

## Randolph Remembers



*Courtesy photo, Bryant Funeral Home*

**Ruth Lee Knight**, a long-time summer resident of Randolph, passed away peacefully at Doctor's Hospital in Lanham, Maryland on January 5.

Ruth started visiting Randolph in 1962 with her husband Bill and for nearly 50 years the couple and their children summered in Randolph, participating in local activities such as Randolph Mountain Club hikes, the Randolph Foundation, and the

Randolph Colloquy (which she ran one summer.) The couple lived at several addresses on Randolph Hill Road and loved their restorative and uplifting summer visits to the North Country.

Ruth Lila Lee was born in Patterson New Jersey on July 21, 1926, the second child of Philip and Bessie Lee, and grew up on Long Island, where she showed early achievement and talent as a pianist. She was valedictorian at Woodmere High School in Woodmere, NY in 1941 and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY in 1945. The next year, she pursued graduate studies at Yale, where she met her future husband, William Knight, a veteran of the Army Air Corps who was preparing for a career in the US diplomatic service. The couple married in 1946, and immediately departed for Genoa, Italy, Bill's first post. Over the next three decades, they represented our country in such disparate places as Rome, Italy, Reykjavik, Iceland, Canberra, Australia, and Manila in the Philippines, living in the Washington, DC area when stationed at home. They had two sons, Jeffrey in 1949 in Rome, and Peter, in 1953 in Washington, DC.

Ruth had wide interests, an active mind, and a keen desire to work and meet new challenges. During her early years in the Foreign Service, Ruth pursued history and public affairs. In Italy, she ghost wrote the autobiography of the wife of Mussolini's ambassador to Hitler's Germany. In Australia, she earned an M.A. in History at the Australian National Univer-

sity. Her master's thesis was awarded First Class Honors and was subsequently published by Melbourne University Press as Illiberal Liberal: Robert Lowe in New South Wales. Lowe, who was later to become Chancellor of the Exchequer under Gladstone, spent his early career in Australia. Reviewers described the biography as "the best written work of Australian history to appear for a long time" and a work of "Tacitean brilliance."

In the 1960s, Bill and Ruth spent several tours in Washington, during which she completed her studies for a PhD in History at George Washington University and began taking short-term projects in the federal bureaucracy focused on the Department of HEW and the history of the US military. Following her final tour in Manila from 1967-71, the Knights returned to Washington, where Ruth spent the next eight years serving as legislative aide to Representatives Donald Fraser (D-MN) and Stanley Lundine (D-NY), taking a break in 1978 to serve as Fraser's Issues Director in his failed run for the Senate. While in Congress, she spearheaded successful legislation that shielded communities situated next to interstate highways from the noise of traffic (those walls that now block freeway noise from neighboring communities) and eliminated the dumping of raw sewage into rivers and streams from boats, laughingly called by Ruth the "boat toilet amendment."

In 1979, Ruth switched from the Congressional to the Executive branch and moved to OSHA, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, where she served for 19 years in a number of positions including Chief of the Division of Legislative Affairs, Director of Policy in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Director of the Office of Program Evaluation. She retired in 1998.

Ruth and Bill vacationed in Randolph almost every summer since 1968, when they first bought a home in the town. They also enjoyed overseas travel, revisiting the countries they had served in, having tennis vacations, and spending time with their grandchildren. While in Manila, Ruth had become involved in recording books for the blind, an activity she continued upon her return to the United States. Ruth always retained her eager and vocal interest in politics, fiction, history and public affairs.

*Continued next page ...*

Ruth was predeceased by her husband in November, 2010 and is survived by her two sons, Jeffrey Knight of Oakland, CA and Peter Knight of Washington, DC, three grandchildren – Michael, Sam, and Charlotte, and her brother, Stanley Lee, MD, of New York, NY and two daughters in law, Zanna Knight and Sheryl Lincoln who both felt they had struck gold in their mother-in-law. She will be buried in the Randolph Cemetery with her husband. A memorial service will be held at the Randolph Church at a date yet to be determined this summer.

