



Charles Hapgood Biff Mahoney

Few in Richmond are aware of some of the notable people who in the past called this community home. One who comes to mind is Charles Hutchins Hapgood. Folks generally dismissed Charlie as an eccentric who lived a rather reclusive life near the bottom of Stinson Hill. But Charlie was not eccentric and anything but reclusive, he was just quiet and unimposing.

I had never met Charlie, knowing him only by name and reference, until that day in 1971 when I answered his telephone call.

"This is Charles Hapgood," came the soft and gentle voice from the other end of the line, "Do you own a collie dog?" he asked.

"Yes, I do. His name is Pollo."

"Well, he seems to have taken a liking to me of late and has been hanging around my house during the daytime; apparently while you are at work."

At the time I was renting Porcupine Hill Farm up on Taylor Hill Road. My reaction to that call was one of perplexity because Charlie's place was nearly three miles away, down the very long, steep and winding Sandy Pond Road.

Pollo generally greeted me with enthusiastic barking whenever I got home from work. But not on this day, which left me anxious, but not worried. The dog had not been there to greet me on other occasions, but always showed up shortly after my arrival. I figured he was at the Burns', just past my place, where he liked to lie on the porch soaking up the warming sun.

So I paid it no alarm until I answered Charlie's call. Furthermore, it seemed Charlie had created the circumstances that kept Pollo on his doorstep.

"I fed your dog some leftovers and now he doesn't want to go home like he has every other day he's visited me," said Charlie. His words surprised me because I wasn't aware Pollo had become a daytime renegade.

"I'll be right down to get him," I said.

Charlie lived part way up Stinson Hill, known to the old-timers as "Washout," because the original road had been gully washed by a sudden cloudburst sometime in the '50s that sent a wall of water sluicing down the roadway, taking with it the roadbed and about six feet of the terrain beneath. The state constructed the present paved roadway right alongside the washed out section. Across

that gully a bridge of questionable capacity connected Charlie's home to Route 32.

Driving across that somewhat rickety bridge, I got my first good look at Charlie's one-story camp-like abode. My only previous views had been glimpses of lights at night through the trees as I sped past, building up a good head of steam to get my VW beetle up over the mile-long Stinson Hill.



Charles Hapgood

"Pleased to make your acquaintance," said Charlie as he greeted me at his doorway. Pollo recognized my voice and got up from where he had been lying on the floor, shook his thick fur coat, then ambled over and sidled up to my legs.

"I really like your dog," said Charlie. "I don't suppose there's any possibility you'd let me keep him?"

"Not a chance," I replied.

Pollo was so named because he was born July 20, 1969, the day of the first Apollo moon landing and the day before Neil Armstrong made that "one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind." Pollo's demeanor was such that even total strangers and people fearful or respective of canines took a liking to him. So it was understandable that Charlie fancied Pollo.

It was this chance meeting, facilitated by Pollo, that allowed me the opportunity to become friendly with Charlie. Over the next several months we got together for home-cooked dinners, over which we shared anecdotes and life experiences.

Charlie, I learned, was renowned in the scientific world for having authored books about the shifting of Earth's poles. He was also, at the time, captivated by Elwood Babbitt, a trance medium over Whipple Hill in Warwick. Babbitt claimed a psychic ability to use his mind as a "telephone between two worlds," affording spirits to utilize his body to speak with the living. Charlie went on to write three books chronicling Babbitt.

But Charlie's greatest fame lies in his 1958 book *The Earth's Shifting Crust*, and two successive books, *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings* [1966] and [1970].

Charlie proposed the radical theory that Earth's axis has shifted at various times in geological history. The Earth's crust, he theorized, had undergone repeated displacements and the concepts of continental drift and sea-floor spreading owed their secondary livelihoods to the primary nature of crustal shift made possible by a plane-

tary layer of liquid rock 100 miles below the surface.

Albert Einstein was so taken by Charlie's theory of Earth crust displacement that in his foreword for *The Earth's Shifting Crust* Einstein wrote:

"I frequently receive communications from people who wish to consult me concerning their unpublished ideas. It goes without saying that these ideas are very seldom possessed of scientific validity. The very first communication, however, that I received from Mr. Hapgood electrified me. His idea is original, of great simplicity, and if it continues to prove itself of great importance to everything that is related to the history of the earth's surface. I think that this rather astonishing, even fascinating, idea deserves the serious attention of anyone who concerns himself with the theory of the Earth's development."

