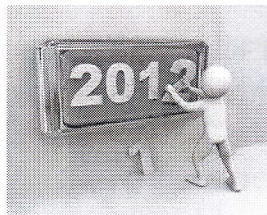




Windham News & Notes

Volume IX, Issue IV

Jan/Feb 2012



Save the Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2012, Annual Town Meeting *By Edith Serke*

Although there will be one more issue of the Windham News and Notes prior to Town Meeting this is an advance notice of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, always on the first Tuesday of March, at the Meeting House. At this writing, there is only one person not seeking reelection and that is on the Select Board: Walter Woodruff has decided not to seek reelection, and is retiring after thirty years. Other openings are as follow:

- Lister, 3 year term, incumbent Jerry Dyke
- Auditor, 3 year term, incumbent Virginia Crittenden
- Constable, 2 year term, incumbent Billie Jean Van Alstyne
- Tax Collector, 1 year term, incumbent Ernest Friedli
- Grand Juror, 1 year term, incumbent James A. Scott
- Town Agent, 1 year term, incumbent Michael Pelton
- Windham Center Cemetery Commission, 5 year term, incumbent Heath Boyer
- Windham Center Cemetery Commission, to 2016
- West Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 year term, incumbent Peter Newton
- North Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 year term, incumbent Carol Merritt
- Library Trustees, 5 year term, incumbent Beverly Carmichael
- Windham School Directors, 3 year term, incumbent Elizabeth McDonald

There are also a number of appointed positions, to be filled by the Select Board at the first meeting after Town Meeting.

There will also be a number of requests from non-profit organizations serving Windham residents to come before Town Meeting.

We have just learned that Presidential Primary Elections will be held at Meeting House from 10AM to 7PM on the same day.

Lest you think the Town Meeting is all business and no fun, don't forget the potluck lunch served either during a break in the proceedings or at the end, depending on how efficiently the business is transacted. Remember, the Town Meeting is an opportunity to really participate in the democratic process of running the Town. Hopefully you will all attend. More in the next issue of News and Notes, for March/April. Also, by then you should have received your copy of the 2011 Town Report from the Town Auditors.

Select Board News *by Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer and Walt Woodruff*

The road work to put us back in shape after Irene is complete and documentation has been submitted to the Federal Department of Transportation, FEMA, and VTrans for maximum reimbursements. We expect these various sources to cover about 85% of our costs, leaving us within the neighborhood of \$50,000 to cover on our own.

Experiencing Irene has resulted in our taking a more serious look at disaster relief in Windham. We were fortunate compared with many of the towns in close proximity to us. Our altitude worked in our favor this time but we might not be so lucky in a different kind of disaster. In the hopes of stimulating community interest in this important issue we have appointed two people to be Co-Directors of Emergency Management: Imme Maurath and Heath Boyer. They have an accompanying article in this issue which we hope you will all read and we encourage you to participate in any way you can.

As the holidays close we turn our attention to the annual budget for presentation at Town Meeting. The budgeting process for 2012 is somewhat uncertain this year as a consequence of not knowing when disaster funds will be released.

Highway expenses are usually very high as we pass from one year to the next. But we are getting a welcome break this year. We know, you winter enthusiasts are all unhappy about the lack of snow but it can have a positive side.

Please accept our very best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season

PHYSICIAN JOINS GRACE COTTAGE

TOWNSHEND - Dr. Lynn Madsen has joined the medical staff of Grace Cottage Hospital and Grace Cottage Family Health.

A native of northern California, Dr. Madsen graduated from the University of California-Davis with a degree in biology. After obtaining her PhD in Psychology from the University of Minnesota, she was a psychologist in Minnesota for 19 years. In 2003, Dr. Madsen graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed her residency at Providence Milwaukee Hospital in Portland, Oregon, where she practiced until joining Grace Cottage. She currently resides in Dummerston, Vermont.

Dr. Madsen is Board Certified in Family Practice and sees patients of all ages. For more information or for an appointment, call 365-4331.