Gifts in Ruth's memory can be sent to the Randolph Foundation ([www.randolphfoundationnh.org](http://www.randolphfoundationnh.org)). Any communications about upcoming services should be directed to Jeffrey Knight at [jwknightjd@aol.com](mailto:jwknightjd@aol.com)

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**Mr. George A. Brackett, Jr.**, 87, of Baillargeon Rd., Randolph, NH passed away peacefully at home on Saturday March 17, 2012 with his family at his side. He was born in Salem, MA on January 1, 1925 the son of George A. Brackett, Sr. and Letitia R. (Schnare) Brackett. He was raised in Salem, MA



then moved to Topsfield, MA until 1974, when he retired to Randolph, NH. He attended Salem schools and graduated from Salem High School with the Class of 1942. In 1943, he enlisted in the US Navy and served his country until 1946. He had been employed by New England Telephone Co. and retired as the District Plant Manager in 1976 after 26 years of service. He also owned and operated Panorama Red Cedar Homes. George was a 60 year member of the Budleigh Masonic Lodge in Beverly, MA; he had been a Past President of the Gorham Rotary Club, was a former Randolph selectman, was a member of the White Mountain Post 2520 VFW and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers. He was a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family. George also enjoyed bowling, golfing, fishing, gardening and camping at Dolly

Copp campground in the White Mountains ever since he was a year old. He was also an active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Salem, MA, where he was a Vestryman, and his life reflected his love of the Lord and his family.

Members of the family include his loving wife of 63 years Berniece (Homan) Brackett of Randolph, NH, 3 daughters Barbara Pake and husband Bryant of Randolph, NH, Carol Goulet and husband Roger of Gorham, NH and Beverly Leclerc and husband Richard of Beverly, MA; 1 son Glenn Brackett and wife Shirley of Northwood, NH; 10 grandchildren Bryant Pake, Daniel Pake, Jennifer Howard, Matthew Goulet, Katie Borrer, Timothy Goulet, Zachary Brackett, Allison Brackett, Rebecca Brackett and Lauren Leclerc; 11 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held on Thursday March 22, 2012 at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Berlin, NH. Interment will be in the New Randolph Cemetery. Anyone who wishes may make a donation in his memory to the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association or to AVH Home Health and Hospice, 59 Page Hill Rd., Berlin, NH, 03570.

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As this edition went to press, we learned of the death of **Alfred J. Frueh**, (Mike) on March 23rd. Mike and his family were long time summer residents on Randolph Hill. A full obituary will follow in a later edition. He is predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Anne T. Frueh (Nancy) who passed away April 28, 2009, and sons Jonathan and Tim.

## Ethiopia comes to Randolph by Gail Scott; Part II

...a continuation of an article on Jon Martinson's presentation at the Randolph Town Hall, describing the creation of a Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) health center in Matar, Ethiopia, in May 2010. The Center was established to treat people, expected to cross the South Sudan-Ethiopia border to escape violence in South Sudan, which declared independence from Sudan in July 2011. Conflict continues. South Sudan gained control of about 75 percent of the formerly united Sudan's 490,000 barrels a day of oil output, but is landlocked so needs a pipeline outlet across Sudan. Negotiations between South Sudan and Sudan are ongoing. During 2010 the Matar Health Center "held close to 29,000 consultations and 873 patients were hospitalized, according to the latest numbers from MSF. Martinson has moved on to a new assignment.



Photo provided by Jon Martinson

"Water had to be brought to the clinic from a well that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had drilled some time before," Martinson said. "The water carriers were women. They carried water in 20 liter containers from the well. We would use 1,700 to 2,000 liters a day. When I arrived, they

were carrying the containers on their heads. We got them wheel barrows. You could put four or five of the 20 liter containers in a wheelbarrow. By the time we left, we had gotten them a pickup truck."

Most of the clinical staff was from other parts of Ethiopia, such as Addis Ababa. "They had horrible places to stay and were quitting so we decided to build them a dormitory. We tried to do it with local labor—wood frame, mud walls, tin roofs, and cement as a final layer. They did some amazing stone work. We trucked in piles of stone. Everything is manual. If you need mud, you dig," Martinson said. Most of the centers' clients were women and children. Almost all the children were mal-nourished. "That became the thing we treated the most."

At first the Nuar were reluctant to visit the center, particularly since in the beginning their patients were extreme cases and could not be saved. "This population had never seen western medicine and their acceptance was very slow. When we first opened the clinic, the only patients they brought us were those that the local medicine man had given up on. They were dying and we got a reputation being a place to die. It took a couple of success stories to get over that." With time, they had success and the Nuar were more willing to visit the center.

Among other things, the center has a delivery room, "the only one within miles," said Martinson.

They also had a supply of "Plumpy'nut," a peanut based food supplement that has become incredibly useful in areas where children are dying from lack of nourishment. Plumpy'nut "has a two year shelf life and requires no water, preparation or refrigeration," according to the Plumpy'nut website. It is made of "a peanut-based paste, sugar, vegetable fat, and skimmed milk powder, reinforced with vitamins and minerals." It is manufactured by a French company, Nutriset. "But if the children are too malnourished, they have to be intravenously fed before they can eat," Martinson said. The children are also subject to eye infections because of the dust and wind. While Martinson was there, the whole village burned. "Seemed a couple of guys on a Sunday afternoon were sitting in a tukul with an open fire, drinking ouzo. The fire got away from them and burned the town down. The same thing had happened five years before. We had all these plans to help them out (after the fire) but they were not all that interested," Martinson said. "Ten days later they were already starting to sell stuff, they put out their merchandise on mats. The first thing to come out was ouzo."