Charlie's theory spawned from a prompting of students to look into the search for the lost continent of Atlantis. That led him to the ideas of Hugh Auchincloss Brown: that the entire earth could shift to a radically different angle on its axis of rotation. Charlie realized the entire planet did not have to be repositioned around its axis; only the outer crust need shift, just as the loosely peeled skin of an orange can be slipped around its unmoved inner slices.

Attempts to rebuke Charlie's theory have been based on a lack in validity; that instead of providing a geologically sound addition to plate tectonics Charlie's theory is riddled with logical and factual gaps. Emphasis is also placed on the fact that Charlie was not a degreed geologist, rather a teaching historian (at Keene State College) and that his collaborator, James H. Campbell was a mathematician-engineer. Whether or not his theory is correct, the idea still excites.

Lately Charlie's theories have been linked to the expectations of what might happen December 21, 2012 relative to the significance of the abrupt ending of the Mayan calendar. Will Earth's crust shift on that date? We'll just have to wait and see.

I lost touch with Charlie after I bought the Hood house and seven acres of the Hood Place from Fred and Madge Gilbert (who owned the inn at Four Corners). There I built a temporary cabin immediately south and moved in, taking Pollo with me.

Charlie's life came to a tragic end in 1982 when he was struck by an automobile in Fitchburg, MA. He died three days later at age 72.

Editors Note: Deadline Change Plus
John Boccalini

Please take note that starting with the June issue the deadline for submissions to the Richmond Rooster will be changed to the 10th of each month rather than the 15th of the month. Also note that the email address for all submissions is therichmondrooster@yahoo.com. Please use this address to avoid confusion in the ranks.

It is recommended that articles submitted for publication be limited to 500 words. However, if space is available longer articles will be published. If space is limited, the article may be run in multiple issues.

Thank you for your continued support.

Richmond Public Library
Wendy O'Brien

Story Hours

We will have three story times in May: there will be a brief story hour for younger elementary school-aged children at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3rd. All are welcome. Tuesday, May 4th from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. there will be a "Pajama" story time with Wendy—come dressed ready for bed! Please also come on Saturday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m. for a fun story time and craft with Gwyn. Snacks will be available!

Reading with Kodah, Therapy Dog

We are pleased to offer you and your children the chance to meet Kate Simington and her dog Kodah, a certified pet therapy dog from Monadnock Therapy Pets. Kodah loves being read to by children, and offers a patient and nonjudgmental ear for our younger or reluctant readers. Please drop by and say hello, and perhaps read a book to Kodah! Our next "doggie day" will be on Saturday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m.

Save the Date: Organic Container Gardening with Tracey Tryba

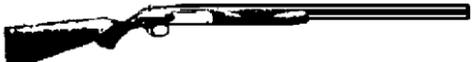
Our very own Library Trustee, Tracey Tryba, will be offering an organic container gardening class on Saturday, June 12th at 10:00 a.m. This is a chance to learn from an expert in a hands on manner about how to set up and maintain your container garden organically. Sign-ups are required, as we need to know the amount of materials to have on hand. Please call us at 239-6164, email at richmondpubliclibrar@ne.rr.com, or stop by to sign up.

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We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to:

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- and any old Telephones, Radios or Electric Fans

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New Portrait: The Old Sawmill on Mill Road

Bob and Jan Weekes have made the very generous donation of a framed print from an original watercolor of the Old Sawmill on Mill Road by former Richmond resident Priscilla Yantiss. Not only did they hang the print themselves, but they also tastefully rearranged the other artwork on the non-fiction room's walls. Come and take a look when you next stop by!

Library Fines

The Board of Trustees recently voted to raise the daily fine for overdue materials from \$0.05 per day to \$0.10 per day, in keeping with other area libraries.

Master Plan Implementation Committee
Pete Majoy

The Implementation section of the newly revised Master Plan 2010 states as its goal: "Following the spirit and the intention of RSA 674:2, III (m), the town will move to implement all the recommendations in this 2010 Master Plan. The Planning Board has approved the formation of a Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Our first task will involve several items: (1) to carefully review the 100 recommendations made in Master Plan 2010; (2) to classify the recommendations in each section within a time line of accomplishment; in other words, to decide which should be implemented ASAP, which should be implemented further on down the road, and which can wait a bit longer than these first two slots on the time line; (3) to divide ourselves into subcommittees that will focus on particular sections of recommendations and what tasks those subcommittees will have; (4) to decide how often and when we will meet as a full committee.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Master Plan 2010 Implementation Committee, please contact me: phone 239-6058; e-mail: pwmjoy@earthlink.net; write, 49 Morgan Road. Thanks.

