



The voters of West Bath elected Suzanne Andresen to the Board of Selectmen as Peter Oceretko steps down after 9 years of service to the Board. Ashleigh Randall was reelected to serve the West Bath School Board of Directors.

2020 Dog Licenses are now available. By State law, all dog owners must renew licenses by January 31st. A \$25 late fee will be assessed beginning February 1st. Licensing may be done at Town Hall or online at www.westbath.org under the link for "online services".

2020 Snowmobile registrations are now available and may also be done in person or online.

Residents can stay informed on upcoming meetings and events by requesting weekly email notifications by emailing ownclerk@westbath.org or by "following" the Town of West Bath on Facebook.

- Karly Perry, Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters

THE MIDDLE GROUND
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We publish researched historical materials, local news and events that may be of later historical interest. We don't print advertising, gossip or political opinion. To offer news items, historical photos or documents, or FMI, contact Amy (389.4498) or Kerry (443.5118)

THE MIDDLE GROUND
West Bath Historical Society
PO Box 394
Bath, Maine 04530



Bill Bellows was a long time resident of West Bath, who passed away on the 4th of July this summer. What a better day to honor the life of a true war hero who was a combat pilot in WWII. Here, he is seen with his flying buddies during the war in Europe. His life is celebrated in detail on page 4 inside.

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

FALL 2019 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE IN WEST BATH!

Many of you are receiving our newsletter, **The Middle Ground**, for the very first time! We are mailing this issue to all residents of our town as a holiday greeting and with the hopes that you might be interested in joining us in celebrating town history, then and now. We welcome your involvement.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WEST BATH HISTORY TALK AT PATTEN FREE LIBRARY: FEBRUARY 8

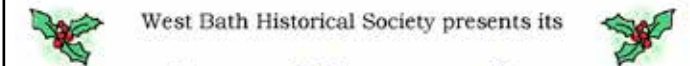
Mark this date! Donald Bruce of Berry's Mill Road will be giving a talk as part of the PFL's annual Town History Series. **"What's in a name?: an historical perspective on place names in West Bath"** will explore the history and offer some fascinating stories about the names of today's roads and places that we all take for granted but really have no idea, for the most part, of how they came about. Bruce will talk about 15 or so West Bath areas, complete with pictures, old and new. There will be lots of surprises. For instance, how did "Witch Spring Hill" get its name? Did you know that the New Meadows used to be called "Steven's River" in the 1800s? What about Winnegance? Where did that name come from? Come take your seat in the Community Room at the Patten Free Library at 10:30 on Saturday Feb 8 to find out. ■



WEST BATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:

West Bath's **Evelyn Dunphy**, already a widely acclaimed water color artist, is going global! On November 22, a video featuring Evelyn will air "live" in the US. See story on page 2.

The **Nelson** family featured on News Center Maine, WCSH 6 in October on about their experiences with the devastating effects of Lyme disease. See story on page 3.



Annual Community Christmas Service & Carol Sing



Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm

OLD WEST BATH MEETING HOUSE

680 Berry's Mill Road, West Bath

Service led by Rev. Stephanie Batterman

Open to all. Donations welcome. Light refreshments.
FMI 443-5907

LOCAL ARTIST FEATURED IN ART VIDEO

West Bath's Evelyn Dunphy, already a widely acclaimed water color artist, is going global! On November 22, a video featuring Evelyn will air "live" in the US.

The art film was produced and directed by Graeme Stevenson, CEO and founder of "Put Colour in Your Life", an art video company from Australia which films artists around the world. The crew came to Evelyn's studio in West Bath on September 7th to create a video of her in the process of painting a large watercolor of Katahdin.

"This was their first East Coast tour", says Evelyn, "and they filmed five artists; one from Pennsylvania, one from Connecticut, two from Massachusetts and one from Maine - me!"

