



This month's cover story is a reprint of an article that appeared last May in the Keene Shopper News. Editor Michelle Green of the Keene Shopper News has graciously allowed me to print the story in this month's Rooster. Helena Blais and her family lived many years in Richmond across from the 4 Corners Store and at one time were owners of the store. Blais and Associates have been long time Rooster supporters and advertisers. It is an honor to know Helena and congratulate her on the Mother of the Year award.

### Helena Blais Reprint from Keene Shopper News

Ruth Thompson of Dublin was the winner of the Mother of the Year Essay Contest sponsored by The Monadnock Shopper News. Ruth, with the help of her siblings Christine Ortiz, Fred Blais, and Roxanne Jack, wrote the winning essay about their mother, Helena Blais of Swanzey. The essay follows:

Our mom grew up in some of the toughest times. She was born one of eight children in Germany during the war, lost her father in an air raid and two siblings to TB, having little to eat, but always looking for the best in everything. In 1957, while working at a German coffee-house, and speaking no English, she met an American GI and fell in love. They married that summer and soon moved to the US. That's where we come in – the beginning of our family and the new life that she began and created in a land far away from what she had once known as home.

Mom always shared her childhood stories with us – of hard times, good times, and survival. It is what molded her into the generous and compassionate person she is today, and instilled the core values of life in us as her children. She learned the English language, became an American citizen, ran the general store in Richmond for years, supported our father in his career, and all while raising the four of us with nurturing love and care. We were kids, and like all children when you are young, we did not see or feel the appreciation for what we had until later in life. Our mother was the traditional "June Cleaver" all-

American mom, and she didn't even know who June Cleaver was. Mom wore an apron most days and was always there when we got home from school; waiting for us with a homemade treat, sitting together every evening to eat as a family, always nurturing our growing pains, and always being there when we needed her; as she still is today, not only for us, but now also for her grandchildren.

At the time, we assumed everyone lived this way; but the realities of adulthood clearly teach you that we were so very fortunate. We have a mom who gave us what most would say was the perfect childhood, who allowed us to grow and develop into happy and well-balanced adults who have essential family values instilled in us to pass onto our children.

Famous for her baking and home-cooked meals, we never went hungry. Food and feeding people has always been her way of showing her love and concern. She taught us the importance of acceptance of all kinds of people. She welcomed Fresh Air children from the city into our home, and many foreign exchange students from many different countries throughout our adolescent years, always making room for the neighborhood children, too. Our home was a gathering place and our mom made sure everyone felt welcome; that's still the way she is today. She created traditions for us by melding her German heritage into our American lifestyle. Still to this day, at each of our birthdays, we look forward to our German birthday cake.

Our mom taught us what family values and caring for people really mean. Showing compassion and giving beyond the family to anyone who needs help is a big part of our lives. She carries these same ideals over to her concern for animals, always feeding and caring for them no matter how insignificant they are. She has always given of herself wholly and unconditionally; not just to the family, but also to those around her. All who come in contact with our mom feel and see her kindness and generosity, which is only surpassed by her love and commitment to our family. Our mom is our gift every year on Mother's Day.

—Ruth Thompson



**Meadowood  
Melanie Ellis**

The firefighters at the Meadowood County Area Fire Department had a very busy summer. We would like to thank all those who donated, attended and helped out at our Annual Auction. Thank you for your continuing support. September Fire School is coming fast. Fire School weekend will be held September 25-27. Please come down to the training ground and see your local firefighters as they train.

**Bake & Yard Sale**

Saturday, September 5th 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at The Old Brick Church, 11 Fitzwilliam Road, Richmond. Items to donate for the yard sale can be brought to the church on Friday evening, September 4th from 5-7 p.m. If you have questions, please call Alison at 239-4494. Proceeds to benefit Richmond Community UM Church.

**Town Clerk's Office  
Annette Tokunaga**

September 7, 2009  
CLOSED for Labor Day  
September 30, 2009  
Transfer station stickers expire  
Purchase new ones at the Town Clerk's office  
\$20 for the first one, \$1 for additional stickers

**Library News  
Wendy O'Brien**

**Upcoming Book Sale**

It's once again time for our annual Book Sale and Silent Auction on Richmond Day, Sunday, September 6. Stop by and see our great selection of used books, as well as our outstanding prizes for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Book Sale and the Silent Auction will be used for future book purchases. Have books to donate? We are currently seeking books for the sale. Feel free to drop them off when the library is open, or we can come to you! Just give us a call at 239-6164.

**Preschool Story Hour**

On Saturday, September 12 at 11:00 a.m., we will be holding the first story hour of the season! We are so excited to share stories and crafts with your children, focusing on "Me and My Family." After the stories and craft, we will have some lunchtime treats available. We hope to see you there!