Property Tax Relief
Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

If you are single and earn \$20,000 or less or are married and earn \$40,000 or less, you may qualify for tax relief from the State of NH. Forms are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the State website at www.revenue.nh.gov. Applications need to be received by the State during the filing period: after May 1st and before June 30th. Call the clerk's office at 239-6202 for more information or for help filling out the forms.

Meadowood
Melanie Ellis

The Meadowood County Area Fire Department proudly announces the arrival of our new rescue truck. In February the department put into service a 1993 Freightliner which once belonged to the Keene Fire Department. The new truck replaces our 1982 Mack. Since its arrival to MCAFD, the new truck has responded to motor vehicle accidents and a house fire.

May 15th and 16th is our annual Spring Fire School. Firefighters from around the county will be coming to the training center to take classes.

On June 5th, come join MCAFD for a fun-filled day of golf, food and prizes. All proceeds will go towards our fire department and dive team to help in our mission of supplying our community with specialty equipment and professional services. This is our 3rd

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4 Town News

Annual Golf Tournament and it will be held at the Bretwood Golf Course in Keene, NH. To play in the tournament it's \$100 per person. All golfers will receive a bag lunch and teams will be supplied with a golf cart for the day. To sponsor a hole, it's \$125. Or to give a donation for a prize please contact any MCAFD firefighter or diver or you can leave a message at the fire station at 603-242-3061.

Town Clerk's Office Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

- May 27, 2010
Deadline for late dog licenses to avoid late penalty fees
- May 31, 2010
CLOSED for Memorial Day

**Democrats
Marie Knowlton**

The Richmond Democrat Committee is seeking to fill the following positions in time for the May 22, State Convention. If you are interested in filling any of the following positions or just being a member please contact Marie Knowlton at 239-6447. The positions open are Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Delegate. All of the Executive Officers will represent Richmond as voting delegates at the State Convention in Nashua. Please contact me if you are interested.

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**New Hampshire Legislative News
Barbara Hull Richardson-May 2010**

Crossover day happened on March 25th, and the House and Senate exchanged their bills. The Senate sent a gambling bill to the House and the House voted to table House Bill 1664, a bill that made reductions in the state's operating budget for fiscal year 2011. The Chairman of the House Finance Committee, Representative Marjorie Smith, said: "The House Finance Committee is in agreement that there will have to be budget reductions. In addition, many believe that cuts alone will not be enough and that we will have to find a way to adjust revenue upwards in order to end both fiscal year 10 and fiscal year 11 balanced." That committee will continue to work to make sure all essential services are provided and that New Hampshire ends the biennium with a balanced budget.

Legislation was passed to provide preventive oral health services to children between birth and three years of age under the Medicaid program. Last summer a legislative study committee made up of state legislators and concerned community members met to determine how to prevent dental disease among our children. Tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease of childhood. Tooth decay is an infectious disease that can be transmitted from one person to another. Untreated tooth decay can affect the overall health and well being of children. It can cause severe pain, swelling and can interfere with a child's ability to thrive and learn. Dental caries (tooth decay) is a preventable disease.

The earlier a child is screened and treated for dental disease, the better the chance of preventing further disease and the less costly the treatment. In New Hampshire between the years 2007-2008 there were approximately one thousand children requiring hospitalization for dental needs, and over 1.3 million dollars in state general funds were spent for hospital operating room charges for dental care. Children between the ages of one to three years have better access to medical care than to dental care. This bill will provide reim-

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bursement to appropriately trained primary care doctors/pediatricians who do oral screenings and preventive services on Medicaid eligible children age 0-3 years old. Such young children have much more contact with primary care/pediatricians than dentists. This bill increases the number of providers who can alleviate these children's pain and suffering.