CIYL is currently broadcast to millions of people on TV stations and online networks. The show airs on stations in at least thirteen countries including the UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands, Canada, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Spain and Switzerland. "We are reaching hundreds of thousands of subscribers on social networking platforms across the internet and we have tens of millions of views on YouTube alone", says Stevenson.

Graeme Stevenson, an accomplished artist himself, started his art show locally in a small town in Australia in 2011, after witnessing the effects the Global Financial Crisis had on the art world. "Art and what it does for our society is incredibly important to the spirit and souls of all that see it," he insists. "Galleries were closing all over the place and at the same time the internet was getting more powerful."

The driving vision for the show is quite ambitious: "to build a library of the minds of artists to preserve a digital record of creative spirit, culture and techniques for future generations." He had no idea it would lead him to travel the globe, be in front of over 100 million viewers worldwide and to receive an Order of Australia Medal in 2017.

Ed. note: To watch the video, go to Evelyn's website: <https://www.evelyndunphy.com> ■



This photo is the completed version of the three iterations that Evelyn created during the actual filming. First, she started with just a drawing on stretched paper. Then she painted the mountain and middle ground. Then, the water reflections and sky. The last details were painted in the work pictured here, at the end of the video. . All will be included in Dunphy's Open Studio at 596 Fosters Point Road, West Bath, December 7th from 10 - 4 and December 8th, from 1- 4. Evelyn will donate 20% of all proceeds to the Children's Hunger "Backpack" program and the Morse High School Homeless Teens program.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING GOES TO WEST BATH SCHOOL

As part of West Bath Historical Society's tradition of community service, all of this season's Christmas Service offering will be donated to a deserving local non-profit. This year, as last, all monies collected will be going to the West Bath School Food Pantry, which provides nutritious and often fresh food to West Bath students and their families. Administered by school guidance counselor Allison Cosgrove, the food pantry is in a separate space within the school and can be used by any student or family member.

Approximately 15 students are currently served through the program, which is open to all West Bath students, up to age 17, and their families. The pantry is open Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 to 9:30, and any other school day by appointment. (Call 443.9145 or visit the school's website.) There is no proof of residency required and no limits on the foods taken. Produce comes from the Good Shepherd food bank, and is supplemented by purchased food covered by donations (such as that from the WBHS); monies from the Back Pack program, and grants such as one just donated by Walmart. "We welcome the opportunity to be able to help this important program," says WBHS president, Amy Wesson. ■

CHRISTMAS IN WEST BATH!

The holiday season is 'a-coming in', and once again, the West Bath Historical Society will be hosting our Annual Community Christmas Service and Carol Sing at the Old West Bath Meeting House. It will be held on Tuesday, December 17 at 7 pm.

This year's ecumenical service will once again be led by The Rev. Deacon Stephanie Batterman, whose topic this year will be "Transforming our Christmas Traditions." Old familiar carols will be sung, backed by music from our historic pump organ. There will be six readings by community members, including passages from the bible, poetry readings, a Buddhist prayer and a Native American prayer for peace.

Come and embrace the holiday spirit, enjoy some spirited singing, and gather afterward for hot cider and assorted homemade sweets. To contribute to the sweets table, call Leah Zartarian at 443.5907 ■

WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY GREETING CARDS

We now have several commemorative greeting cards for sale, all celebrating our two historical buildings, the Old West Bath Meeting House and the Littlefield School. There are three cards depicting the Meeting House. The fall color card is printed from a watercolor painting donated in 2006 by Evelyn Dunphy. The original still hangs in the Meeting House. An original pen and ink sketch, which has had holiday wreath clipart added to it, was donated by Bath artist Pat Shannon in 2001. The snow scene is printed from a photograph taken last winter and was donated by Jay Pappas. The Littlefield School note card is from an original pen and ink sketch donated by Frank Roberts in 2008.

The cards will be available at the Christmas Service, as well as at Bath Printing Company, 44 Front Street, Bath. The proceeds will benefit WBHS programs and projects. They make great holiday, or thank-you, note cards. And you will be contributing to a great cause! ■



All cards for sale!