**A Penny Postcard Look at Old Richmond**

We are grateful to Bob Weekes, who has taken the time to enlarge his beautiful collection of postcards to create a book that can be viewed at the library. He has added extensive notes relating to both buildings and local landmarks, including the Old Corner Store, the Wakefield Tavern and the Old Brick Church, Town Hall, Camp Takodah, Mill Road, and "Washout Hill." Drop by and learn about Richmond's history!

**Summer Reading Program**

A big thank you goes out to all who made our summer reading program such a success! We had 52 children register for the program, and at the time of writing, 29 have completed it. Thanks go to Tina Thayer of the Richmond Recreation Committee, who planned the kick-off so fantastically! And thanks go to all of you who helped to scoop ice cream during our finale-we couldn't have done it without you!

**Chief Wood Congratulations  
Marie Knowlton**

Congratulations to Chief Andy Wood who was recently appointed full time Police Chief for the Town of Hancock. Andy has been working full time in Hancock for the past four years and was chosen amongst a multitude of candidates. We wish Andy great luck and success in his new position.

**Voluntary Energy Committee  
Peter Majoy**

On July 26, 2009, we had our 20th meeting since being formed in March 2007. Our VEC (Voluntary Energy Committee) mission is to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and in the process have in-depth conversations with them about our recommendations.

Our primary focus at the present is to prepare for the application process in the fall for stimulus grant money. We have conducted a town energy use audit for our five municipal buildings with the help of Clean Air – Cool Planet. From among them, we have chosen our Vets Hall as the focus of our forthcoming application. Our Selectmen have approved our recommendation for an expenditure of \$1450 to hire Ms. Margaret Dillon of S.E.E.D.S. who is an expert assessor of energy efficiency. She will assess Vets Hall, which will include a duct blasting test, a color coded infrared thermography analysis, a modeling report, and make the results available to the Town of Richmond in a PDF format. With these results, we will analyze what to do to improve the Vets Hall energy efficiency, do a cost analysis of what needs to be done,



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then come together to complete the stimulus money application. A few other items will also be among the needs communicated in the application, which appears to have a late fall deadline.

Additionally, we have recommended the following items and had them approved by our Selectmen: (1) A fuel assistance flyer-insert based on OEP information for our local monthly town newsletter, The Richmond Rooster. It is a full page of information for residents who can now plan ahead for fuel assistance for this coming 2009-2010 winter season. The flyer has already appeared in the last issue of the Rooster. (2) An LED light is being installed at our four corner intersection in the center of town, replacing the older much less energy efficient one used. We are also researching the possibility of installing an LED light at two other locations in town. (3) After discussion with the Selectmen, we will be researching energy efficient carpeting for our Town Hall, as well as new thermostats for both the Town Hall and the Vets Hall. (4) Town offices, library, and various boards are now switching to 100 percent recycled paper and files. (5) We will be developing the language for an expendable general trust fund for energy efficiency updates. (6) We publish helpful energy hints in the Richmond Rooster every month.

It should also be noted that the experience of the Voluntary Energy Committee will be an invaluable resource as the Town of Richmond updates its Master Plan with a serious focus on sustainability and conservancy.

Lastly, the dedication and time donated by each member of the VEC has been generous and effective. Members are: Peter and Theresa Majoy, Jack and Susan Marsden, Irene Marshall, Vickie Provost, and Charles Schroeder. Schedule permitting, our meetings are often attended by one of the Selectmen. Special thanks must be publicly extended to Jack and Charles for all the volunteer work they have done to get us this far regarding our forthcoming stimulus money application.

**Thank You!**

**Sister Maria Philomena**

I would like to thank all the Rooster readers who bought raffle tickets from IHM students. The winners (drawn on Saturday, August 8, during the Blueberry Fiddle Festival) were:

\$600 Free Oil – Ron Chapman & family (Troy, NH), Scenic Plane Ride – Laureen Haynes & family (Richmond, NH), Family Bowling Night – Paul Vasilak & family (Richmond, NH). Thank you very much for your support — and good luck next year!

**Master Plan Update**

**Peter Majoy**

Our goal is to convene a committee of 20 town folk to discuss, amend, and edit our extremely important Town of Richmond Master Plan, our small town's vision for future development. Our goal is that this committee be comprised of 20 members, including one member from each of the town municipal bodies. Part of the goal to assemble such a group is that it represents the geographical map of our rural landscape. Thus far, we have six members. Dividing the town into east and west of Route 32, the current members represent town locations as follows: three are from the northeast section/quadrant and three from the southwest section/quadrant. It is hoped that, (a) more folk volunteer, and (b), we have representatives from the southeast as well as the northwest quadrants of town. The following are the four dates we plan to meet: Thursday evenings, October 1, 15, 29, and November 5. The work should be completed in October, but just in case we need another gathering, we will have November 5. We will be tentatively meeting at the CD building from 7-9 or 10 p.m. The hope is that we will have our committee finally formed so that by mid-September a mailing will go out to the committee with a first edited version of the 2004 Master Plan for the group to read and work

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on in preparation for our first meeting on October 1. To volunteer your time for the Master Plan Committee, please call me at 239-6058, or e-mail me at pwmjoy@earthlink.net. Many thanks.