House Bill 1693 would have overturned a decision that banned weapons in the State House complex. It was defeated by a vote of 191 to 167.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions.
Barbara Hull Richardson
State Representative
Cheshire County/District 5

**Things From the School District
Jim Carnie and Neil Moriarty**

The District Organizes for 2010 /2011

Both the school board and budget committee have had their post-election organizational meeting. Jim Carnie was elected vice-chair of the board; Neil Moriarty was elected vice-chair of the budget committee. Jim also chairs both Finance and Education school sub-committees. Neil and Jim were also appointed (by their individual organizations) to the SAU (School Administrative Unit) Withdrawal Committee, which has its initial meeting on April 15, 2010.

What is the SAU Withdrawal Committee (SWC)?

The voters overwhelmingly agreed to create the SWC to study the feasibility of Monadnock School District withdrawing from SAU 38. The process to withdraw from an SAU is covered by New Hampshire RSA (Revised Statutes Annotated; see RSA 194C:2). The withdrawal committee reviews the pros and cons (both educational and financial) of withdrawal; develops a justification, and makes a recommendation to the voters in the following voting period (March 2011). The state Department of Education reviews the committee's justification/recommendation for com-

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pleteness but, cannot stop the vote. A super majority of the voters voting is required to withdraw from an SAU. For your information, both Hinsdale and Winchester districts created their own SWC. That leaves only Surry not looking at leaving SAU 38.

Cost of Health Insurance within Monadnock

The voters created the health insurance premium trust for Monadnock employees—with only token funding (\$10,000) amount. Health insurance premiums are about \$4,500,000 to \$5,000,000. The issue is that funding has to be in the operating budget because a health trust cannot have it's own default budget. Without a default budget, failure to fund the trust (i.e., voters vote it down) would create a huge deficit in the operating budget. I am trying to gather support of our local representatives to get the ability of a default budget for a health trust. This default budget for health trust will not be done in this law making session.

The issue of health insurance funding has already impacted the district for FY 2010/2011. The administration and board took a chance on \$90,000 under funding of health insurance; which so far, has not worked – our carrier is holding the original estimate. The district is looking at changing carriers. Had we had the health trust in full working order this would not have even been a consideration. More to come here...

As always if you have concerns, comments, or ideas – give Jim 239-4636, or Neil 239-4031, a call.

**Roadside Cleanup
Russ Provost**

The back roads of Richmond are mostly litter free. The same can't be said for Route 119 and Route 32. We need help on the following segments on the May 1st Roadside Cleanup:

- Route 119
4 Corners to Sprague Road
Sprague Road to Lang Road
Lang Road to Whipple Hill Road
Whipple Hill Road to the Winchester line
Route 32
Granite Hill to Mill Road
Mill Road to Fish Hatchery Road.
Greenwood Road to Mass Border

Call Russ at 239-7058 to sign up for one of these segments, or for more information on the cleanup.

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6 About Town

**Richmond Children's Day
Christine Bryan**

Saturday, May 8, 11:00 - 4:00 at the Pavilion Field games with prizes. Library open house with special guest Richmond Fire Department and, Special Feature: the Black Fly Barbecue and Bake Sale to benefit the Richmond Public Library. Sponsored by families and friends of IHM School.

**Rodney M. Randall
Reprinted from Fletcher Funeral Service**

Rodney M. Randall, 71, of Richmond, died February 19th at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon after a sudden illness. He was born on March 11, 1938 in Keene, the son of Henry M. and Lillian (Freeman) Randall. He grew up in West Swanzey and attended Keene High School. At the age of 19 he joined the United States Army where he was stationed in Germany. After two years and an honorable discharge he returned home to Keene.



He worked in construction before and during high school and after returning from his time in the Army, he began working for Arthur Whitcomb for ten years in their construction company as a boss carpenter, traveling all over working at various job sites. He later went on to work on the then under construction Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Around 1985 he set out on his own, for the next 20-plus years, as an independent contractor specializing in the restoration and rehabilitation of old New England homes. His own 1765 center chimney post and beam cape was a source of pride and a showcase of his talents.

He married Dale Winne on October 6, 1962 (the first day of duck season), spending the next 47-plus years together.

Mr. Randall was an Honorary Life Member of the

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Petersham Gun Club in Petersham, MA. An outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing trips, always willing to take local kids along to teach them the safety lessons and skills he had learned. He especially enjoyed his recent trips to Kentucky with family and friends.

