

Senior Grapevine

November 2012

Thanksgiving Day is an American institution, but the concept of thanksgiving is as old as civilized man. A number of people who came to the American wilderness before the Pilgrims in 1620 held religious observances of thanksgiving, more in gratitude for their safe arrival than for a bountiful harvest. That said, the thanksgiving celebration by the Pilgrims in 1623 is one that we Americans think of when we observe our Thanksgiving Day. What matters is that we share with family and friends thanks for the many blessings we have.

To our seniors and all others in the community, a Happy Thanksgiving from Polly and Nan at the Claire Teague Senior Center.

Contact Information

Polly Mann, Director email: pmann@townofgb.org

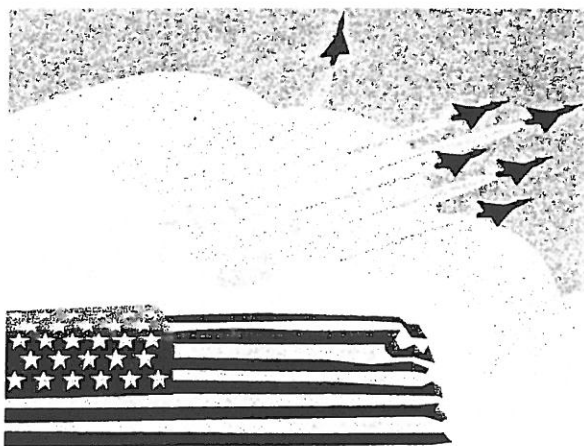
Nan Schuler, Administrative Assistant email: nschuler@townofgb.org

Senior Center: 413-528-1881 Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-3:30pm

Dining Room/Reservations & Cancellations 413-528-4118

Website: www.greatbarringtonseniors.org

Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation 413-528-4773



VETERAN'S DAY IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH.

FOR ALL OF OUR FREEDOMS, FOR WHICH OUR BRAVE
SOLDIERS RISK THEIR LIVES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR
SINCEREST, HEARTFELT THANKS.

THE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12 IN
OBSERVANCE OF VETERAN'S DAY.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS:

REMEMBER.....

to turn your clocks one (1) hour back on

Sunday, November 4, 2012

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 22

Claire Teague Senior Center is CLOSED

Many thanks to Great Barrington Rehab for the ice cream and lottery tickets donated to our Birthday Luncheon Celebration on the first Wednesday of the month

.....and to Price Shopper for their continued support and donation of delicious baked goods of breads, muffins, cakes and cookies delivered to us by Ray every Tuesday and Thursday

.....to Katie, David and Cara from Fairview Commons for hosting and serving the free and absolutely delicious chicken pot pie luncheon with homemade biscuits and sock hop with live music and dancing to celebrate Halloween on October 25th

.....to Corre and Denise from Laurel Lake Center for Health and Rehabilitation for the tasty 3-course spaghetti dinner with live music on October 10th

..... to Sara , representative from Berkshire Community Action Council for the very informative and helpful workshop on the fuel assistance program

..... to Cindy Croce from the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association for having the popular flu clinic on October 25th and as well, her monthly blood pressure clinics on the fourth Friday of the month

.....to Sandra Sokul for the beautiful handcrafted greeting cards and Linda Warner for the creative and adorable gifts for our birthday recipients each month

.....and as always to our kitchen ladies who keep us well fed with great meals including dessert!

Upcoming Winter-time Events

NEW! CURRENT EVENTS LECTURE SERIES

Peter Martin of Sheffield will be addressing pertinent current events with lectures starting at 12:15pm every Tuesday in November in the Resource Room at the Center. Issues are relevant to seniors and is a very interesting and worthwhile talk.

Wednesdays in November...Genealogy Workshop

Great News! Our Genealogy Workshop is returning to the Center with Steve Strommer heading up the class. Sessions will be limited to two per month per person to allow for larger attendance at this workshop. Please call for your one-hour appointment at 9, 10, or 11 am beginning November 7th.