**Things from the District  
Neil Moriarty and Jim Carney**

Somewhere in this Rooster you should see the property taxes that go to schools for the top 25 towns in New Hampshire – every town in the Monadnock District makes the top 25.

Three million dollar savings for FY2010- 2011: At the July meeting the school board voted (almost unanimously) to cut the FY2010 –2011 budget by 10 percent - that's over \$3 million from the existing budget (FY2009 –2010). The budget committee has not had a full meeting (lack of quorum at the July meeting) since the board took this position; however, if the board feels it does not need the money it is hard to see the budget committee going in another direction.

People are starting to realize that the declining enrollment figures within Monadnock School District should be reflected in the cost.

**Huge Reading Program About to be Purchased:** With the federal stimulus money, the district is about to purchase a tool to assist in teaching reading (Fast Forward Language) for over \$300,000 (software and training). Hinsdale and Winchester have shown good results in the improvement in reading with this program. I (Neil) am not a fan of trying to teach / learn to read beyond elementary school, however this program (in theory at least) can be used all the way to 12th grade. You may not be a fan of the stimulus money but the above is a one-time cost (there is an annual maintenance fee for the software), which hopefully will solve a major problem for our district – too many kids simply can't read! In a Special Education area, they did hire a person with the stimulus money – but we can worry about that a year from now.

**Truancy Officer Dies:** At least as a new hire – the truancy officer is a dead issue for now. A combined position, "Truancy Officer Plus," using an existing employee, will be brought to the education committee later in the month.

No action yet on facilities duplication of effort. Given you have any questions or concerns you can reach Jim at 239 4948 or Neil 239 4031.



"Villain" John McCann

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**Blueberry Festival  
Christine Bryan**

The 7th Annual Richmond Blueberry Fiddle Festival was successfully held August 7 & 8 at the Cheshire County Fairgrounds. An event that spans so many hours results in a collection of memories and experiences ready to be savored and shared. Enjoyable live music, the chief characteristic of the festival, was interrupted only for performances of a melodrama and the bake-off auction, as well as award ceremonies. The weather was beautiful, the Friday night fish fry was delicious, and the school children performed with poise and charm.

During the fiddle contest, delightful entertainment was provided by a diverse group of contestants and the judges themselves, members of the North American Fiddling Judges' Association. The twin fiddle division was marked by lively competition from eight teams of musicians, with the first three places being won by Richmond residents. After the Blueberry Bake-off awards were given, the benefit auction was held. There were several remarkable things about it, including the physical and verbal gymnastics performed by the auctioneer. During the bidding on Katherine Bersaw's first place White Chocolate Mousse in Chocolate Cups, the



Prize winner Katherine Bersaw

melodrama's villain, dressed in black and wearing an impressive mustache, stepped up to claim the beautiful dessert. He was stopped by the hero, dressed in white, of course. A lively duel between them followed, leading to the best bidding of the day. The large crowd just had to linger to watch the battle continue on stage during the play.

The festival was successful thanks to hours of preparation on the part of the organizers and the coordinated efforts of the families and friends of Immaculate Heart of Mary School. One of my tasks was to put up posters in the area and I was grateful for the warm reception and friendly interest throughout the county and beyond. This attitude continued during the event itself. First-time attendees were moved to comment that they had genuinely enjoyed themselves and hadn't realized that there was anything like our family festival. Now it's time to settle into the new school year, which, to the regret of some, will include more in the curriculum than the performing arts!



**Water: A Precious Town Resource  
Kim Mattson & Jean Tandy**

"In order that current and future generations may enjoy Richmond's extraordinary natural beauty and rich rural character," one of RPC's goals is to educate residents to existing natural resources located within town boundaries and geological formations. The town aquifer was a natural choice to bring to people's attention.

Aq-ui-fer (plural: aquifers)n water-bearing rock: a layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel through which ground water flows, containing enough water to supply wells and springs.

NHDES (NH Department of Environmental Services) was contacted for availability for a program, then RPC joined our Planning Board (RPB) to invite town residents as well as officials and residents from neighboring Fitzwilliam, Swanzey, and Winchester.

On an October, 2007 evening, the RPC and The RPB co-hosted a power point presentation by a NHDES Geologist at Richmond's Veteran's Hall. His knowledge of geological origins and formations, but specifically aquifers, ground and surface water, kept an audience of 70+ neighbors listening closely to his vast amount of information, presented both visually and orally during the program. DES provided a large wall map of Richmond's Aquifer that attracted much attention and discussion where it was hung for easy viewing. DES also brought quantities of educational printouts concerning water usage, made available to the public.