Mr. Randall is survived by his wife Dale Randall of Richmond; two sons: John M. Randall and his wife Margaret of Richmond, and Thomas A Randall of California; five grand children: Eliza Randall and Lydia Randall of Richmond and Brett Randall, Christopher Randall and Shannon Randall of California; a sister in law: Phyllis Winne of Connecticut; as well as several cousins.

Graveside Services for Mr. Randall will be held in the spring on the family plot in Richmond. There will be no calling hours. The Fletcher Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 33 Marlboro St., Keene, NH is in charge of the arrangements.

The family requests that donations be made in Mr. Randall's name to Petersham Gun Club - Children's Fishing Derby, PO Box 812, Petersham, MA 01366.

**Violet H. Berglin
Reprint from Foley Funeral Service**

Violet H. Berglin, 77, of Kempton Road, Swanzey, died March 22, 2010, at her home with her sons at her side.

She was born in Glasgow, Scotland, Sept. 15, 1932, daughter of James and Maude Walker. She came to America in 1955, arriving in New York City aboard the Queen Mary.

She continued using her nursing skills from Scotland, and obtained a job in the children's ward at St. Mary's Hospital in Bayside, Long Island, N.Y.

In 1957, she married Carl F. Berglin at the Methodist Church in Hampton Bays, N.Y.

The couple moved to Richmond in 1999. After her

husband Carl passed, Mrs. Berglin moved to Swanzey in 2005.

Mrs. Berglin enjoyed raising her family in Hampton Bays, and took great pride in her home and with her flower gardens. She enjoyed traveling, especially returning to her home roots in Scotland. She also especially enjoyed being with her family and grandchildren.

Survivors include her sons, Carl J. Berglin of South Hampton, N.Y., and Eric S. Berglin of Swanzey; two grandsons, Tyler S. Berglin and Taylor J. Berglin; a brother, Alistair Walker of Australia; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Her husband died Dec. 27, 2000.

The family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in Mrs. Berglin's memory to Patient Care Needs of Hospice, P.O. Box 564, Keene 03431, in grateful appreciation for the wonderful care provided to Mrs. Berglin during her recent illness.

**Bible Study—
Experiencing God
Pam Goodell**

God is inviting you to experience Him in an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. The sessions will be at the Richmond Community United Methodist Church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Experiencing God will be the study guide, and biblical principles will be used to teach about recognizing and listening for God in one's life. Assistant Pastor Jack Sears will lead the discussions. The study is public and everyone is invited.

**Bonjour!
Marie Juhlin**

The French language is alive and well in Richmond, NH. Twelve brave souls signed up to take the basic French conversation course offered at The Richmond Public Library on Monday evenings. As of this writing, we are at the half-point of an eight week program and we are all having such a good time! Ages of the participants range from eleven to never-ask-a-lady-her-age. Only two of the participants have had some exposure to French but admit it was some time ago. This mini-course

helps refresh what they learned and has added some new words to their vocabulary.

Each participant has his/her own reasons for studying this language. Some love the sound of the language. Others are artistes and appreciate the special passion that the French have for painting, music, and cooking. Some wish to travel and will find it a plus to converse in the language of the country. Most are curious to discover what the language and culture of France have to offer them.

For beginners, proper pronunciation may seem intimidating, but after learning a few basic rules, my students now jump right in and are beginning to form questions and sentences on their own. It is my hope that they come away from this thinking it was a positive experience and that we had a lot of fun.

The Richmond Public Library, like other public libraries, has a heart that beats in tune to the wants and needs of its patrons. Please keep an eye out for other programs we will be offering. Support your local library by becoming a patron: it's free! Who else can offer you WI-FI, books on tape, DVDs, and the most contemporary books and magazines for nothing more than your signature on a FREE library card?

**Our Friend
Marie Knowlton**

Our best friend died unexpectedly on March 2, 2010, he was 56 years old. This has been one of the saddest months I have ever experienced. The thought of

our life without our friend is just unimaginable. My last email from Hugh was the Thursday before he died, he asked me to add his email address to the list of people I contact when the Rooster goes online. I hope you read this Hugh, and know we miss you.

Hugh was a major part of our daily life, without family close by we lean very heavily on our friends. Hugh was our rock. Paul and Hugh became friends about twenty years ago during the founding of the Rooster. Terri would have Rooster folding and stapling nights at her house and Hugh would always help out. The Rooster was labor

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intensive in those days and the more help we had the quicker the job would get done.

