

# SENIOR GRAPEVINE

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*September 2014*



## Claire W. Teague Senior Center

917 South Main Street \* Great Barrington, MA 01230 \* 413-528-1881

Open Monday through Friday (except holidays) \* 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Dining Room **528-4118** Transportation **528-4773**

### AARP Covered Dish

AARP -- The AARP Chapter #89 will be starting a new season with a covered dish luncheon on September 8, 2014 at 11:30A.M. Public is invited to attend and will be done in place of the elder service lunch. We will provide hot dogs and beans and hope you will provide some side dishes. Sign up sheet will be in the dining room. I am working on speakers that I hope will peak your interest for the up-coming year. I would appreciate any suggestions.

THE 2014 AARP Chapter #89 has been awarded to Michael Kotleski. As you are aware AARP Chapter #89 has had a big decrease in membership, your support is needed to keep this chapter open. Please don't hesitate to call with any suggestions. Grace Zbell 528-0230

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MONTHLY MOVIE

#### Movie Schedule



Monday September 8 12:30

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel with  
Judy Dench

Monday October 6th 12:15 "Quartet"  
with Maggie Smith

Monday November 3 12:15" Calendar  
Girls"

Monday December 1st 12:15"The  
Notebook"

Leon Sarin's **News and Views** Discussion  
series begins Wednesday 9/17 10:00

"A discussion group that searches for  
the truth in the tangled opinionated me-  
dia world.

Topics include: Description of the  
course, survey of early communications  
to the printing press. Propaganda-what  
is it? Prejudices—where do they come  
from? Terms and labels in the media.  
How the media manipulates our fears.  
Whistle blowers—patriots, traitors or  
both? Global climate change—fact or  
fiction? What does the media say?

Congressional approval of legislation vz.  
Presidential power to enact government  
by execute decrees. Please plan for reg-  
ular attendance and class participation"

### *Bruce's Gardening Tips*

*If you still have tomatoes growing,  
get a bigger and earlier harvest when  
you stretch aluminum foil on the ground  
between the plants. Anchor the edges  
with stones or bricks then the reflected  
light could speed up you yield by as  
much as two weeks. Make them sweeter  
by adding sugar to your watering can.*

*After all of your crops have been har-  
vested, mow all plants down and let the  
clippings lay on top for next year. Now  
working on next year's garden fertility,  
get all of the brown paper bags that you  
can find. Cut them in small strips, a pa-  
per shredder works fine. Use a metal  
rake to mulch them in the top of the gar-  
den space. The brown paper will turn  
into mulch and leave a large amount of  
carbon in the soil for your plants. Next  
cover your garden with straw to keep it  
warm over the winter.*

*When spring comes along, take off the  
straw and replace it with sheets of black  
plastic. This will heat up the soil in prep-  
aration for planting.*

~Bruce

Brain Game Word for September is  
"Great"—Joe Lockwood is August  
winner

## Cholesterol Clinic

Thursday September 25 the 12:00-1:30

September is cholesterol month and BVNAH and the Community Outreach program would like to offer this opportunity to check your levels. This is done with a NON FASTING finger stick. There is no charge for the test and the results are almost immediate. Participants need to stay for a 60 minute power point presentation about cholesterol (which is very interesting). Seats are limited, those interested call 413 445-7028 . This takes the place of the blood pressure clinic.

Not "old" enough to go to the senior center? Do you enjoy tap dancing? exercise? yoga? Tai Chi,? music,? dining with friends? painting? folk art ? bridge,? cards, majhong, crossword puzzles? education sessions? discussion groups,? Movies? computer lessons ? book clubs? entertainment, visiting with friends, field trips?? And yes, we have Bingo too :-)) then come join us and enjoy some great company

Thursday September 11th Mac Haydn ( Thank you to Friends of the Claire Teague Senior Center for sponsoring this trip)

Oktoberfest in Chickopee \$67.00 includes Authentic German food and live music, roundtrip motor coach. Please make check out to Berkshire Travelers. You don't want to miss this great trip!

Money needs to be in by September 17th

Please sign up early to save your seat,

## CLAIRE TEAGUE SENIOR CENTER TAG SALE

Saturday October 4 9:30-3:00

\$10:00 per space. Free for seniors. If you would like to donate your items to the senior center table please call for details.. 528-1881

No charge for seniors

## CLAIRE TEAGUE SENIOR CENTER CRAFT SALE

Saturday November 8th

Crafters RSVP by October 11th

\$10:00 per space

Polly will be on vacation Wednesday September 24th through the 30th

California her I come, right back where I started from"



## SPECIAL NEWS

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The Claire Teague Senior Center has a new Assistant Director!!

Welcome Rita Schumacher!!

Rita will be on site full time starting Wednesday September 3rd. I am looking forward to having her here with her broad background in senior services.

Let's give Kim Shaw a big thank you for all of her time and dedication to the senior center filling in while the position was being filled.

**Devonshire Estates present**

**“ Elvis in Show” 9/10 3:30**

Want to know more about tracing your ancestors?