Regional Education District Study Committee

by Antje Ruppert

In accordance with Act 153 Voluntary School District Merger, the Windham Elementary School is currently participating in a study investigating the potential advantages and disadvantages of forming a REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT. Also involved in the study are the Jamaica, Townshend, Newfane and Brookline. The progress of the RED study can be followed and meeting schedule and documents accessed online at <http://www.windhamcentralboard.org/> under the option R.E.D. Committee in the left navigation bar. Public attendance at the meetings and/or personal input by contacting the members of the WES School Board is encouraged and appreciated.

Strong Living by Mary Boyer

The Strong Living Class meets twice a week for a twelve week exercise program designed by Tufts University. In the hour and fifteen minute program each participant does weight lifting at their own level, balancing and stretching exercises. This program has been a great success and has been ongoing for about eight years.

Ginny Crittenden and Mary Boyer are trained to instruct on the correct postures, breathing practices and choosing weights according to strength level. The class is informal and all are encouraged to join or drop in for the fun. Both ankle and hand weights are available and the class is free.

We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 and have a few spaces for new participants. If you are interested please call Ginny at 874-4049 or Mary at 875-5242.

IN MEMORIAM

Ingeborg M. Lingley—89, born in Munich, Germany Feb. 14, 1922. Passed on Dec. 18, 2011 at her home in Windham, Vermont in peace and is now with her beloved husband, John.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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last page.

THE WN&N TEAM

Dawn Bower

Mary Boyer

Bev Carmichael

Leila Erhardt

Imme Maurath

Mary McCoy

Gina Noel

Frank Seawright

Edith Serke

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who provided articles. Their names are noted with their submissions

Send articles of around 300 words to the address on last page. Email to:

windhamnews@hotmail.com

Next deadline

February 10, 2012

Emergency Planning with Imme Maurath and Heath Boyer

The Select Board recently appointed the two of us as co-Directors of Emergency Management for the Town of Windham. Some form of official Local Emergency Management is mandated by both the State of Vermont and the Federal Government. In the absence of a designated Emergency Management Director (EMD) the role defaults to the Town Manager or the Select Board Chair. Traditionally in many towns the default was to the Fire Chief; but recent changes in both law and policy have discouraged the use of that joint role because of the possibility of conflicting priorities in emergencies that might involve simultaneous declared disasters and structure fires.

The Town of Windham has had a Basic Emergency Plan in place since 2008 when we applied for matching grants to purchase an emergency generator for the School and Town Office. As a part of that process a group of volunteers also took two introductory courses in emergency management – one from the Red Cross and one from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) in the Incident Command System (ICS). At the time of these activities there was nationwide concern about a possible pandemic of influenza and the ways in which widespread disabling illness could affect daily life. With such a scenario in mind we also did a basic inventory of local resources and special needs to insure that we knew what we could do for ourselves and our neighbors in the event we became isolated or there was a widespread breakdown in general services.

It is important for us to emphasize that the key aspect of that original plan is “Basic.” Although we were diligent in filling out the forms, following the recipe for a plan, and in attending an introductory class or two in order to qualify for funding, virtually nothing more has been done to create a team of knowledgeable folks who can respond in a well-organized way if they are needed.

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, local, state and federal governments and agencies have been actively rethinking what disasters can look like in rural areas with rugged terrain and small, widely dispersed communities. It is a good time for us to join the experts as they take another look at what preparedness really means in our communities.

All emergency planning is done with the fervent hope that the plans will never be needed. Annual updating and occasional further training will be necessary, of course; but once a plan and a team are in place, the workload for those involved will decline sharply. As we begin the process of updating Windham’s emergency plans and taking stock of our resources in the event of several possible varieties of disaster, the town will need a team of volunteers who are willing to spend time on planning and training. As the team takes shape there will be a need for folks to accept specific roles and responsibilities. The article which appeared in the last issue about the Red Cross Shelter Training resulted in a number of people asking to be included when that training becomes available.

Our view is that there are three major components to emergency preparedness in Windham: the updating of Windham’s Emergency plan and the creating of a team; the Community Shelter Initiative (training by the Red Cross), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) (training done by the Sheriff’s department). Because of our small size we think it makes the most sense to bring all three of these areas into the Plan and manage them as parts of the whole.

