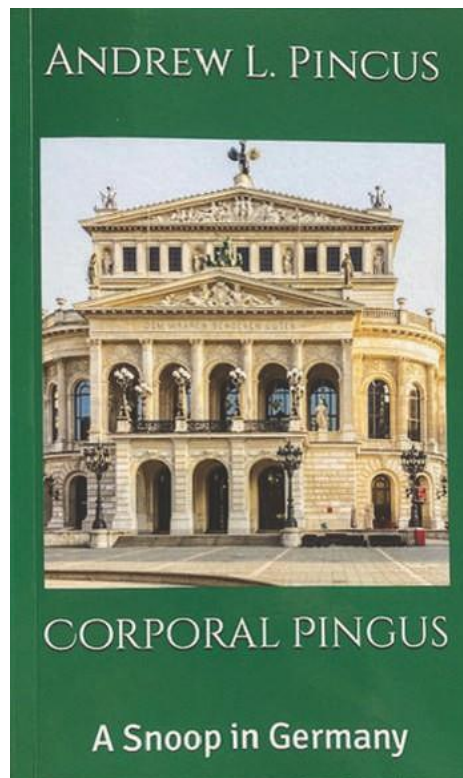
His future wife, Katherine “Kate” Clark, whom he met and wooed in the U.S. against the “tacit disapproval” of her parents, joined him in Germany to wed in 1953. They resumed life in America and returned to Germany to vacation and he once for a two-week study of German culture at the Goethe Institute in Weimar.

It was there, on a visit to the new synagogue in Dresden, built to replace the one burned by the Nazis during Kristallnacht in 1938, and later on viewing the Buchenwald concentration camp

on a hill outside Weimar, that Andy Pincus found his epiphany.

Readers of the book will discover what it was.

Copies of Corporal Pingus: A Snoop in Germany are available in the Kimball Farms library.



Pincus ‘was impressed by how much Germany was part of my life.’

Navigating the Kimball Library

By Mary Misch
Observer Columnist

ELSKE SMITH has ably handled a variety of tasks during several years on the Library Committee. Most recently, as co-chair with Eileen Henle, Elske has taken on the selection and ordering of new books. Many of her choices are made after close perusal of the *New York Times Book Review*, with added input from residents' nominations. It is Elske who sees that two tables in our library are constantly covered with the newest books, identified by the 14-day cards in their pockets.



Photo by Lily Wayne

Elske Smith has taken on the selection and ordering of new books, such as these displayed on a library table, above right.

by contemporary topics, not excluding politics. New books show up about twice a month. Notes recommending other new titles may be left on the library desk.

For residents new to our library, Elske has pointed out some of its features. There is the tall carousel shelf in a corner near the window that contains books free for the taking. Many are duplicates of recent books, while some are older but worthy titles. Most have been welcome donations from residents. Priority is given to books less than 5 years old.

Elske asks that donated books be placed on the library desk, not in the large locked box that is des-

In obtaining new books, Elske has moved away from the uncertainties of online purchasing in favor of ordering through The Bookstore in Lenox. Owner Matt Tannenbaum offers a generous discount, plus free delivery, plus some book suggestions that go above and beyond the bestseller lists. Categories favored by our readers weigh heavily toward fiction, followed