As the years progressed Paul and Hugh would spend weekends together anywhere but Richmond. They were a pair that would prefer to get out of town on the weekends and regularly ended up in Keene, Springfield, Manchester or Boston. In the summer they golfed together in Northfield. When I finally took up golfing, I became the third wheel and they graciously allowed me to join them on their ventures.

Our admiration for Hugh O'Rorke is like that of no other human. His strength and integrity were above any other; he was kind, thoughtful and truly sincere. Hugh was meticulous in every way. Everything in his life always seemed to be perfect. He was a devout Catholic and practiced his religion with intent and faithfulness. He was a private man who cared more about helping others than helping himself. He was dedicated to his family. His wife, his two daughters and two granddaughters always came first. Hugh would constantly flash photos of his granddaughters Chloe and Taylor whenever a new one came in on his Blackberry. Hugh's mother Anna and sister Marianne lived in Rhode Island and Hugh would often travel there to help care for them any way he could. Hugh worked out of town but kept in close contact by calling Terri every night and on the weekends spent time with his family and friends.

Dear Hugh, Thank you for being our friend. Your kindness and friendship will never be forgotten. Happy Birthday.

**Eleanor Fassett
Pam Goodell**

Congratulations to Mrs. Eleanor Fassett upon being the latest recipient of the Richmond 250 Cane! Mrs. Fassett has lived in Richmond for 33 years. She was born on May 11, 1913, and is, therefore, 96 years old. In fact "Happy Birthday" wishes are in order as she turns 97 this month! This makes her the oldest citizen living in Richmond. How nice that Mrs. Fassett was able to attend Town Meeting to accept the cane in person.

The cane represents the idea that the knowledge, experience, and wisdom that come with age are to be celebrated. Age itself is to be venerated. It is with the

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utmost honor, respect, and admiration that we again congratulate Mrs. Eleanor Fassett.

**Famous Faberge Egg Collection
Bonnie McCarthy**

Sunday, April 11, 2010: What a super, splendid, sunny day!! There was a myriad of choices for all ages to engage in countless activities, both indoor and outdoor. In the afternoon there were sports to be played or watched....the Red Sox and the Masters. There was yard work, house work, family time, friend time, traveling, staying home, doing something, doing nothing, or just being. Those of us who opted to attend the newest adult program offered by the Richmond Public Library (RPL) were thoroughly entertained while having our horizons broadened by Marina Forbes.

Marina, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, now living in New Hampshire, shared personal and historical stories from her native country revolving around the lives of the Faberge family. The Faberge family, Protestants in Catholic France, emigrated from France to Russia in the early 1800s for, believe it or not, religious freedom. The family brought their jewelry trade with them, and doted on the education of their highly intelligent and artistic son, Peter Carl, who became the head of the House of Faberge during the creation of the famous Faberge Egg collection. These mostly miniature (three inches high) works of exquisite and intricate detail were designed by Peter Carl, and created by his cadre of skilled craftsmen from gold, colored enamel, and both precious and semi-precious stones.

The first egg was commissioned by Tsar Alexander III, and was given to his wife, Empress Maria Fedorovna, presumably as an Easter gift. It was the first of many annual gifts commissioned by Alexander, with the only stipulation being each egg had to contain a sur-

prise. Upon Alexander's death in 1894, his son, Tsar Nicholas II, began commissioning two eggs each year; one for his wife, Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, and another for his mother, the Dowager Empress Maria Fedorovna. Of the 50 known Imperial eggs, only 42 have survived. Today the eggs are in museums located in Russia, the US, the UK, Switzerland, Monaco, and in private collections.

This is just a brief overview of the fascinating presentation by Marina Forbes, using her vibrant personality and Power Point. Let's not even discuss the heavenly refreshments provided by RPL volunteers. There was a lot of competition for our time on this glorious afternoon, but those of us who chose to attend the Russian Faberge Egg presentation were greatly blessed by the experience. Many thanks for the grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council, and to the RPL, for sponsoring this event. The RPL is currently considering sponsoring two more presentations this year. Stop by the library and ask to see the brochure, so your voice can be heard regarding future Adult RPL Programming.

**Help Protect Trees
UNH Cooperative Extension**

Announcement: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) an exotic insect that kills hemlock trees, has been found in Winchester. Help preserve New Hampshire hemlocks by: (1) checking your hemlocks to see if HWA may be present (2) if it is infected note the exact location of the suspect tree, and (3) immediately call the NH Forest Health Program, 603-464-3016, at NH Division of Forest and Lands. Do NOT cut down or move any part of the suspect tree. Additional information can be found at www.nhdf.org.