(Continued next page)

Emergency Planning (Continued)

We would also like to address our second homeowner population. We are eager to include anyone with property in Windham who is interested in participating to any degree in these programs, and in particular, who may be willing to coach us in how best to include the non-resident community.

Contact either of us to express interest or to comment at :

hmboyer@vermontel.net - 875 -5242 or ism777oth@yahoo.com - 875 -1709

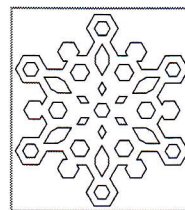
VAST – Vermont Association of Snow Travelers *by Bev Carmichael*

VAST is a non-profit organization with no affiliation with the federal or state government. It is made up entirely of volunteers with the exception of the office staff.

There are approximately 5,000 miles of interconnecting trails in Vermont. It is mostly on private land with the permission given to cross by the landowners. This is quite a network of people to get permission from.

Trails are maintained and groomed by volunteers. Vermont had severe damage from Irene and 95% of the trails have been repaired with some of the excavating time donated by members. There are 160 clubs throughout the state. To ride on the trails you need a registered and insured snowmobile. With that you may purchase a TMA (trail maintenance assessment), which allows you to ride on the trails. You may purchase this permit from Ken Grimm (875-3407) in Windham or at other various outlets throughout the state.

Snowmobiling in Vermont adds five hundred million dollars a year to the state's economy.



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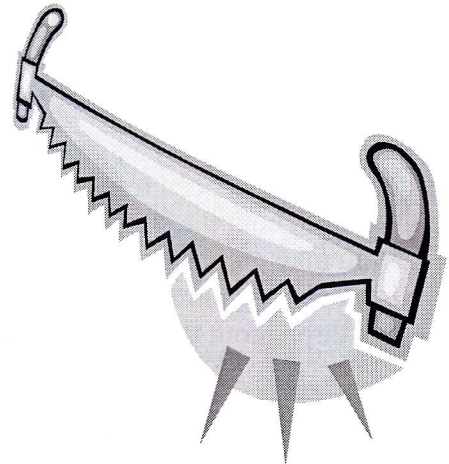


Getting in the Wood *by Mary Crittenden Aller*

What is the most important invention of the last century? The jet plane? The computer? The cell phone? For many Vermonters, as well as country people everywhere, the chain saw might top the list.

When my sister, brother and I were young, we would go out in the woods with our father, an axe, and a long cross cut saw. Its teeth were big and very sharp and it had wooden handles at both ends. The John Deere tractor came, too, pulling the wagon along old logging roads. Pop (Ben Crittenden) would take down a tree with the axe and a wedge, or he'd know about one already down, and we would cut it in six or eight foot lengths, using the long cross cut saw. It took a light hand: let the saw do the work; only pull, don't push or the saw would buckle. We would take all the branches, too -- they made good stove wood and didn't need to be split. (There weren't any gas-powered splitters, either, only the human kind.)

When the wagon was loaded, we'd ride it back to the house, where Pop set up the buzz saw with a long belt attached to the tractor. The buzz saw was a wickedly sharp circular saw, much like the saws in lumber mills, but a little smaller. The tractor's engine spun the saw at great speed, and it cut the logs and branches into stove lengths. It was the job of the kids to take the cut wood off the saw and stack it. The saw made a tremendous noise and was certainly dangerous. It would have been easy to fall into it and be cut in half, but somehow that never happened. Ben was cut on it once, however, seriously enough to have to spend a couple of days Brattleboro Hospital.



in

We still have the buzz saw in the shed, but we don't use it any more. These days we have a chain saw.