WEST BATH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Named to the University of Maine Dean's list for the spring 2019 semester: **Conner Bennoch, Baylie Cram, Caiden Fraser, and Sarah Meyer-Waldo;** and for the University of Maine, Farmington, **Brittany Smith, Melissa Wittaker and Molly Maurer.**

Southern Maine Community College named **Sarah Whitney** and **Hannah LeClerc** while Cedarville University named **Joshua Horne.**

Husson University honored **Alesha M. Aucoin,** and at Tufts University, **Virginia Hinchman** was on the spring dean's list.

In May, **Morgan Quigg** graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art history. ■

WEST BATH PRODUCER CREATES SOAP OPERA HIT: "Scandal, intrigue and salaciousness fifteen minutes at a time!"

"Restless Shores" is a podcast soap opera produced right here in West Bath. Marsha Hinton is the founder, producer and chief bottle washer for what is basically the first podcast "Soap" in the digital universe.

"We are the first; there aren't any more like us out there right now, and we are kicking butt in the podcast sphere without big names, a marketing team, or deep pockets. We're on several different podcast hosts, so it is easy for fans to access," boasts Marsha. "It is a little confusing for folks because we aren't what you think of when you mention 'podcast.' We don't have guests, we have cliff hangers; we don't discuss topics, we have original scripts."

After the first episode dropped, word spread like wildfire in the voice acting community, and she was getting applications from voice actors from all over the country. "We can brag that we now have downloads in every continent except Antarctica. On November 5 we broke into the top 100 on Apple Podcasts, and on November 7 we passed 10,000 downloads worldwide in just 296 days. We are getting more than 100 downloads a day. We are number one in Fiji, while Seoul is consistently in the top five download cities. We are now listened to in 44 countries. Not bad for a soap opera run out of a living room in West Bath!"

One young man from Topsham is doing his high school senior report on voice acting and will be spending some time with the crew doing his research.

Marsha uses all local Maine talent, and current has nineteen actors under contract. Some of them are involved in local community theatre work. For many, though, this is the first time they have ever performed. The actors range from Bowdoin professors to blacksmiths, amateur standup comedians to retirees, professional wrestlers to college students. They range in age from 17 to 70.

The story surrounds a billion-dollar pharmaceutical company and the family (Roupp) that runs it. Shenanigans ensue. Episodes are short – under 15 minutes and are hilarious and campy. It's tagline: Scandal, intrigue and salaciousness fifteen minutes at a time.

"It isn't the lack of interest in soap operas that is the problem with the decline in daytime televised soap operas. Given our huge success, I think it is the broadcast medium and society in general that has changed. No one is home anymore to watch television during the day, but with a podcast they can listen anywhere, any time." Marsha said.

Fans can visit the website, www.restless-shores.com for more information about on the cast and crew as well as award-winning writer, Greg Tu-lonen. A new episode "drops" (i.e., released) each Thursday at midnight.

"The concept was originally mine," concludes Marsha, "but Greg, our writer, has run with the story-line since then. Even I don't always know what will happen next until I read the script!" ■



Cast members for Restless Shores. Photo courtesy of Marsha Hintonew



Fall is the season for celebrating the harvest, including plenty of pumpkins and cranberries.

Here are two sweet solutions for cooking up the abundance of both to enjoy the holidays.

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Crust: 1 cup graham cracker crumbs, a dash of sugar and nutmeg; ¼ cup melted butter.

Filling: 12 oz. cream cheese, softened, ¾ cup sugar, 1-½ tbs. flour, ¾ tsp both grated lemon & orange peel, ¼ tsp vanilla, 2 whole eggs & 2 egg yolks, 1 cup canned pumpkin.

Topping: 1-1/2 cups sour cream, 2 tbs. sugar, ½ tsp vanilla, mixed well.

Mix crumbs and butter & press into 9" pie plate. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350. Make filling, beating mixture at medium speed until well combined. Pour into crust & bake 35-40 minutes. Remove to cool slightly. Spread on the topping & return to oven for 10 more minutes. Cool before serving.