A lively question and answer session followed the program

along with tasty hot liquids and cakes. Packets of state/federal water information and laws were organized and presented to Swanzey, Fitzwilliam, and Winchester officials as well as our Richmond Planning Board by the RPC.

Further focus on the Aquifer came about when Peter Majoy (RPB) organized volunteers into an Aquifer sub-committee in summer 2008. Their goal was to create a Zoning Ordinance to aid the protection of the Aquifer by using NH Best Management Practices (BMPs). Southwestern Community Services and NHDES were invited to help shape the skeletal plan of the ordinance. The hope was to have the final version on the March 2009 ballot under the defined term of "Aquifer Protection District." The "General Description" included (1) Purpose of the Aquifer District; (2) Permitted Uses; (3) Special Exceptions; and (4) Best Management Practices (BMPs). The final (BMP) list included Basic Management Practices for (1) Storage of Hazardous Wastes; (2) Drip Pan Usage; and (3) Transference of Fuels and Hazardous Wastes.

What happened to the products of all this volunteer labor? The Aquifer Ordinance? The Livestock Ordinance? Guidelines for Commercial Kennels? For the Middle Town District? For Home Occupation? For much needed clarification for drive-ways? All of these volunteer accomplishments were blocked from arriving at March 2009 town meeting by a small technicality. So we'll just put them on the ballot for the March 2010 town meeting. Peter Majoy and Richmond neighbors have produced a phenomenal amount of research, organization, planning and writing, whatever it takes to keep the town vibrant. We owe them, along with ALL of our working, elected volunteer government officials. Big time!

**VEC Fast Fact  
Victoria Provost**

**PRINTER-INK CARTRIDGES.** Seventy percent are thrown into landfills, where it will take 450 years for them to decompose. Take them to Staples and get \$3 off your next cartridge purchase, or mail HP-brand cartridges back to HP. Check with your local post office for pre-paid envelopes.

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### Looking Backward Bob Weekes

In Richmond's 1925 Annual Report, the Superintendent of Schools stated that the North Richmond School [now the home of Judy and David Graves] "continued to operate during the past year at a high degree of efficiency under the able leadership of Miss Bernice Smith." [If you've read The Only Mill in Town you know that Bernice roomed at the house where the book's author, Dick Martin, grew up on Mill Road. It is the Balnis residence today.]

The article then continued with this disturbing twist: "Conditions at the Four Corners [then Schoolhouse #6, now today's Town Library] have not been so satisfactory. Recent repairs to the building make it now meet the minimum legal requirements as regards lighting, seating and general sanitary conditions. The equipment is standard or nearly so.

The chief difficulty is in the ridiculously poor attendance of the pupils. With a total enrollment of 32 and an average membership of 28, the average daily attendance was but 17 for the year; a per cent of attendance of only 61 when the average for the state is nearly 95 percent. It is a pity that the attendance laws cannot be more strictly enforced in this section of town. It is impossible for students to do good work when they are absent so much."

Alarmed at this news of poor conduct, this intrepid Rooster reporter decided to interview someone who could shed some light on this dark chapter of Richmond's history. That person, of course, is Richmond's Dick Dickinson; who attended this very same one-room schoolhouse from Grades 1 through 8 starting in 1929, a scant four years after this troubling report was issued.

At age 87, Dick's memory is amazingly sharp. He remembers that Richmond was a very poor town at that time. "It had only about 250 residents. There were more dogs than people." He confessed to being only an "average" student, but assured me that he was "reasonably well behaved." But close questioning by this



Richmond Schoolhouse #6, circa 1919

reporter revealed that his purported good behavior may not have been due to any moral compass but to the fact that his teacher roomed at his parents' house, and that Dick's behavior in school would already have been reported to his parents by the time Dick got home. (Note: although Dick and his teacher both walked to and from school, Dick was careful to let the teacher go first, not wanting to be called "teacher's pet" by the other students).

Dick also admitted that paper airplanes were often launched when the teacher's back was turned, and that the pigtails of young female students occasionally found their way into the inkwells of the boys sitting behind them. When questioned about such goings on and the high level of truancy at School #6, Dick feigned ignorance. One has to wonder if he is still covering for his fellow miscreants.

I asked Dick to describe what it was like attending a one-room school with 30 or so children spread throughout eight different grades. I learned that school started between 8 and 9 a.m.

and continued to 4 or 5 p.m. But in the winter months the mornings were spent not with lessons but with the children doing exercises to keep from freezing until the potbelly stove, started first thing in the morning by older students and fed with wood that was still green, could begin to warm the room. The teacher would announce which grade he or she would teach first and students in that grade would move to the front

row of desks while the others worked on their lessons toward the rear. Then the teacher would announce the next grade and students would shift again. Apt pupils could learn quickly simply by listening to what the higher grades were being taught.