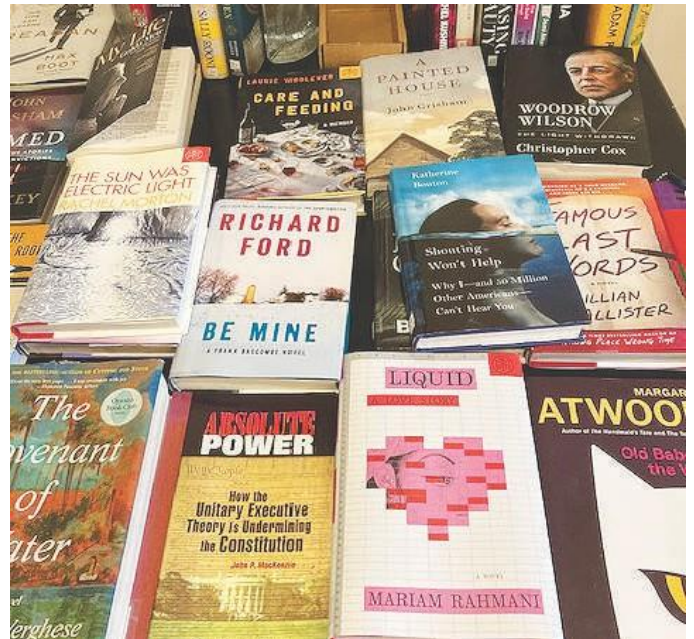


Photo by Charles Bonenti

igned for returned books. She indicated that the small wooden box on one of the tables is for sign-out cards as well as for reservation slips; reservation forms are in an open box next to it. As most residents do by habit, the sign-out date (not the date due) is to be recorded. If a reserved book becomes available, the person requesting it will be called.

A few new titles pointed out by Elske include the following:

Lovely One, by Ketanji Brown Jackson, is the autobiography of a current U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Keeping the Faith: God, Democracy, and the Trial That Riveted a Nation, by Brenda Wineapple, is a new study of the Scopes trial of the 1920s.

Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions, by John Grisham and Jim McCloskey, is exactly what the title indicates.

To the above group I am adding two books that I have recently read and believe to be of good entertainment value.

The Paris Novel, by Ruth Reichl, is a delicious fantasy about food, wine, and art.

We Solve Murders, by Richard Osman, starts a new thriller series by the author of the Thursday Murder Club series.

May Events

May 1 • 7 pm

Roger the Jester

May 4 • 7 pm

Euclid Quartet

May 9 • 7 pm

Klezmer Concert

May 12 • 7 pm

Speaker series: Seth Rogovoy

May 18 • 7 pm

Ensemble Aubade

May 22 • 7 pm

“Hootenanny”

May 27 • 4 pm

Marc Lender lecture

May 29 • 4 pm

Connector Art Show Reception

May Trips

Saturday, May 3rd Bus at 10:15 am

BCC for Jeff Doscher’s
Memorial Service

Sunday, May 4th Bus at 2:30 pm

Trinity Church
Cantilena Chamber Choir Concert

Tuesday, May 6th Bus at 9:30 am

Historic Deerfield

Friday, May 9th Bus at 5:30 pm

Hevreh in Great Barrington

Saturday, May 17th Bus at 12:15 pm

Met Opera at Mahaiwe
Strauss’s *Salome*

Thursday, May 22nd Bus at 10 am

Bidwell House Museum

Friday, May 30th Bus at 5:30 pm

Hevreh in Great Barrington

Birthday Wishes

Twenty-two residents celebrate birthdays in May.

There is a 22-year spread between the youngest and oldest celebrants.

May birthdays belong to: Charles Cook, Rick Pocock, Robert Baum, Lu Ann DeGenaro, Hans Heuberger, Karen Rizzardini, Marjorie VanDyke, Dorothea Nelson, Alan Price, David Quinlan, Laird White, Michael Behnke, Leonard Rosenfeld, Betty Furey, Erika Mueller, Susan Dana, Mary Misch, Rhea Schindler, Robert Cloutier, Hank Fenn, Christine Parton, and Theresa Griffin.

Happy Birthday to each of you!!

In Memoriam

Janet Tivy

May 3, 1935 to March 30, 2025

Doane Perry

June 24, 1942 to April 6, 2025

Stuart Dalheim

October 31, 1933 to April 7, 2025

Kimball Farm residents pose for a photo under the water tower at High Lawn Farm in Lee on a Trips Committee outing April 22. They met Jersey milk cows of all ages, learned about milk production, and sampled dairy products in the farm store.



Courtesy photo

Observer Spotlight

Photos by Charles Bonenti



Passover Seder prepared by Dining Services drew many to the auditorium on April 17.



Resident Penny Noepel, at rear in blue top, hosted a dining room table on Easter Sunday for, clockwise, her granddaughter Kim Kirchner, son Roy Noepel, friend Roxanne Spence, daughter Kate Kirchner, and son-in-law Ned Kirchner.

In Conference Room Gallery



Resident Archie Gold concluded his solo exhibition with a talk about his art on April 13. Work by Arlene Potler, Carolyn Vandervort, Molly Pomerance and Eileen Henle will be featured in May.

In Connector Gallery



Courtesy photos

Artworks by students at the Berkshire Waldorf School in Great Barrington will be shown beginning May 5. A reception May will feature music by Kids4Harmony.