Wednesday, November 7th...New York State Museum at Albany

Fairview Commons is sponsoring a field trip for us. The group of 14 will meet at 8am at the Center and travel by SBETC van to the Cracker Barrel restaurant and gift shop for breakfast and then on to Albany to the museum to view the World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery Exhibit. We will end the day on a ride on the 1912 carousel. The cost of the trip is \$5 per person plus money for breakfast. Call Polly to see if there are any cancellations so you can take the trip also.

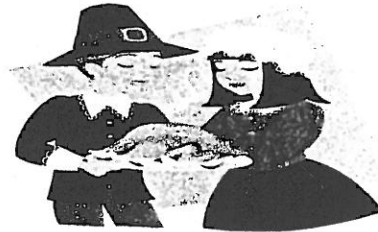
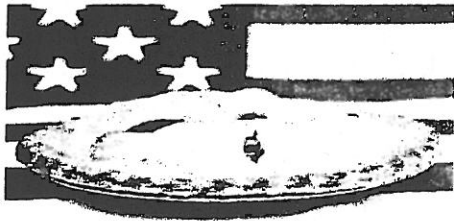
Thursday, November 8th...Homeowner Options for MA Elders

This program will be held at 10:00am at the Center to provide financial advice and guidance to elders who reside in their residence in Massachusetts, have low or moderate income, and are 60 years of age. Advice on ways to pay for day-to-day living expenses, unexpected property expenses, and suggested options to relieve the financial burden that seniors experience will be discussed.

Tuesday, November 13th...

Can't afford supplemental health insurance?

You may be eligible for the Health Safety Net. To find out more, Benefits Specialist Octavio Hernandez from Community Health Program will be speaking about this coverage at 10am.



Monday, November 19th...Apple Pie Contest

& Pilgrim Journey with Sue Farnum

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Senior bakers! Bake your very best and most delicious apple pie to enter into the contest at 10:30am. The judges will award a prize for their chosen pie and all pies will be served as dessert at our Luncheon that day.

Monday, November 19th...Monthly Lunch Bunch Outing

Due to Veteran's Day, the Lunch Bunch will be enjoying their Luncheon at the Village on the Green Restaurant and Pizzeria in Sheffield at 11:30am.

Tuesday, November 20th...Hospice's "5 Wishes"

Get answers to your most personal questions, and guidance with your end of life decisions and final directives at 10am.

FREE Thanksgiving Day Dinner

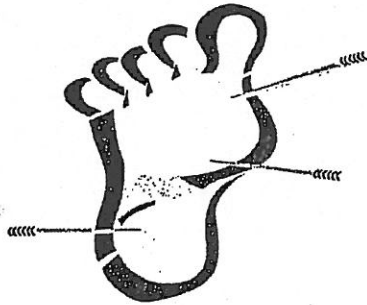
The First Congregational Church on Main Street will once again be cooking and delivering Thanksgiving dinners. If you are not able to prepare Thanksgiving dinner or will not be with family or friends this Thanksgiving Day, we would like to prepare and deliver a meal to you. Applications for the dinners will be in the Dining Room at the Center. Please complete it and give it to Polly by November 15th. If you have a question, call Grace 528-0230.

Important News

Berkshire Community Action Council

Fuel Assistance

Great News! On October 15th, Sara, representative from BCAC/fuel assistance program will be available in their new office here in Great Barrington. New applicants can call 528-1947 for an appointment between 8am-4pm. New applicants should send completed applications to BCAC at 1531 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. If they need more information from you, they will contact you.



Jane Kelley, Foot Clinic at the Center

Jane Kelley, our Foot Nurse sees our seniors twice a month here at the Center but also treats patients in their home. Often, seniors require specially fitted shoes because of painful conditions. In her efforts to help these seniors afford custom shoes, Jane founded the Kelley Therapeutic Shoe Fund through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. If you need help purchasing these shoes, applications can be obtained through the Foundation at 229-0370.

As Time Goes By.....