Martinson said the Nuar believe that when they burn the grass (on the plains) they will have better growth the following year. "But actually," he said, "the fire gets so hot that it kills the nutrients in the soil. The soil is basically clay. With a lot of rain you get a lot of mud. I spent a lot of time with a come-along in the rainy season."

Despite the problems of malnourishment, Martinson said there were always kids everywhere, excited and having fun. He regretted that he hadn't recorded the sounds of Matar, which, he explained, are an important part of the over-all picture, between the kids at play and the exuberant church celebrations, singing and dancing and every other sound from an agreeable people.

Life expectancy is not great. Martinson thought it might be in the 40s. "They don't have a good way of

counting how old they are," he said. They are subject to a host of problems—tuberculosis, digestive tract worms, malaria. Security was never an issue for Martinson in Matar. "We had a few guys come through town with machine guns. There was a family feud," he said. "They shot someone. When that happened, every tukul all of a sudden produced a guy with an AK47. It was unbelievable, but some years before, there had been problems in the area."

Martinson said the MSF staff had signs on their vehicles that indicated they were not carrying weapons and they posted that sign at all entrances to their facilities. Anyone carrying would have to leave the weapon with Martinson while at the clinic. "We (MSF) are neutral and that is known worldwide," he said.

Martinson's last assignment was to set up a health center in China where MSF had discovered the population was suffering from hypertension and Diabetes 2, but there were so many delays getting the go ahead from the local Chinese officials that Martinson and the physician he was working with decided to leave. The project is still an active one for MSF, but will not proceed until the necessary local permits have been granted.

During Martinson's adventurous life he has moved from being a teacher of physics, to managing the AMC lodge at Pinkham Notch, to managing the Siple Center in Antarctica, to running the information systems group for the research part of Partners Healthcare in Boston. Working with MSF has been a goal of his for many years.

"I have always traveled a lot in different countries," he said. "There are a lot of people who have nothing, really nothing. I believe that basic healthcare is something every society needs access to in order to thrive. The best way to foster peace and security is through humanitarian work and my choice is providing basic health care. For me, it's a strategy of promoting peace and maybe preventing conflict. I'm not sure whether this works or not, but if people are relatively healthy and have some food, they are not going to be (so angry)."

## Randolph Mountain Club Spring Dinner Saturday, April 14, 2012

Join us as we welcome spring and support the Randolph Mountain Club!

Libby's Bistro  
111 Main Street, Gorham, NH  
6:00 PM cocktails (cash bar)  
7:00 PM gourmet dinner

RMC President John Scarinza will provide a preview of the summer season

\$35 per person to be paid at the door

Raffle tickets for RMC merchandise and other enticing items will be for sale!

**There is a limit of fifty people for this event.  
Reservations must be made.**

If you would like to attend (and we hope you will!)

RSVP to RMC Social Events Co-Chairs  
Sarah Gallop at [seq@mit.edu](mailto:seq@mit.edu) or  
Barb Phinney at [cooper448@me.com](mailto:cooper448@me.com)

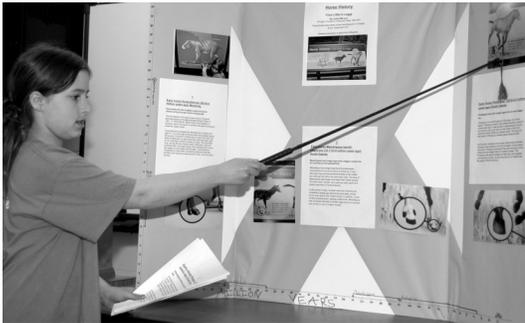
Special thanks to Liz Jackson  
Longtime RMC supporter & owner and chef at Libby's  
SEE YOU THERE!



For Tara and Samarjit Shankar, 2011 ended with the momentous event of welcoming their second child, Vera Vasundhara Rosenberger Shankar, on December 22. The Shankars chose the name Vera because of its roots of "truth" (Latin), "brave/heroic" (Sanskrit), "faith" (Russian/Scandinavian); and Vasundhara for "earth" (Sanskrit). Uma is very excited to have a little sister even though it means sharing her Mommy and Daddy perhaps more than she sometimes would like.

*Photo provided by Tara and Samarjit Shankar*

**Four Randolph girls** gave illustrated talks at a 4-H Demonstration Day at WMCC in Berlin. All of them are members of Colts & Fillies 4-H Club in Stark, NH. *Photos by Edith Tucker*



Nine-year-old **Isobel Micucci** of Randolph used information she learned as well as the photos she took on a 2011 visit to the Field Museum in Chicago in her talk on the evolution of the horse.