If a student needed to answer nature's call, there were two privies (one for boys and the other for girls) inside the shed that is still attached to the east side of the building. By the time Dick started at Schoolhouse #6 in 1929, the belfry shown in the 1919 photograph above had already been removed. It occurred to this writer that not having a bell to summon students to class might have contributed to this school's record of tardiness and truancy. But Dick, never a tattle tale, still isn't talking.

### Education Taxes Neil Moriarty

As promised, the Education Property Taxes Analysis 2008:

#### 2008 NH Town Tax Rates Education Tax Rates for Top 25 towns

notes: I added col. G to find the total education tax for a town (add col E and F)  
there were 235 towns reporting  
source NH Dept of Revenue Services - via Jane Fortson  
other local towns not shown :Keene 64th, Jaffery 55th, Peterborough 50th

Municipality	Town Valuation	town Tax	Education Taxes			County Tax	Total Tax	Tax Commitment
			Local	State	Total			
1 SWANZEY	481,923,509	4.16	17.7	2.68	\$20.38	3.3	27.84	13,424,277
2 SULLIVAN	49,668,136	8.15	16.11	2.45	\$18.56	3.03	29.74	1,468,750
3 BROOKLINE	571,375,575	4.78	16.38	2.11	\$18.49	0.97	24.24	13,760,170
4 WINCHESTER	281,468,836	7.01	16.22	2.27	\$18.49	2.77	28.27	7,867,965
5 MONT VERNON	257,252,300	4.09	15.9	2.42	\$18.32	1.11	23.52	5,995,728
6 ALLENSTOWN	287,847,157	6.38	15.89	2.36	\$18.25	2.56	27.19	7,678,525
7 LEE	487,700,712	5.21	16	2.18	\$18.18	2.18	25.57	12,388,715
8 DURHAM	886,671,149	6.52	15.74	2.26	\$18.00	2.15	26.67	23,554,020
9 FREMONT	427,227,039	3.7	15.74	2.22	\$17.96	0.9	22.56	9,539,240
10 HENNIKER	406,193,403	6.86	15.29	2.38	\$17.67	2.63	27.16	10,963,792
11 RICHMOND	98,306,440	3.45	15.36	2.31	\$17.67	2.85	23.97	2,335,491
12 BETHLEHEM	255,643,865	6.66	15.27	2.3	\$17.57	1.51	25.74	6,617,242
13 PEMBROKE	595,984,674	5.69	14.98	2.43	\$17.41	2.72	25.82	15,159,227
14 HINSDALE	322,455,037	5.14	14.95	2.28	\$17.23	2.34	24.71	7,759,210
15 ROXBURY	25,412,686	2.39	14.81	2.37	\$17.18	3.31	22.88	579,332
16 GILSUM	58,579,002	6.17	14.23	2.73	\$16.96	3.15	26.28	1,531,062
17 ORFORD	155,845,439	3.5	14.77	2.1	\$16.87	1.31	21.68	3,337,304
18 FITZWILLIAM	282,579,993	4.43	14.61	2.26	\$16.87	2.57	23.87	6,615,179
19 CLAREMONT	727,926,903	12.93	14.09	2.58	\$16.67	2.99	32.59	23,557,478
20 RINDGE	571,381,459	3.84	14.12	2.49	\$16.61	2.79	23.24	13,079,639
21 TROY	112,045,097	9.22	14.02	2.58	\$16.60	3.21	29.03	3,210,083
22 BRENTWOOD	513,171,172	3.64	14.37	2.23	\$16.60	0.89	21.13	10,757,451
23 HAMPSTEAD	1,044,168,624	2.37	14.11	2.43	\$16.54	0.98	19.89	20,515,996
24 ORANGE	28,364,105	2.77	14.39	2.12	\$16.51	1.35	20.63	578,448
25 KINGSTON	696,678,591	3.57	14.1	2.34	\$16.44	0.95	20.96	14,501,267

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### Brown Baggin' Thank You Terri O'Rorke

We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who helped make the third annual Brown Baggin' at the Pavilion a great success!

Itinerant Peddler, The Christmas Shoppe, Studio H Hair Salon, Kristin's Bakery, In the Company of Flowers, Wal-Mart, Alex Hoar, Jean Tandy, Terri O'Rorke, Frank & Jane Rice, United Church of Winchester, David & Judie Graves, Russ & Vicki Provost, Caroline Polk, Elaine Laitinen. And thank you to everyone who helped to "set-up" and "take-down." See ya'll next year!

### No Diploma? Neil Moriarty

Short of maybe picking fruit or washing dishes, the person with a diploma has a huge advantage over a person without one. Ask anyone you know who has hiring authority and they will tell you that the first glance is to see the education level of the applicant.