A Monthly Commentary on Local and Other Historical
Events of interest and Note By *David Rutstein*

Part II: Nancy Davis Reagan

To continue on in this presidential election year of 2012, the October *Grapevine* commented on the story of former Pittsfield, MA resident Mary Hulbert Peck who because of social and political concerns of that time, could not marry the president of the United States. Thus, Edith Bolling Galt, and not Mary Peck, was to marry President Woodrow Wilson in 1915 as his second wife. However, another woman with Pittsfield connections, decades later, would become the First Lady.

Many of us living in the Berkshires can remember the first Colonial Theater on South Street. This theater had a stage run of 49 years between 1903 and 1952. It then became the Miller Supply Company. A few years ago, after a major restoration effort, the Colonial Theater is once again alive and well staging live entertainment.

During the years of the original first theater, it hosted such stars as Ethel Barrymore, William Gillette, Maude Adams, Billie Burke, Anna Held, and of course Edith Lockett.

Ms. Lockett may not be remembered today, but she was very popular with Pittsfield audiences from 1912-1916. Her face even graced the cover of a 1912 Colonial Theater program.

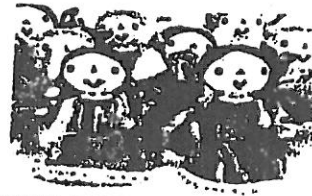
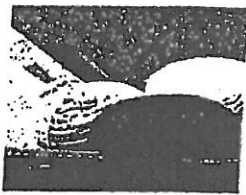
During her acting years in Pittsfield, Edith Lockett was a member of two local resident companies: the William Parke Stock Company and the Pittsfield Players. She was described as a talented actress as well as being a very beautiful looking woman.

In 1916, Edith Lockett married Kenneth Seymour Robbins who was born in Pittsfield. He was living at 31 Brenton Terrace and worked for the Berkshire Life Insurance Company and was a vice-president of W. E. Tillotson Company, a textile mill in Pittsfield. In this same year of 1916, the newly married couple moved to New York city.

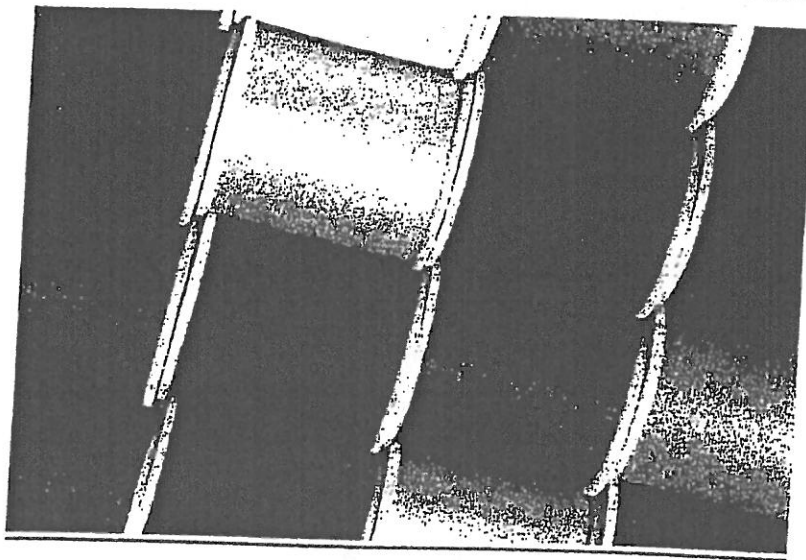
They had one daughter named Anne Frances Robbins. She later became known as "Nancy." Nancy's parents divorced and in 1929 Edith married Dr. Loyal Davis, a neurosurgeon, and Nancy was adopted by him.

Nancy Davis became a film actress and married another actor, Ronald Reagan in 1952. When her husband became president, Nancy became the First Lady of the nation and thus Pittsfield was able to finally claim a First Lady status with this important connection.



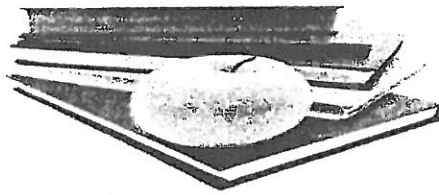


HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOP



MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

REMINDER...OUR HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOP
HERE AT THE CENTER WILL AGAIN BE
OPEN THIS YEAR AND WE INVITE YOU
TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR DONATED
HOLIDAY ITEMS. GET YOUR HANDS
BUSY WITH CRAFTING AND CREATE
SOME WONDERFUL LOVELY THINGS!



