

middle TOWN NEWS letter

November 2020

The Library Fondly Remembers Josephine Norton Berger



Josephine Lucy Norton Berger, 88, long-time resident of Middletown Springs, Vermont, died peacefully on Monday, September 21, 2020 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Josie was born October 15, 1931 in Shanghai, China, where she lived on and off until 1949. She was the daughter of American parents--John Randall Norton from Middletown Springs and Josephine Marion Graves Norton, who was also born in China--and granddaughter of the Episcopal Bishop of Shanghai, Frederick Rogers Graves. She attended the Middletown Springs School and Shanghai American School, and graduated from Brent School in Baguio, Philippines in 1949. She received a Bachelors' degree from the University of Vermont and pursued graduate studies in Library Science at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

She worked for many years at the Northshire Bookstore in Manchester and previously as a school librarian at Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden. Earlier in her career, she was a schoolteacher and college librarian, and taught English to immigrants. She volunteered and served as a Trustee of the Middletown Springs Public Library, which is located in the former Episcopal chapel co-founded by her grandmother, Lucy Alice Randall Norton.

Josie loved gardening and reading, especially her favorite author, Jane Austen. She had a great interest in ancient history and archeology. She was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Rutland. Josie met and fell in love with her husband, the late Jere S. Berger, during a season with the Ethan Allen Players, a summer theater group in Brandon, in 1953. They were married for 64 years. Jere passed away in March, 2019.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Middletown Springs Public Library, PO Box 1206, Middletown Springs, VT 05757.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Rutland, Vermont at a date to be determined in 2021.

Unofficial Election Results

The Middletown Springs polls closed at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 3. All results are unofficial until verified by the Secretary of State.

The [results](#) for Justice of Peace (top 5) are:

Elizabeth Cooper
Nance Dean
Patricia Hemenway
Meredith Morgan
Leslie Silver

Election results reported to the Secretary of State for the ballots counted in Middletown Springs are [here](#). State, county, and district-wide totals can be found on the [Vermont Secretary of State's website](#).

Our election officials, members of the Board of Civil Authority, and the poll workers put in long hours and focused attention over the last days and weeks to make Election Day go as smoothly as it does. Many thanks.

Property Tax Reminder

Payment for second quarter property tax is due on or before Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Payments should be mailed or dropped in the black drop box on the OUTSIDE of the town office building.

Please ensure your tax payments are postmarked and/or submitted on or before December 15, 2020. Payments made or postmarked AFTER December 15, 2020 on will be considered late and will generate monthly interest until paid. Post-dated checks for the 15th will be accepted and will not be deposited before the 15th, for your convenience.

Thank you.

Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer

Halloween at the Library

Photos of many of the pirates, princesses and dinosaurs as well as a whole family of birds can be found on the [Library's Facebook page](#). Thank you to the trustees, current and former, as well as the Friends of the Library for your help and your give-away treats!

Friends of the Library

Annual Meeting Notice

Usually the coming of November means the Friends of the Library would be cooking up chili to share at our Annual Meeting, but this year continues to be like no other. Instead, we will hold a **Zoom Annual Meeting on November 11 at 7pm**. We will review the events we have held this year, and elect officers. Please email [Wendy Herrick](#) if you would like to attend and I will send you the Zoom meeting code. The meeting is open to all.

FOL News

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library operates as a separate 501c3 and is happy to report on the fruits of this year's efforts.

Although a different sort of year, we are pleased that we were able to support the library with \$1,000 for new books. In addition to our modified but most successful annual garden sale, we also hosted a workshop series that was either led by or inspired by some of our local youth. One was about growing a tea garden and making your own tea, another was a Dr. Seuss themed story hour, and the final workshop, presented by our local Game Warden, was about Vermont wildlife and how to track it in the winter.

We increased the amount set aside for the expansion of the library by over \$4,500, bringing the total to just over \$80,000 to help with this project.

Thanks to our Treasurer, we were also able to support the efforts of the Middletown Springs Community Food Project by acting as fiscal agent and helping to manage the generous donations they received to do their work.

Thank you for your support, and we hope that you will renew or become a new member of the Friends. Membership dues are modest, and they support our on-going efforts to keep our library vibrant! Individual dues are \$5, Family \$10, and Contributing Members \$25. In addition, we accept donations to our designated Library Expansion Reserve and to our general fund from which we draw to make contributions to the Library for on-going library needs.

Checks may be made to: FoMSPL, Box 1206, Middletown Springs, VT 05757.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Friends of the Library and what we do, please contact [Ashley Fioretti](#) (235-3000) or [Wendy Herrick](#) (235-3999). Other members of the Friends Board include: Jeannie Arsenault, Juanita Burch-Clay, Claudia Gonda, Linda Olson, Judy Robinson, and Shane Thornton.

Library News

The Library is currently open for walk-in service, as well as no-contact porch pick-up.

Monday 2 pm - 5 pm

Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday 2 pm - 5 pm

Friday 10 am – 2 pm or by appointment

NEW BOOKS & MOVIES

Adult Fiction

Troubled Blood by Robert Galbraith

Troubles in Paradise by Elin Hilderbrand

The Orphan's Guilt by Archer Mayor

The Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult

Picture Books

Preaching to the Chickens by Jabari Asim

The Way I Feel by Janan Cain

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom

Ruby Finds a Worry by Tom Percival

Kid Chapter Books

Trials of Apollo: The Tower of Nero by Rick Riordan

Kid Graphic Novels

The Baby-Sitter's Club:

The Truth About Stacy

Kristy's Big Day

Dawn & the Impossible Three

Class Act by Jerry Craft

NEW-to-the Library MOVIES

Avatar

Beaches

Caddyshack

Calendar Girls

Date Night

Eat Pray Love

Footloose

In Cold Blood

Lonesome Dove

The Other Boleyn Girl

Pitch Perfect

The Wedding Singer

Calendar of Events

In response to Governor Phil Scott's order to minimize gatherings, the Middletown Springs Select-board has encouraged all Town boards and committees to meet only for urgent decisions. This may mean that some regularly scheduled meetings are cancelled or postponed, while others are held at their normal time and place but with electronic participation rather than in-person attendance. Please check with the following people to see whether a meeting will be held at its usual time and place, and the preferred method for remote participation.

Regular Meeting Schedule & Chair or Contact Person

Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs	Elizabeth Cooper
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues	Joe Castle
First Response	3 rd Sun	Carl Haynes
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti
Historical Society	1 st Thurs	David Wright
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Peter Blekis
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	Terry Redfield
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	Terry Redfield
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed	Clarence Haynes

When public meetings do occur, those present must wear masks or facial covers and meeting organizers must set up the meeting space so that the recommended six feet of distance is maintained between participants.

The Vermont Secretary of State has updated, temporary guidelines for boards & committees to comply with **Vermont Open Meeting Laws**. You can find more information at <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretary-s-desk/commentary/updated-covid-19-impacts-and-considerations-for-open-meeting-law/>.

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

Have questions? Call 235-2435, or email: middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com to reach Kimberly and Melissa at the Library.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
PO Box 1206
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly. Check it out at <https://frontporchforum.com/>.