**Tuesday September 16th 10:00am,**

Steve Strommer will kick off his genealogy clinic with a special presentation on how to start your family tree and how to use Ancestry.com. Genealogy appointments Tuesdays 9:00-11:30

All are welcome—Free

### Looking Ahead

**Mark your Calendar**

Saturday October 4th

TAG SALE

Wednesday October 8th

Octoberfest Trip

Wednesday October 15th

Laurel Lake Luncheon

October 15

Open Enrollment begins

Saturday November 8th

craft Fair

### Gizell'e Joke Corner

“ Mommy, what are you doing?”

Rubbing cold cream on her face, she said, “ I'm making myself beautiful”

He saw the tissue in her hand and asked,

“Are you giving up”?

“ I was so ugly as a baby, the stork circled 3 times before he dropped me off”!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Mark Your Calendars!!**

**IT'S A HOE DOWN!!**

**( Sponsored by the Great Barrington Police Association)**

**Saturday September 20th**  
2:00-4:00pm

Come join us for two hours of fun, food , dancing and music.

Sway or stomp to Cliff Broder 's country western band,

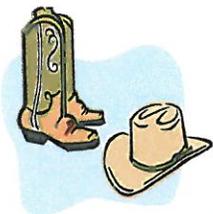
Chili and corn bread cook-off

Bring your best chili and or cornbread for judging and to share. First, Second and third prizes will be awarded. 50/50 Raffle. Refreshments served.

Western Wear is encouraged!!

Please sign up or call for reservations. 528-1881

**Free!**



**Monday**  
**Bingo and**  
**Ice Cream**  
**Social**



**Great Barrington Rehab will be calling Bingo Monday September 29th**

*Invite your friends for this fun event, ice cream and lots of toppings!!*



of

Steve Strommer's Genealogy Class will resume September 16h

**Carolyn's Craft Corner**

Carolyn' Cilandro's "green" art is on display. Please sign up for any of these craft classes that might interest you. If you have a craft you would like to teach please bring it in and we will also display it for a potential class.

## SENIOR MOMENTS

### FAIRVIEW COMMONS LUNCHEON

Join us for a wonderful meal sponsored by Fairview Commons.

The menu will be posted later in the month. Please sign up by September 30th Music by don Betti

#### Life's Carousel

Jump on for the Ride of a Lifetime. Go round and Round

As Prancing Ponies with Flashing Eyes Dip & Sway, Lunge & Swirl.

Hear the Calliope play Hurdy Gurdy tunes  
Loud & Clear, Soft and Low

Catch hold of the Stardust all around  
As Lights Flicker & Gleam.

Reach High-Try for the Brass ring. See the smiles

Hear the Laughter-Let your heart sing.

Slowly, Images Fade & Flee. Prancing Ponies at the Bay.

Quiet now, Tethered. Eyes no longer Aglow.

Memories Mingle-Held Clear. Dream align.

We strain to Grasp hold. As we go on our way.

### September Birthdays!!



9/5 Rita Valliere

9/8 Massie Bachetti

9/11 Mark Bachman

9/11 Barbara Higgins

9/16 Shirley Bachetti

9/27 Matilda Mann

9/30 Nellie Hudson

Wednesday September 3 is Birthday lunch free to all September birthday participants.



### Barbara and Virginia's Breakfast

French Toast blueberries,  
sausage,

Tuesday September 16

8:30

## ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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### EXERCISE & MOVEMENT

***NEW!*** Seniors' Cross Fitness—Monday, 9:15 AM

Awareness Through Movement—Monday, 10:00 AM \$3.50

Balance & Movement—Monday, 1:00 PM \$3.00

Strength Training—Tuesday, 4:00 PM

Tap Dancing for Grown-ups—Wednesday, 9:00 AM \$3.00

Tap Dancing 11 Monday, 2:30 PM (***NEW!***)

Easy Does It Yoga—Wednesday, 9:30 AM

Tai Chi—Friday, 9:00 AM

Chair Exercise—Friday, 10:00 AM Free

Pearl's Exercise Class Wed 12:15 \$3.00



### EDUCATIONAL

FREE Health Insurance Counseling (SHINE), Monday  
10:30 to 2:00 (by appointment)