Center Book Club...beginning December 17th

Our Book Club is growing and we have a new leader! Grace Zbell will be heading up the Club and she has a new and exciting agenda. Grace invites you to sign up in the Dining Room to attend the monthly meeting on the 3rd Monday in our new Resource Room.

**Reminder.....Please call 528-4118
Lunch Reservations or Lunch Cancellations at
the Center.**

Exciting News at the Center !

Our former Computer Room is experiencing a renovation and soon will be dubbed "The Resource Room for South Berkshire Seniors". Resource materials in English and Spanish will be available as well as two WEB enhanced computer systems.

Important Medicare Information from Joan Ury, SHINE Representative

Medicare Drug Plan Changes in 2013

Most of you know that this is open enrollment time (October 15- December 7) for the Medicare drug plans (Part D) and Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C). It is very important that you look at your current plan to see if there are any changes in the monthly premium, drug restrictions, drugs covered or co-payments. You can do that by either reading the information sent to you by your plan or going to the medicare.gov website and checking the information on the drug plan finder.

If you want to continue with your current plan, you don't have to do anything but if you want to switch now is the time. We still have 30 Part D plans in Massachusetts, but six plans from 2012 have been discontinued and six new plans are being offered. The discontinued plans are: **Community CCRX, Community CCRx Choice, Health Net Orange Option 1, Health Net Option Orange 2, Wellcare Signature and Bravo Rx**. If you are in one of those plans, you may be automatically switched to another plan but it may not be the best one for you! Individuals in any of the discontinued plans have an extra enrollment time from January 1 – February 28, 2013.

Medicare rates plans from one to five stars. Unfortunately, there are no five star plans offered this year. However, there is one plan **Medicare Rx Rewards Standard**, that has received a rating of less than three stars for the past three years, so you cannot enroll online in that plan and if you are in it you will be allowed to switch out of it anytime during the year.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) has added a few changes to the drug plans. In addition to allowing people to switch out of low performing plans and switch into five star plans anytime during the year, it has also lowered the amount you pay in the donut hole a little more this year. The donut hole will be totally gone by 2020. It is also requiring all drug plans to cover benzodiazepines (Lorazepam, Clonazepam, Xanax etc.) and some barbiturates which were not covered at all in previous years.

Understanding the drug plans can be very confusing. There are many variables and things change every year. So, if you need help please contact a Shine counselor either here at the senior center or through Elder Services in Pittsfield.

Monday Movies for November

Movies on Mondays

Join us at noon
in the library.

Monday, November 5th – Paper Moon

Monday, November 12th – CLOSED FOR VETERAN'S DAY

Monday, November 19th – The Red Shoes

Monday, November 26th – Sunset Boulevard

Paper Moon

1973 **PG** 102 minutes

A con man (Ryan O'Neal) and his precocious "daughter" (Tatum O'Neal, in an Oscar-winning role as Best Supporting Actress) grift their way across the heartland of depression-era America in director Peter Bogdanovich's nostalgic look at the 1930s. As the two try desperately to scrounge up enough money to live on, their "father/daughter relationship" soon becomes a business partnership when they realize they need each other for survival.

The Red Shoes

1948 **NR** 133 minutes

Fledgling ballerina Victoria falls in love with brilliant composer Julian while they collaborate on a ballet that makes her a star. But overbearing company owner Boris, jealous of their love, fires Julian and forbids Victoria from performing.

Sunset Boulevard

1950 **NR** 110 minutes

Running from debt collectors, screenwriter Joe Gillis stumbles upon the crumbling mansion of former silent-film star Norma Desmond. As he begins penning a comeback screenplay for her, their professional relationship evolves into something more.

AND NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR "THEATRE"

AIR POPPED POPCORN!

S.B.E.T.C

(Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Company)

If you live in Great Barrington
and need a ride to the Election
Polls on Tuesday, November 6,
please call 528-4773.