On July 21, 2009, the Monadnock Regional High School announced an evening school program to assist those who do not have a high school diploma to get one. I urge you to take advantage of this if you need a diploma - call principal Brian Pickering at 352-6575, extension 121.

Even the State of New Hampshire has now officially (effective July 1, 2009) recognized the value of an Equivalent (high school) Diploma - this will make your path an easier one to success.

Given you need a diploma, I urge you take advantage of this program. Jim Carney and I have also asked Mr. Pickering to add some high level course or courses to the night school program to enlighten the advanced students within our community. If you have any thoughts on advanced courses that would be of value to our students, give principal Pickering a call to discuss it.

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### Comic Legends Frank Behrens

MPI Home Video has issued a boxed set of four DVDs titled "Comic Legends." With a running time of four hours, it is a bare-boned affair in which television appearances by the featured comics are shown, on three of the four discs, without comments or any attempt at analysis.

"Groucho Marx & Redd Foxx" draws the appearances of these two personalities from a TV series called "One Man Show." In the first part, Foxx does some of his racially oriented routines in that slightly angry voice and one not very funny routine at a soda fountain. Then, a very aged and subdued Groucho bravely performs a standup routine (not his forte) and two scripted interviews that allows him to slip in his famous remarks, mostly at his own expense. He shows up at an earlier age to better effect on a bonus track.

"Phyllis Diller: Not Just Another Pretty Face" is like a fire alarm that stops now and then to draw a breath. Diller's familiar jokes (four of which show up twice in the different segments) are concerned entirely with her physical appearance, her husband Fang, and his mother Moby Dick. She is funny but a bit numbing after a while.

Some relief is given when she does a skit with her perfect partner, the acerbic Don Rickles. And it is fun to watch Terry-Thomas laugh uncontrollably through an entire sketch!

The best of the lot is "Tim Conway: Timeless Comedy." With no effort whatsoever, he is enormously funny as Dag Hereford,

### Maria Bosonetto (IHM - grade 5)

*Nature,  
So beautiful.  
Helps make us so alert —  
About how much God loves us all.  
Flowers.*

*Clouds  
There are colorful clouds in the sky,  
Looking down and wondering why  
Everyone stands gazing up at them.  
Look! There's three boys and a dog,  
Staring at us, all agog —  
Waiting for us to change.  
We cannot change unless the wind decides to blow.  
Then, the shapes of lion and bear will have to go.  
The foursome will surely wish that  
that wind had not decided to blow.*

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the ultimate man-most-unqualified-for-his-job. The best sketch of all is that of the prison warden who finds his facility embarrassingly empty of prisoners.

I left "Dick Van Dyke: In Rare Form" for last, because there is at least an attempt at commentary by Pat Boone, who more or less introduced the skinny young pantomimist to television. This disc affords a view of his early work that led to his being considered for the lead in "Bye Bye Birdie" and his own superlative "Dick Van Dyke Show."

There are plenty of guest stars to catch the viewer's attention, many of whom are nearly forgotten today by the newer generation. Lots of fun, some tedium, but worth the watching.

VISIONS It seems that the only time television viewers get to see those wonderful Acorn Media DVDs of aerial tours over picturesque parts of the world is during pledge weeks. Of course, the individual sets have long been available on single DVDs and are now out in a boxed set of four discs that contain "Visions of Britain & Ireland." Because I reported on these some time ago as they appeared separately, this is just a reminder of a few of the stupendous sites and sights seen from above. England: Dover, Hadrian's Wall, Big Ben, Stonehenge, Bath, Liverpool. Scotland: Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Dundee, Loch Ness, Inverness, Glasgow. Ireland: Galway, Belfast, Blarney Castle, Dublin. Wales: Chepstow, Tintern Abbey, Cardiff, Carew Castle.

There are, of course, "Rich narrations and evocative regional music [to] enhance the experience" (as the cover notes put it). There is lots of bonus material not shown on TV, all of which brings the total running time to 290 minutes.

### Quotable Quotes Terri O'Rorke

My husband and I, along with some friends, had the incredible luck of scoring seats at Fenway Park recently to see one of the greatest legends of rock and roll, Paul McCartney. What a fabulous show he put on! There are just not enough adjectives in the English language to describe how fabulous! There were fireworks during the 007 theme song from the movie, "Live and Let

Die," he opened with the oldie but goodie, "Baby, You Can Drive My Car" and there were some new songs thrown in with the familiar Beatles and Wings groups that he had performed with. It was one, huge sing-a-long! He made reference to his late partners, John Lennon and George Harrison, which brings me to this month's quote by John Lennon: "Yeah, we all shine on, like the moon and the stars and the sun." Sir Paul McCartney shines on!

### Hosea Ballou Ellenora Villarubia

Last month's Rooster printed a quote of Rev. Hosea Ballou, son of Richmond and father of American Universalism. Perhaps Richmond residents would like to know a bit more about the good reverend.