Computer Group Lessons—Friday, 12:15 PM

Genealogy Class returns September

AARP returns second Monday of each month

News and Views beginning Wednesdays in September



### ARTS

*Painting with Vera*—Thursday, 9:30 AM

Crafty Hands—Thursday, 12:00 noon



Decorative Painting with Liz—Wednesday, 4:00 PM \$5.00

## MONTHLY EVENTS

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- ❖ **Grief Support Group** will meet **Monday, September 8-Open to all. 5:30-7:00**
- ❖ **Brown Bag** will be distributed on **Wednesday, September 10th** between **12:30 PM** and **3:00 PM**. **NOTE: Due to storage space and refrigeration, bags not picked up cannot be guaranteed to be held. No early birds PLEASE.** 
- ❖ The **Women's Cancer Support Group** will meet **Thursday, September 11th** and **Thursday, September 2th 4:00 PM** to **5:30 PM**. 
- ❖ **Veterans' Lunches** will be on **Thursday, September 11th** and **Thursday, September 25th** at **11:30 AM**. **Lunch is free for veterans.**
- ❖ **Caregivers' Support Group** will meet on **Wednesday, September 17th** from **1:00 PM** to **2:30 PM**.
- ❖ **Blood Pressure Clinic** will be on **Thursday, September 25th** from **12:00 noon** to **1:30 PM**. 
- ❖ This month's **Council On Aging Board Meeting** will be held **Wednesday, September 24th** at **1:15PM**.
- ❖ **AVADA Hearing** will be on site **Tuesday, September 2nd** by appointment. 
- ❖ **Foot Nurse: Monday, September 8th** and **Friday, September 12th** from **9:00 AM** to **1:30 PM** by appointment. **Cost \$35.00.**
- ❖ **Quilting Guild** will meet on **Tuesday, September 9th** at **7:00 PM**.
- ❖ **Out -to-Lunch Bunch Monday September 15th** at **11:30 AM**.
- ❖ This month's **TRIAD** meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 10th** at **2:00 PM**. 

Monthly Movie Monday September 12:00-200

AS TIME GOES BY...A Monthly Commentary On Local and Other Events Of Interest and Note..... By David Rutstein

### Bragging Rights: My Cousin the Movie Star

As a youngster growing up in Burlington, Vermont in the late 1940's, there was a game my friends and I played during many an idle moment. It just involved who could out boast the other. The only rule was that it had to be the truth of an experience, a talent, or an accomplishment of just one member of your family. A few examples of this were a father who pitched in the Red Sox farm system, a grandfather who shook the hand of President Woodrow Wilson, or a mother who placed third in her state's beauty pageant.

When my turn came I was confident that I could outdo all my friends. I puffed out my chest and burst out that I have a cousin who is a movie star. "What's her name" they all queried. "Lillian Roth" I answered back. To a person they replied "Who's she?" and "Never heard of her." My friends were all correct in their reply to me because by then Lillian Roth had been mostly forgotten, especially to a younger generation.

Lillian Roth was born Lillian Rutstein in 1910 in Boston. My great grandfather and her grandfather were brothers. She became a successful child actress with her sister Ann. Their mother had changed their last name to Roth for stage purposes and they were known as the Roth Kids or Kiddies when they were performing on the vaudeville circuit. The Roth Kids even made several appearances about 1918 in Pittsfield, probably at the former Colonial Theater.

In 1929 at the age of 18 she was summoned to Hollywood to appear in movies. Lillian was beautiful, some would even say "gorgeous," a talented actress and a gifted singer. She was signed by Paramount Studios and touted as having one of the most beautiful pair of legs in Hollywood, only second to Marlene Dietrich. When she turned 20, she was a top star at Paramount.

In 1930, she starred in six movies, even in a Cecil B. de Mille production, and had a leading role with the Marx Brothers in *Animal Crackers*. In New York City, she was appearing in three films, in three different theatres, being shown simultaneously. She knew everyone there was to know in the movie business. She was a top starlet, in demand, and already making a million dollars, and then her life began to go wrong, very wrong.

As the 1930's rolled on, Lillian was deterred by alcoholism, depression, and mental illness. She had been pushed into show business by her mother at a very early age and therefore had been deprived of a normal childhood. And to top this all off, she and her sister had become her family's main means of financial support.

Furthermore, her rapid success as a star by the time she was 20 proved too much for her and she had problems coping with this. Even her million dollar savings would eventually be all spent. To complicate her life even more, from the 1930's to the 1960's she had been married and divorced six times. She even was a friend of an early Bing Crosby and had a crush on him, but nothing came of it.

After World War II, her childhood friend, Milton Berle, began to help her and in 1947 she entered an Alcohol Anonymous program. Then in 1953, she appeared on the Ralph Edward's TV show *This Is Your Life* and in 1954 her autobiography, *I'll Cry Tomorrow*, was published. Her book became an international best seller. In both her TV appearance and in her book, she announced and explained to the world that she had been an alcoholic and how she overcame this addiction. This was the very first time a former movie celebrity had come out to admit to this. Furthermore, Susan Hayward played Lillian Roth in a movie with the same title as her book.

She did make a comeback singing in nightclubs, appeared in several movies, in television, and also on the stage. She died in 1980 at 70 years old with the epitaph on her stone "As bad as it was it was good."

To answer an obvious question, no, I never did meet her but I did correspond with her former and last secretary.

Of interest, over the years I have collected a collection of her memorabilia, especially her publicity photos out of Paramount and her photo on sheet music covers of her songs she made popular. Many of these are on exhibit in the hallway of the Claire Teague Senior Center in Gt. Barrington.

Yes, she is someone I still take pleasure in bragging about!