Cranberry Dessert

In a 10-inch pie pan, spread 2 cups fresh cranberries, 2/3 cup sugar & ½ cup coarsely chopped nuts (pecans are particularly good.) Beat 2 eggs & gradually add 1 cup sugar. Then stir in 1 cup flour & ¾ cup melted butter. Pour over cranberries & bake about 1 hour in 300 degree oven. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream. *Note:* this is very rich and will serve 8 people. Top does not get overly brown; just be sure the crust is firm. ■

NELSON FAMILY FEATURED ON NEWS CENTER MAINE, WCSH 6, TO SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH LYME DISEASE

On October 31 on the evening news on local TV station, News Center Maine, Kerry Nelson and daughter Elizabeth, both of whom are Lyme sufferers, were featured and interviewed about their experiences with the devastating effects of Lyme disease. It was part of a story about the development of a new rapid test for Lyme that may help with early diagnosis and treatment.

Elizabeth has suffered from Lyme disease and co-infections since birth, but she was 14 when her serious symptoms finally led to a firm diagnosis. "I didn't think this disease would essentially take away my childhood," said Elizabeth. It has made her a fierce advocate for Lyme awareness.

In the news segment, both stressed the importance of early detection that this new medical test might offer. The Nelsons have long been advocating for Lyme awareness, and mostly through Elizabeth's efforts, have created a family project that has so far distributed a Lyme Resource Card to healthcare providers of all kinds throughout Maine, as well as to eight other states and areas of Canada and Spain. The cards have also been sent to all Maine schools, libraries, summer camps, Maine Wardens, sportsmen's alliances, and many businesses and organizations that have employees or members who are at risk of contracting the infections.

To date, over 33,000 cards are in circulation. ■



Top: Vivien Leigh, News Center Maine, interviews Elizabeth Nelson
Below: Elizabeth and Kerry, Lyme Project



TEST FOR LYME ON THE HORIZON

ARTWORK DONATED TO WB HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This fall, Jay Pappas from West Bath donated a stunning color photograph of the Old West Bath Meeting House that he took on a shining snow-covered day last winter.



While not a professional photographer, Jay has a long background in radio and television. "The snow and the light were perfect that day. I think I have an eye for composition because of my TV experience," he tells **The Middle Ground**. In fact, he took the photo with his smart phone!

Pappas and his wife Linda moved to West Bath in 2009 from Ohio, following his long teaching and administrative career at Ashland University. He was an instructor in the radio/TV department, where he was, among other teaching duties, responsible for the school's radio station. He also freelanced for many years, doing radio and TV commercials, voice overs, and promotional films. He and Linda were first introduced to Maine through friends who had a camp outside of Skowhegan, where the couple also bought a camp in 1993. One of his daughters now teaches at Morse High, which brought them to this area where they built a home on Brown's Ferry Road.

He has long admired the work that the WBHS does in the community and, for several years, he has been a reader at the Annual Christmas Service at the Meeting House. "I felt that if I could donate this photo for the Society to use in any beneficial way, that would be a good thing." Indeed, Jay's photo is being reproduced in note cards that will be available for sale at the Christmas Service. ■

CROSSING THE BAR



William M. Bellows, 96, of Ellsworth (formerly West Bath) died on July 4. Born on November 23, 1922 in Providence, RI, Bill was the first child of Dana Read Bellows and Letitia Price Bellows. He graduated from Moses Brown School, Amherst College Class of '44, and Tufts University. He joined the Army Air Corps shortly after Pearl Harbor and served as a combat pilot flying a B-24 "Liberator" in Europe.

Herbert Bailey Lilly Jr., 73, died Thursday May 16. Born in Woolwich in his grandparents' home, he worked for 42 years at the Bath Iron Works and, in his prime, also enjoyed lobstering, sailing and spending summers in the family's cottage in Birch Point. He was predeceased by his wife, **Sandra "Dawn" Newcomb** and is survived by his three daughters and numerous grandchildren.