Hosea was born in 1771, the youngest of eleven children of Maturin and Lydia Ballou. Maturin was the local Baptist preacher who, as a good Calvinist (as most New Englanders were then) taught his children to read with the Bible as their textbook. Young Hosea's mother died when he was just two years old, and although his father remarried (to another Lydia), it was Maturin who was the great influence on the youngster's life.

Now the Calvinists of late 18th and early 19th century New England were close enough to Reformation Calvinism to believe in its teachings on the total depravity of man and on the predestination of each soul either to damnation or to salvation. As young Hosea matured, he read his father's Bible incessantly, and although he had already begun to disagree with these harsh teachings, he decided to be baptized in his father's congregation at the age of eighteen.

About this time, Hosea made the acquaintance of several Universalist preachers from Massachusetts, the most notable being Caleb Rich. This man had been influenced by two British Universalists, George de Benneville and John Murray who had escaped their native land because of their radical teachings. In Europe they were considered raving heretics. They found their way to America, where, although still called heretical by mainstream Protestants, they did not live in fear for their lives.

Within six months of his baptism in Maturin's church, Hosea began preaching universal salvation, much to the

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chagrin of his father. Three months later, he was formally and publicly excommunicated from the Baptist church.

Hosea, having no formal schooling as a youngster, decided to attend the Richmond Quaker school to polish up his reading and writing skills. He then put himself through Chesterfield Academy in Vermont so that he could support himself and his future family as a teacher while he traveled the area preaching the new doctrine. However, he always remained a bit rough around the edges in his manner of speaking and preaching, something for which the Bostonians ridiculed him in his later years.

Although he always considered himself a Christian, in truth, he did not accept many doctrines of orthodox Christianity – the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, Heaven and Hell – to name a few. He was greatly influenced by Ethan Allen and Tom Paine, two names we know from the Revolutionary period. These men were actually not Christians of any stripe. Allen was a deist and Paine was a rationalist.

Ballou's definitive teachings were spelled out in his work *A Treatise on Atonement*, a 216-page book which outlined his thinking on God, salvation and the Scriptures.

This influential publication spelled out the Universalist belief in specific terms and united Universalism with the Unitarian teachings then gaining ground among some of the more liberal thinkers in the New England area. Among many other beliefs too numerous and complex to list here, Ballou believed that man would pay for his earthly sins in this life (by suffering, illness, personal sorrows of some kind) so that all of his sins would be expiated by the time of his death; thus, he would be worthy to enter Heaven.

The Rev. Ballou led an exemplary personal life, marrying the daughter of a Universalist couple from Massachusetts, one Ruth Washburn. Their marriage lasted fifty-five years and produced many children, one of whom, Maturin, founded the Boston Globe newspaper. They were a good match, both in personalities and in religious beliefs. The Ballous had a very difficult first few years, mostly because of poverty. It was tough making a living as a country preacher!

Eventually, Hosea received a call to Portsmouth, the largest city in New Hampshire in 1809. Preaching there, he began to make a name for himself as a controversialist, sparring with the local Congregational, Baptist and Methodist ministers who accused him of heresy. He relished these confrontations and became well-known in religious circles, but money was a continuing problem for the Ballous. It was not until he replaced his old mentor John Murray in his pulpit in Boston that a regular and

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substantial salary was paid him. He relished his home and family life, took no strong drink and engaged in strenuous exercise such as chopping wood to keep himself fit.

Rev. Ballou often returned to his childhood hometown to visit the graves of his parents, to reminisce with old friends, and to preach in the Universalist churches of Winchester, Richmond, Fitzwilliam and other area towns. His last visit was in 1851, just eight months before his death. He visited Ballou's Dell (on Highway 32), the old homeplace, and recited the poem he had written of his birthplace:

“There are no hills in Hampshire New,  
 Nor valleys half so fair,  
 As those outspread before our view,  
 In merry Richmond, where  
 I first my mortal race began,  
 And spent my youthful days;  
 Where first I saw the golden sun,  
 And felt his “livening rays...”

Hosea and Ruth Ballou died within nine months of each other, he first. They are buried together in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Social Studies and Geography teachers should take note.

**Sign Thief Strikes Again!**  
*Terri O'Rorke*

During the late morning hours of Aug. 11, the sign posted on my property, “We support the Richmond 12” was removed without permission. Just like the four signs that were removed from private properties without permission on or about June 29-30.

The “Richmond 12” are the 12 select, planning and zoning board members who are being sued by the corporation known as the Saint Benedict Center, Inc. These signs show support for these 12 volunteer individuals.

So, the questions to be asked, who is taking these signs? Who would benefit by having them removed? Who could be bothered

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by the sight of them? That freedom of speech is a right which is protected by the first Amendment under the Constitution of the United States.