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Country Diary - Birds *by Frank Seawright*

Birds are fascinating and it's almost impossible to go a day here in Windham without seeing a few. Some people are very serious and dedicated birdwatchers and some are, like myself, bird noticers. Birds sort of insist on being noticed. Just go for a walk and there they are. Big, small, flamboyant, demure, loud, soft, aggressive, retiring; there's a bird to match every personality. Some birds, though, seem to appeal to every personality. Everyone loves humming birds and putting out the humming bird feeders is as much a part of spring as removing the snow tires. Humming birds seem to be unusually pugnacious and there's just something comical about seeing one of those tiny marvels sitting on the feeder while scanning about and daring others to visit his feeder. Such belligerence in so tiny a package! It's all a show though. Last summer one actually got caught in a spider's web in our garage and when I conducted a heroic rescue it played dead till I took it outside and held it out in my open hand. She was up and away in a flash.



Hawks, on the other hand, are not comical. We're awed by these magnificent creatures but few among us are willing to encounter their beak and talons – these guys aren't going to play dead. Hawks are pretty solitary till they start migrating and they may be then, but just happen to all be going in the same direction. We're lucky because Windham is well situated for hawk watching. We don't need to trek down to Putney Mountain to do it. On almost any fall day just look up into the sky and chances are you'll see several migrators at a time lazily circling southward in the updrafts created here on the mountains. There's heaps of studies and literature explaining that they're simply on the move to find food, but those studies notwithstanding it's an awesome spectacle. And I mean awesome in the original sense of the word.

Note: Country Diary is inspired by a column of the same name in The Guardian Newspaper and we invite readers to submit their own country diary entries to the News and Notes.



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NEXTEL



Michael Pelton dreams for Windham *by Mary McCoy*



When Michael Pelton was a boy, he caught the school bus each morning from the home of his grandparents, Herbert and Ida Dutton. His mother, Rebecca Dutton, was a single mom who commuted to work, so he also took the bus back to his grandparents after school. The smell of freshly baked pie greeted him each day, and sometimes he would help Ida with additional baking. Thus began his love for cooking and his deep roots in our town.

Michael's maternal ancestry goes back to the early days of Vermont, and the Dutton name is well known locally. Michael's grandfather was especially influential in his upbringing, teaching Michael the value of hard physical work. As a child, Michael wanted to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and become a dairy farmer, an idea Herbert discouraged, deriding the way milk production had been taken over by big business.

It was during his high school days at Leland & Grey that Michael expanded his love for food. Raised on meat and potatoes, he was introduced to a wide array of smells and tastes when he worked in restaurants. Although he was accepted at several colleges, he chose the New England School of Culinary Arts in Montpelier. He served internships in Connecticut and in France.

Michael has been drawn to adventure, resulting in many and varied work experiences during his 33 years. He has been the manager of a retail shop in Greenwich, Connecticut, that sold deli foods and unusual goods and also provided catering services. He has spent several years in Montana where he initially worked as a chef. He says, "Then I tried things that were new and exciting, what I hadn't done before." He became a miner because "It's not every day you get to go underground and blow things up." That was followed by fighting fires in forests and plains. "It was amazing, long hours, but unlike anything I'd seen." When fire season was over, he worked as a carpenter, first for others, then on his own, building houses from the ground up.

"I like to build things," Michael says. "It's my thing. I like to touch things and make something of them, whether it's food or wood or whatever."

Michael had seen his mother build a house by herself when he was still a tyke. He now shares that house with her on West Windham Road. He showed me a window that he leveled for her when he was only five, a window that is less than perfectly straight but nonetheless loved. He dreams of building a place of his own, as she did, and raising a family here in Windham.

"I like the life here. People leave each other alone unless help is needed." He recalls the help he received as a child living with the Ewings, Rileys, and Peck-Begins while his mother built their home. He also values our town's quiet peacefulness, its small size, and its rural character. There are no monetary divisions between people here like those he experienced in places which he describe as hedge fund centers where people with money look down upon those without. "That made me want to treat others better," he says.

(Continued next page)

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at www.valleybibleVT.com for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.

Michael Pelton (Continued)

Michael has fond memories of Windham Elementary School and his classmates, most of whom no longer live in town, although they have familiar family names – Nate Kehoe, Kristina Koutrakos, Jimmy Corriveau, Scott Amsden, Amos Newton. The school had only two rooms and two teachers, one of whom served as the principal. Michael says, “It was good to have a gathering place for the Windham kids. It gave us a shared identity.”