Darlene "Squawzie" Alexander, 69, passed away May 18 at her Fosters Point home surrounded by her loving family. She married **John K Alexander** in 1980, and before that was a dedicated employee at the Chuck Wagon restaurant in Brunswick. She then went on to earn several culinary certifications, and worked with Bowdoin College and Head Start Program for many years. She graduated from Southern New Hampshire University in 2005 and taught in the Bath School System until her 2017 retirement. She was predeceased by her husband, but is survived by her daughter, her father, several nieces and nephews and two grandchildren.

John Leif Jorgensen, 93, died at home in Phippsburg on June 12. Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, he came to the United States in 1951 as assistant to the Military Attache of the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington DC. He then moved to New York City and then to Maine in 1957, the same year he became an American citizen. He settled in Arrowsic and worked in several managerial positions through the years. He is survived by his wife, Karen Stevens Jorgensen, his daughter, **Jenny Jorgensen** and her husband, **John Van Orden** of West Bath. He is also survived by many other relatives in both the United States and Denmark.

Monica L. Cloutier, 59, of Topsham, died July 6 at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston after a long illness. She grew up in Bowdoinham and was a high honor graduate of Mt. Ararat High School. She worked as an Administrative assistant for many years and was a long term member of the Topsham Fire Ladies Auxiliary. Among her survivors are her daughter and son-in-law, **Amanda & Jason Downing** of West Bath.

Logan Clifford Sewall, 34, of Bath, passed away July 15 after a long battle with drug addiction. He attended Bath Schools and worked for John Ater, Gilmore's Seafood, and M. W. Sewall's. He is survived by his father, **Mark Sewall** & his wife **Lisa**, his brother **Zack** and his girlfriend **Danyelle Layton** all of West Bath, and many other relatives and friends.



He was active in the Mid-coast Jazz Society and formed a local band, the Ark Angels, and also hosted a popular jazz radio show for many years. He was also a key member of the WB Historical Society Board, from its inception. Bill and Lou later retired to the Highlands of Topsham where Bill used to give readings to his fellow residents.

Avery Hunt remembers: This is a personal story. For his many long-time friends and large extended family, Bill Bellows was a very special man who led a long and fulfilling life, as his family's obituary lovingly documents. But for me, that specialness has another meaning as well. A decorated pilot fighting in the heat of the European theatre during WWII, Bill survived critical bombing missions. Germany. Poland. Italy. He often had close air combat support from flight crews of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He shared war memories with me, which he remembered with vivid clarity, for a history story I wrote for the **Middle Ground** in 2013 and also a longer feature story on Bill and his experiences for the November Veteran's issue of Maine Seniors magazine (Nov, 2013).

Bill and Lou retired to West Bath in 1986, to a rambling old farm house on Foster's Point, where he became involved in many local activities, including the Mid Coast Jazz Society. I met him in 2005 when I joined the West Bath Historical Society. He was a founding Board member, and still very involved.

My husband Don and I became fast friends of Lou and Bill. There was a special connection between the guys as Don had been a decorated fighter pilot in Vietnam. There were many war stories swapped between the two over a late night glass or two of Bourbon!

Fast forward to 2008. Don was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, triggered, it was thought, by the stress of the 199 combat missions he flew in Vietnam, although he never admitted that. We were in Arizona for the winter, which is the home of the "graveyard" of decommissioned war planes, now a tourist destination, at Davis-Monthan Air Force base in Tucson. West Bath's Pete Guild, another WBHS alum, was also in Tucson that winter, and one day, Pete took him to that site. Sadly, Don did not even recognize his own old Phantom F-4, which was sitting boldly on the tarmac.