The other four signs were found soon after they were taken, returned to the rightful owners and proudly displayed again. As for my own sign, it re-appeared several hours later as mysteriously as it had disappeared, to be proudly displayed again.

**Library Trustees**  
*Marie Juhlin*

Call to Order: July 18, 2009 at 10:05 at RPL by Bonnie McCarthy. Acceptance of previous minutes: accepted as read.

Public Speakers: None.

Treasurer's Report: No changes in Library's operating budget or other funds. Tracey turned in necessary reports for audit to Janelle.

Librarian's report: 1) Sisters at St. Benedict Center asked if we would

like to sell books at the Blueberry Festival on Aug. 8. They also asked if any one of us would like to judge at bake-off. 2) Summer reading program: we have 52 readers signed up compared to 56 readers last year. Kick-off was great success. DJ Kris Kleine supplied music, Tina Thayer, crafts, and we had pizza from 4 Corners Store. There were 30 attendees. 3) Wendy will need \$425 from operating budget for summer reading finale on Aug. 5. 4) Wendy received word that Hudson, NH, has built a new library and has circulation furniture for sale. The furniture is relatively new. Wendy will inquire about price. Old business: 1) Wireless connection expense for downloading audio books was accepted. 2) New railing is up; thanks to Bonnie's husband who painted it. 3) Reggie also fixed screen door. 4) New lock set was

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taken off agenda. 5) Darryl will mow lawn at RPL. 6) Safety committee: Annette will check RSA to be sure if every exit needs lighting. We are under the impression that it is a town compliance issue. New Business: None. Monetary Gifts: None. Next meeting: August 22, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at RPL. Adjournment: 10:25 a.m. Submitted by Marie P. Juhlin.

**Support the Richmond 12 Or Else!**  
*Nicolas Bosonetto*

Several gentlemen in our town have accused me of being a petty thief, without providing any proof or evidence. I am their prime suspect in the theft of “Richmond 12” yard signs only because I pointed out that they violated the zoning ordinance.

It is a sad day for America when a man is labeled a criminal for simply having quoted the law.

But it doesn't stop at smears and baseless accusations. My building permit to replace an existing mobile home with a nice house was denied by the Selectmen, because they claim not to have the authority to issue permits on private roads. That's quite odd, since three previous owners were issued eight building permits to build four homes and garages on this same property and private road all the way from the 1960's to the 1980's.

When I appealed to the ZBA, I presented all the previous building permits, legal arguments, and related documents showing why we should be allowed to replace the existing home. All of the abutters that came to the meeting supported us. But about twenty

Richmond 12 supporters, none of whom live within miles of my home, showed up to make all sorts of complaints and accusations against my wife and me. The ZBA denied my permit because they concluded that replacing the home violated the master plan and would cause a financial burden on the town. Ludicrous.

So if you don't want any trouble from the Town, you better make a financial contribution to the Religious Persecution Committee (RPC) and put one of those Richmond 12 signs in your front yard. Keep your mouth shut and all will be well for you. Like I said before – If you are a Richmond 12 supporter you're above the law; and if not, you are beneath it.

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**Board of Selectmen:** J.C. Boudreau,  
Sean McElhiney, Wesley Vaughn  
■ Mon. 7:00 —7:30 p.m. Town Departments  
■ Mon. 7:30 —? p.m. Public Concerns

**Town Secretary:** Beverly Hart  
■ Mon. 6 p.m. —9 p.m.  
■ Wed. 8 a.m. — 12 noon, 1:00 p.m.- 5p.m.  
■ Fri. 8 a.m. —12 noon, 1:00 p.m.— 4p.m.

**Town Clerk:** Annette Tokunaga  
Deputy: Pamela Goodell  
■ Mon. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m., 6 —8 p.m.  
■ Wed. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m.  
■ Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. —Noon

**Tax Collector:** Steve Boscarino  
■ Mon. 7 p.m. —8 p.m.  
■ Wed. 2 p.m. —4 p.m.

**Planning Board:** Richard Drew, Chairperson  
■ Meetings held at Civil Defense Building  
1st & 3rd Tues of the Month —7:30 p.m.

**Transfer Station & Recycling Facility**  
■ Tues. 8 a.m. —4 p.m.  
■ Thurs. 8 a.m. —7 p.m.  
■ Sat. 8 a.m. —5 p.m.

**Town Library:** Wendy O'Brien, Librarian  
■ Tues. 4:30 p.m. —8 p.m.  
■ Wed. 9:00 a.m. —12 p.m.  
■ Thurs. 4:30 —7 p.m.  
■ Sat. 10 a.m. —2 p.m.

**Fire Warden:** Ed Atkins  
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■ Selectmen —239-4232  
■ Town Clerk —239-6202  
■ Tax Collector —239-6106

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The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions

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