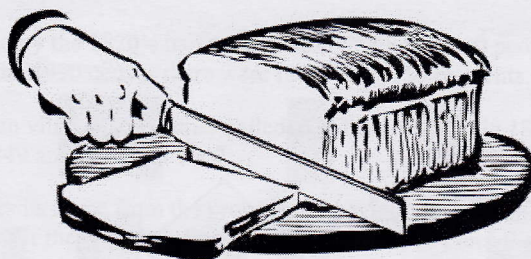
Although Michael describes himself as “somewhat reclusive,” having a gathering place is very important to him. The fact that Windham has no place for the town’s people to share made it hard for him to come back here. Work opportunities all require a long commute. “If I were a rich man,” he says, “I’d open a country store here. I’d bake bread and pastries, sell other items produced by residents like honey and syrup, and artwork and crafts made by town’s people.”

He has had experiences that qualify him for such a venture. In addition to running a retail store in Connecticut and working as a chef in Montana, he served as a culinary instructor in Burlington. He has been the baker at the Vermont Country Deli in Brattleboro and the head chef at the Windham Hill Inn. He is currently at the Red Fox Inn where he serves as head chef for both the pub and restaurant. So far, he prefers working in a small fine dining restaurant because “diners approach it as an experience, starting with wine and ending with dessert.”

Yet it is the experience and not the “fineness” that Michael enjoys most. For him personally, the dining experience is about raising his own food – pigs, laying and meat birds, and vegetables – then processing and preparing the food himself. His goal is not to be completely self sufficient, as he also takes pleasure from what others produce. But he is certainly a man of many skills with a resourceful nature. He even collects used cooking oil from local restaurants which he processes to fuel his blue and red Volkswagen beetle.

So I find myself believing his dream might come true when he says he’d like to find some affordable land, build a house and small farm for himself and his future family, and open a country store, either from his home or another place close by. Windham Hill Road is his preferred location. His fiancée, Abigail Record, shares his vision. He met her while having a burger in Newfane at a restaurant where she worked. There was a power failure, and most customers left, but Michael turned it into an opportunity to get to know his waitress.

“I’m a dreamer,” Michael says. “I don’t know how I’ll get to where I’m going, but I know I will get there. Windham is a good town for us. It just needs a place for people to connect and participate. I want to make that happen.”



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Windham Town Library News *by Bev Carmichael*

Our library received a grant from The Vermont Folklife Center for children's books for their "real life" series. "History does not happen to others, it happens in every family and to every human being." - Anita Silvey, Series Editor

For more than twenty years, the mission of the Vermont Folklife Center has been to gather a record the voices and stories of Vermonters. An archive of more than 4000 oral tales inspired the Vermont Folklife Center Children's Book Series, which captures the color and spontaneity of the most unforgettable stories and preserves them for learning and enjoyment. Regional in origin, universal in nature, these true stories:

- Feature real people and real places.
- Create history readiness for ages 6-10.
- Stimulate discussion with background information and activities.
- Offer intergenerational appeal.
- Encourage families to pass on their own stories.

Please bring your children to our library on Wednesday afternoons to enjoy these beautiful books.

As we start the New Year, we are happy to report that our 2012 calendars are here. The photo contest was again a huge success with over 40 beautiful entries capturing the beauty of Windham. You voted for your choices at the Harvest Supper and the winners are: Chris Fisher is first prize winner for "October Snow," second prize winner is Susan Persa for "Chase – Smith Barn Restored," and third prize winner is Gina Noel for "Mirror Image Heron." We would like to thank all of the participants for their continued support of our annual contest and calendar!



ROLLING SNOW WITH A SIX HORSE TEAM IN FRONT OF HARRIS TRADING CO.