I emailed Bill to let him know, and, to cheer me up, he sent back his own memories: "The present plane graveyard in Tucson was Davis-Monthan Field in mid-1944. Our crew trained there in July and August. Several crew members would hop the pool fence of the snazzy Conquistador [hotel] en route from partying in Tucson back to the base. I was the designated driver every time. No more sober but still careful. The others never complained." When Don's condition worsened, Bill would sometimes visit him in the hospital and always asked after him with concern. It was a kindness I will never forget.

Piper Jean McKim was born at Mid Coast Hospital on April 3 to **Tyler Carl & Mackenzie Lynn (Tibbetts) McKim** of West Bath.

Also born at Mid Coast was **Maddox Nathan Kramer** to Taylor Anne Pinkham & Kevin Nathan Kramer on May 16; his maternal grandmother is **Tracy Renaud** of West Bath.

On July 25, **Caroline Kathleen Estes** was born at Mid-Coast Hospital to Abigail (Weeks) & Saben Timothy Estes. Her paternal grandparents are **Glenda & Peter Lamarre and Timothy & Ling Estes** of West Bath.

Brayden Matt True was also born there on August 29 to Derek Winter & Nichole Amanda True of Bowdoinham. Among his great grandparents are **Felix Small & Diane Jellis** of West Bath.

Nancy Elaine Desjardins, 76 of Bath, died July 24. She attended Phippsburg schools and was employed at Winship Green as a CNA for many years. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, their spouses and a brother. Another brother, **James "Boone" Koehling** and his wife, **Linda** live in West Bath.

Robert "Bob" MacKinnon, 75, passed away on Aug 13 at home in his favorite spot overlooking the New Meadows River, surrounded by family. After summering in Bath for many years, he retired to West Bath in the early 1980s where he met and married his wife, **Darlene**. Earlier in life he was in automotive services and then then began his second career building aluminum gangways along the coast of Maine. He also built a lobster cruising yacht on which he and his wife travelled extensively. Besides his wife and four daughters, including **Jean Ditrach** & her husband **Craig**. He also leaves behind two sisters, **Jean Lockhart** and **Marylyn Tomajan** of West Bath, seven grandchildren, nieces, a nephew and an extended family of in-laws and lifetime friends.

Martha Jane Adams, 83, passed away on Aug 22 after a courageous 18-month battle with cancer. She met and married **Robert Adams** and they made their home in Bath until they built a home on the family camp site at Sabino in 1978. She was very involved with the Sabino Hall and served as President of the Sabino Improvement Association for many years. She enjoyed a long career as Assistant to the Director of Alumni Relations at Bowdoin College where she made many lifelong friends and was a constant at the hockey games. On retiring she stayed very busy; in summers, she joined Bob lobstering on the New Meadows and playing golf with the ladies at the Bath Country Club. She was predeceased by her husband in 2014 but is survived by a daughter, **Sandra Waters** and her partner **Roger Dalton** of West Bath, a son and many grandchildren and great grandchildren who were all the joys of her life.

Diane Reno, 77, died Sept 26 at Mid Coast Hospital surrounded by her husband of 62 years, **Lawrence A Reno Sr.**, and her loving family. She was the family matriarch, an avid Tom Brady fan, and family historian. **Diane** was predeceased by one daughter, **Peggy Ann**, two sons **Richard Allen** and **Robert Douglas**, as well as a brother and sister. Besides her husband, she is survived by four children: **Stephen C. Renaud** & his wife **Tracy** of West Bath, **Kathy Lavalley** & her husband **Daniel, Debbie Vigue** & her husband **Timothy**, all of West Bath, and **Lawrence ("Buddy") A. Renaud** & his wife **Maria**, of Harpswell, former of West Bath., as well as eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Beverly A. Stilphen, 85, died Oct 8 at Mid Coast Hospital. For most of her life, she was in the restaurant business as a server, manager and owner. She was predeceased by her parents, several brothers and sisters and a grandson. She leaves behind 5 sons and two daughters, one of whom is **Cheri Gilley** and her husband, **William** of West Bath, as well as two sisters, including **Janet King** of West Bath, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

CHANNEL
BUOYS
BIRTHS