Nine-year-old **Kai Parlett** of Randolph discussed equine colic, noting that horses have about 100 feet of intestines.



Nine-year-old **Phoebe Ross** of Randolph showed off her very clever self-designed game "Are You Smarter Than a Horse?"

Eight-year-old **Sasha Tupik** of Randolph discussed horse ears, using a cleverly designed horse's head to illustrate her points.



**Colby, Kemp and Haden Minifie** pose outside the City Center Theater after the last performance of "Close Up Space." on Sunday January 29, 2012. Colby starred alongside stage and screen actors David Hyde Pierce and Rosie Perez in Molly Smith Metzler's comedy, "Close Up Space," presented by Manhattan Theatre Club at New York City Center Stage I  
*Photo provided by Bill Minifie*



## News from Friends of the Randolph Public Library

By Ingrid Graff and Lynn Hunt

The friends of the library have had a busy fall/winter season.

Our fall film and potluck was "West Side Story" which was attended by 45 people and enjoyed by all. In January we held a French Gourmet Pot-Luck, with fabulous food and a viewing of "Julie and Julia" to round out the evening. We had about 35 people and everyone loved the film and the food!

Angela Brown recently presented a Smile-Box workshop, where participants learned how to incorporate digital pictures with music to create slide shows, invitations or a record of a special event. Angela has agreed to do another Smile Box workshop on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.00-8.30pm at the Town Hall.

The Anna Karenina Book Group read Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" in November and has just finished their 8-week session devoted to reading and discussing "Anna Karenina". The last book discussion was "The Great Gatsby". We are all really enjoying this reading group and will continue to choose books for discussion.

One of the Friends main projects this winter was to enhance the Town Hall kitchen by making it user friendly. To this end we had a cleaning/sorting session, where we organized storage so that similar items are stored together.

The Friends bought three 2-liter thermoses, a one-liter thermos for coffee, tea, hot water etc. and an electric kettle and coffee maker. These are available for any town events and we hope people will take advantage of these new additions. Agencies and groups aware of a need in the town kitchen



Lynn & Jim Hunt dance the night away at the 2011 Town Jazz Picnic Photo by D.Aube

should feel free to contact Lynn or Ingrid at contact information below.

After our last Friends meeting we have decided to also purchase a blender and cookie sheets for the library children's program.

The Friends are pleased to have

been able to donate \$500 for books and \$200 for the children's program. We hope to do this on an annual basis. We also voted at our last meeting to purchase 2 Kindles for the library, along with cases and \$50 to download some books. Yvonne will be giving a workshop on how to use Kindles and how to download books from the state li-



Sally & Mike Miccuci and Heather Wiley enjoy tapping to the beat at the 2011 Town Jazz Picnic

brary. These will be available for check out. We are also continuing with our Membership in the Arts Alliance of Northern NH.

In the coming months we will be keeping you informed of our events.

We are currently organizing the Bill Minifie Concert, which this year will be held at the Town Hall on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have a wine and cheese social with this event. We would like to thank Angela Brown and the Church of the Latter Day Saints for so generously hosting this event for the past few years.

We are also working on a Friends of the Library desk calendar which will be available to buy at our events this summer and at the RMC 4th of July Tea.

The Berlin Jazz Band Concert will be held at the Town Municipal Building on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 6.30 – 8.30pm. We will have tables set up for people to use for their picnics and space for dancing. Everyone loved this venue last year – so bring your friends, food and beverage and make a party of it.

We will be calling on our "Friends of the Friends" to help out with the annual Book, Bake and Craft sale on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you are not on the Friends e-mail list and wish to be, please contact Ingrid, [igruff@ne.rr.com](mailto:igruff@ne.rr.com) or Lynn, [lhunt001@ne.rr.com](mailto:lhunt001@ne.rr.com). A sign-up sheet is also at the library.



Edith Tucker photo

### Thank You Gail Scott

The Randolph Foundation Board of Directors would like to publicly recognize Gail Scott for her tremendous effort in organizing and coordinating the Foundation's old records. Gail sifted through mountains of old Foundation files and letters that were stored in cardboard boxes and sitting in various Randolph basements. Over a period of several years, she organized them by year and category and they are now safely stored in the Randolph Library and available for all to get a glimpse into Randolph's past.

The Foundation board has long recognized that the organizing and preserving of the records of Randolph's institutions and organizations is a critical concern. We are extremely grateful to Gail for her work to preserve these important records and to organize them in a way that makes them accessible for further study and review.

On behalf of the Randolph Foundation, Gail is also responsible for editing, producing, and distributing the *Randolph Weekly* during July and August.

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