State Archives Provide History of Windham Compiled from State records by Mary Boyer

The area which now comprises Londonderry and Windham towns was patented in 1770 by New York as Kent, to Captain James Rogers and 22 other officers who had fought in the various Indian wars. Records indicate it was James Rogers who originally petitioned that colony for land, claiming that he and his fellow officers were in distressed circumstances because of their long service to the Crown. One week after the acting governor, Cadwallader Colden, signed the patent for Kent, all the other men conveyed their interest in the town to Rogers. The Kent name came from King George III's fourth son, Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent who later became Queen Victoria's father.

Shortly after James Rogers gained title to the whole town of Kent, he returned to his home in Londonderry, New Hampshire, and sold some of his new property to neighbors and friends. The following summer a group of them moved to their new lands and made the first settlement.

James Rogers represented Kent at one of the conventions in 1776 which laid the groundwork for Vermont's independence. That would seem to indicate that initially he planned to align himself with the colonial cause, but shortly thereafter he joined Burgoyne's army. Consequently, in 1778 Vermont confiscated his property in Kent. That left his neighbors' land titles in question, inasmuch as they all had bought from Rogers, so they applied to the Vermont legislature for a solution.

On April 20, 1780 the legislature issued a charter for the lands to some of the men who had bought from Rogers, and who already occupied their lands. The old name of Kent was no longer suitable or popular, so the new charter called the town Londonderry after the settler's old home in New Hampshire.

The story of Londonderry's name begins in Scotland in 1650, when a group of Protestants who were being persecuted for their religious beliefs emigrated to Londonderry in northern Ireland. In 1722 a group of their descendants came to America, settled in New Hampshire, and named their new town Londonderry for their old Irish home. They also brought with them the potato and their skill in raising, spinning and weaving flax for linen. When New Hampshire's Londonderry was divided, the new section was named Windham: so, when Vermont later divided its Londonderry, the new town here was named Windham, too.

The Town of Windham was incorporated October 22, 1795 and included the eastern part of Londonderry and two other pieces, Mack's Leg and Anderson's Gore.

The origin of Mack's Leg is that sometime earlier James Mack, in surveying the boundaries of Kent, had allowed his surveyor's chain to sag, so that the measurements came out wrong, and there was a piece of land left over that didn't belong to any town. The piece came to be known as Mack's Sag (sometimes Mack's Lag) and then was corrupted into Mack's Leg.

Anderson's Gore contained about 1,730 acres. The land was granted by the Vermont legislature to James Anderson and nine other men in 1782, but for some reason the charter was not issued until 1801. By the terms of the charter the gore was made part of Windham at that time.

Windham attracted settlers quickly, and by the 1820's had a population of about 1,000 people. However, the population started to fall off almost immediately, and in the 1970 census there were fewer than 150 residents.

The first post office opened at Windham village (sometimes called Windham Center) in 1818 and closed in 1942. The second office opened in South Windham in 1849 and closed in 1967.

The multi peaked Glebe Mountain takes its name from the proprietor's having assigned this section of the old town of Kent to the church, and the chain forms a large part of the boundary line between Londonderry and Windham. Turkey Mountain, the southern part of town, is shared with Jamaica.



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to the Editor at the
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any address changes*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Sunday - **Windham Congregational Church (UCC)** has worship services at 9:30 AM: everyone invited.

Every Sunday and Thursday - **Valley Bible Church** has services: Sunday - 9:55 AM Sunday School; 11:00 AM Worship, followed by pot luck lunch at 12:30 and 1:10 PM Afternoon Bible Study; Tuesday - 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

Every Wednesday - **Windham Town Library** open at Meeting House from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Also at that time: reading group on first Wednesday of the month.

Wednesdays, 9:00 to 12:00 - **Town Listers'** office hours at the Town Office.

Mondays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6 and 20 - **Select Board** meets at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. Open Meeting.

Thursday, Jan 12 - **Planning Board** meets 7 PM at the Town Office. Open Meeting.

Wednesday, Jan 25 and Feb. 29 - **Windham Community Organization** meets at 7:00 PM at the Meeting House.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - **Town Office Hours** - 10:00 to 3:00 PM.

Save the Date!

Town Meeting and Presidential Primary—March 6, 10:00

Pot luck lunch and \$1.00 for drinks