**Lambing Time
Judith Graves**

By the time you will be reading this we will have had all of our lambs delivered and doing well, I hope!

Our first ewe lamb was born the windiest day in March this year in the middle of the day, but with a small

nightlight on and the mother being black it was hard to tell what I was seeing. My husband and son just left to go out for the day and here I was all alone with the delivery looming over my head. It is not that I do not look forward to a new lamb, it is just that last year we had a bottle lamb. A bottle lamb is a lamb that is rejected for whatever reason by their mother. The human then becomes the mother to the lamb and has to feed it a bottle every 2-3 hours around the clock just like a human baby. The exception being that there are no diaper changes, unless you are like me and felt sorry for Sugar (lamb's name) and brought her in one night, put a pull-up diaper on her and kept her in the sun porch. All I heard that night was high heel shoes walking in the sun porch; I have pictures to prove it! We almost lost her, it was touch and go for a few weeks. What you will do to take care of animals is beyond comprehension.

The first lamb was about to arrive, the water broke and I had only had my first cup of tea and not eaten breakfast, so I ran back in the house and ate a quick breakfast. I ran back to the barn about 30 minutes later and April (mother sheep) had delivered. Again I could not see a thing, as I needed to shut the barn door due to the wind howling and the cold temperatures. I did not want the lamb to get a draft. I went to the sound of the mother and lamb baaing to each other. I found the

lamb and picked her up and brought her over to a jug. A jug is an area that is a stall, but temporarily just for mothers with lambs. The next thing I needed to do was help the mother dry off her lamb. This is April's first lamb and she is doing great. There are four things a farmer needs to do after the birth of a lamb, according to all the books on raising sheep and they are: jug, strip and dip, cut. Strip is milking the teat, so you know the milk will flow smoothly for the lamb; cut is to cut the umbilical cord so it is not dragging; and the last thing to do is dip the umbilical cord in iodine to prevent infections. Needless to say this day could have been spent mostly in the barn, but everything went as it was supposed to. April nursed her lamb (Sarah) and is doing well today.

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Yummee Heaven at Eva's Bakery
Pete Majoy

Lisa Loeb said that "When someone asks if you'd like cake or pie, why not say you want cake and pie?" I would expand Ms. Loeb's remarks this way: "When I enter Eva's Bakery at the Commons in Troy, I want cake, pie, all the donuts, sweet baked goods, every sandwich, all the soup, and a large cup of coffee. Yet, I have to be disciplined and limit my choices so that I don't draw too much attention to myself because my love of yummee bakery items ran wild."

Eva's Bakery is a wonderfully remodeled space that is comfortable and open. The young folk who work for Eva are delightful, polite, and service-oriented like Eva. As you enter Eva's Bakery, your eyes open wide, tantalized by the variety of baked goods—especially by the three-tiered, slowly turning circular see-through shelving unit with the most beautifully created cakes and perfectly baked pies.

On the chalkboard behind the counter is a long list of various food items one can order to eat there or take out. My wife, Theresa, and I have eaten breakfast and lunch there on a number of occasions and enjoyed both the delicious food as well as the congenial atmosphere. All the cakes and pies we have purchased at Eva's don't last long in our house.

Everything is made there, and Eva's professional and friendly operation of her bakery makes it one of the shining lights for baked foods in our neighboring towns. It is truly "Yummee Heaven."

Quotable Quote
Terri O'Rorke

"Those who commit injustice bear the greatest burden."
Hosea Ballou

Energy Stimulus
John Boccalini

Since 1978, wood has been our primary source of heat for our home. The previous owner indicated it would take seven to eight cords of wood to heat the house. Our alternative heat source was electric. The first time we used it for heat was the Christmas of 1978, when

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we took a week off to spend the holidays with family in NY. All the plants and liquids were placed in the kitchen/family room, the electric heater was set on low in that area and the remainder of the house was closed off. When we returned home, we found that all had fared well. Our next electric bill was \$200 more than the previous month. That was the cost to heat one large room for a week. Winter vacations were put on hold, unless a wood-stoking house sitter could be found.

As we got deeper into winter it was harder to keep the main living area warm, as it is located on the north side of the house. On sunny days, the unheated bedrooms located on the south side were, at times, warmer than the main house. The immediate remedy to the problem was closing off some rooms and getting a wood burning cook stove, to add to the wood furnace. The season ended and eight cords of wood were burned.

Stimulus-1981. President Carter knew about solar gain and made it more affordable to retrofit solar by establishing tax credits up to \$4000. Over the next year, more insulation was placed in the attic, some interior walls removed to produce an open space, the southern exterior wall and roof were opened up and replaced with 350 sq. ft of glass and customized four-ply insulated curtains were placed. The floor was reinforced, water tubes containing over 875 gallons of water for heat storage, strategic fans placed and the bedrooms became our main living area. The next heating season our usage was cut to five and a half cords of wood.

Since then an efficient wood stove was purchased in 1982 and records maintained. From 1982-2001 we used between four and a half to five cords of wood a year. Since the early mid '90s we have increased our heated area and added a high efficiency propane furnace to the mix. In 2001 our mother moved in and put an increased demand for heat, but the addition of an even higher efficiency propane heater filled the demand. Our wood use

between 2001-2009 was reduced to four and a half cords while the propane use remained the same.

Stimulus-2009. Last year our 1982 wood burner needed replacement. Tax credits last year presented the opportunity to buy a high efficiency wood burning stove (not pellet) for the cost of a regular stove. All things being equal this season we have used slightly over three and a half cords of wood. If you need a new wood stove, the payback with a high efficiency stove and the tax credits is quick and will save your back or your wallet for years to come.

Appreciation
Steve Boscarino, CTC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sean McElhiney for his service to the town of Richmond as

Selectman. Despite our ideological differences, Sean and I, for three years, worked in a professional and polite manner, as it should be. When it came time for reappointment as Tax

Collector, Sean and the other two selectmen, gave me a vote of approval on another three year service to the town. In my dealings as tax collector, Sean was fair and unbiased. I enjoyed my dealings with Sean and I wish him Godspeed and blessings wherever life takes him.

Notes from Town Hall
Richmond Selectmen

Dear Richmond Residents,

The Selectmen would like to introduce a new monthly column to update you on various issues that may be of interest to you. We'd like to use this column to let you know about our procedures, answer questions that are of general interest, and raise issues for your comment and discussion. Please don't hesitate to provide feedback....constructive criticism is always welcome!

New Employee. The Selectmen welcomed Roberta Fraser to the position of Assistant to the Selectmen on Monday, April 5th. Roberta is well qualified, experienced and highly recommended for this position. She is

an elected Selectman in Winchester and served for five years as Executive Secretary to the Selectmen prior to her election in 2008. Roberta serves on the Board of the Winchester Learning Center and has served as Chairman of the Pickle Festival since 2003. Before beginning work with the Town of Winchester, Roberta worked in the banking industry for sixteen years.

With Janel Swanson's invaluable help, Roberta is learning how we do things in Richmond. Please stop in to introduce yourself and say hello the next time you are in town hall.

Welfare. The following sentence has been part of RSA Chapter 165, the NH local welfare law, virtually unchanged for more than 200 years. "Whenever a person in any town is poor and unable to support himself, he shall be relieved and maintained by the overseers of public welfare of such town, whether or not he has a residence there." It is understood that the use of "he" also means "she" in 2010.

The duty to provide local welfare is not optional; it is something the town must do under the law. A town cannot deny assistance because it is over budget, and a town cannot deny assistance because the applicant is not a town resident. The local welfare duty is a mandate, and the State provides no funding to operate the program.

Given the state of the economy, it is especially important to remember that the town is here to help you if you are eligible. Please call the town office at 239-4232 if you'd like to make an appointment with the Welfare Administrator.

Next month's column will outline the impact budget adjustments made at Town Meeting will have on the various departments whose budgets were affected. It will also cover town procedures regarding right-to-know requests for information. Remember, we'd like to hear from you and if there are issues you'd like to see addressed in this column, please send them along. You can find Selectmen's email addresses on the town website under "Selectmen" at www.richmond.nh.gov. And snail mail works too - send to 105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond, NH 03470.

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- Board of Selectmen:** J.C. Boudreau,
Sandra Gillis, 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**EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE ■ 9-1-1**

- Selectmen —239-4232
- Town Clerk —239-6202
- Tax Collector —239-6106

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