

▶ MEGAN LUDGATE GIVES IMPORTANT SPEECH AT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 1

▶ KELSIE GRIFFES DELIVERS VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH AT TRI-CITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 1

▶ WILL THERE BE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF GARDNERS? 3

ISSUE 59

VOLUME 15

SUMMER 2012

Gardner *newsletter*

MEGAN LUDGATE, AS AN IMPASSIONED ENVIRONMENTALIST, GIVES AN IMPORTANT GRADUATION SPEECH

Megan was featured in our landmark 50th issue—the Spring 2010 issue—when she was a sophomore and her article inspired others to become more attuned to what is going on with our planet. Her graduation speech is a pivotal “call-to-arms” that affects every person in our human family.

Megan Ludgate Delivers Salutatorian Speech at High School Graduation

I'd like to start off by quoting one of my favorite science fiction writers, Michael Crichton. This is from the introduction to his book *Prey*:

“The total system we call the biosphere is so complicated that we cannot know in advance the consequences of anything that we do. ... The fact that the biosphere responds unpredictably to our actions is not an argument for inaction. It is, however, a powerful argument for caution.”

You all are aware of the fact that evolution is constantly happening around us, or at least you should be, if you passed the “Biology Regents,” as we all, hopefully, have done. But what does that really mean? If we could really grasp the true meaning of evolution, we would picture a world in which every living creature is in a constant state of change in response to every other living creature.

Whole populations of species are constantly shifting and changing; and this perpetual

(Continued on page 2)



Here is Kelsie Griffes' Valedictorian Speech for Tri-City Christian Academy in Somersworth, NH

Faculty members, proud family and friends of the 2012 graduating class, and especially to you, my fellow high school graduates:

Many of you who know me may be surprised to see me up at this podium; because even on my better days, the last thing I could imagine my-

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE ITHACA JOURNAL:

Salutatorian Profile



The salutatorian of the Class of 2012 is Megan Ludgate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ludgate, who reside in the Town of Brooktondale.

(Continued from page 1)

change leads to a world where any, and every, human action has consequences. Unfortunately, our species has shown an incredible lack of caution.

We think we know what we are doing. As teenagers, we can totally understand that, right? And just like adolescents who don't want to learn from the mistakes of their parents, as a species, we never want to acknowledge what we have done wrong in the past. Instead, each new generation writes off previous mistakes as the results of less capable minds and then boldly embarks on fresh errors of its own. We are one of only three species that can claim to be self-aware, but self-delusion

may be a more unique characteristic of our kind. Sometime in our lives this reckless behavior will crash into the world we live in. Or maybe they've already collided!

Over twenty years ago, when Bill McKibben published the first book for a general audience about global warming, it was too early to see the effects of climate change. That book, *The End of Nature*, was mainly a psychological argument, but climate change is no longer a theoretical threat - no longer a future threat. Climate change is no longer a threat at all. It is our reality.

Change- fundamental change- is

"Change—fundamental change—is our best hope on a planet suddenly and violently out of balance."

our best hope on a planet suddenly and violently out of balance.

There is nothing easy about this conversation; it has got to be uncomfortable and direct, but it

also must contain hope, - and the hope has to be real. It can't be hope that the scientists will turn out to be wrong, or that the president will fix everything. We must be willing to embrace reality- to understand the world we live on is not one we might wish for. We must be mature enough to accept this. As McKibben so eloquently puts it, "Maturity is not the opposite of hope; it is what makes hope possible".

(Continued on page 6)

Megan Ludgate has maintained an average of 97.71 during her high school career. She has been involved in the following clubs and organizations: National Honor Society, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Flute Quartet, Korean Drum Band, Pep Bands, Finnish Music Ensemble, NYSSMA competitions, Sustainability Club, Swing Club, Green Team, Peer Education, programs at the Cayuga Nature Center Photographers, Science Works, Primitive Pursuits, Lime Hollow Nature Center, among many others.

Upon graduation Megan Ludgate plans to attend Simmons College in Boston, Mass.

(Continued from page 1)

self doing is giving a speech in front of a huge crowd. For the majority of Americans, public speaking ranks even higher than death on the list of terrors, but for me it's even worse than that. It's high up on the level with the zombie apocalypse that only our fearless leader, and senior class advisor, Mrs. Boucher, has been stocking up for.

But anyway, it led me to thinking about the relationship between our fears and our successes, given the fact that the reward for hard work throughout high school is not a sigh of relief or pat on the back, but a chance to give a speech. How much of our greatest triumphs and blessings must lie beyond our air-tight, mundane comfort zone. This is why I must admit that my nervousness is almost on par with my gratitude for the privilege of addressing the members of the senior class of Tri-City Christian Academy along with the faculty and the rest of the family and friends gathered to celebrate today, for it is an honor that

is only bestowed upon a few. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the faculty, including Mr. Edgar, our principal, Mr. Correia, head of the high school, and the rest of the dedicated faculty who truly love what they do, and



have given the class, including myself, the tools needed to succeed out in the real world. So I give you my sincere thanks.

In high school we have become accustomed to a set routine, homeroom, a morning worship service, endless contorted faces and guffaws in Mr. Correia's class, the the ability to set our teacher on tangents, regarding just about anything, but most often in animated debates on the merits of transcendentalism. We have thoroughly enjoyed our last hurrah as high schoolers, our exotic adventure on the cruise to the island of Bermuda, and will smile when the thought of the prom Mrs. Boucher has planned, enter our minds. But in just a few moments, when some of us may feel that we have been released from prison, all these memories will officially be things in the past. We will look ahead to new teachers, relationships, and pursuits, whether they be in college or on the job. Nothing will be paved out as clearly as it has been. Instead we will have to use the knowledge gained over these past eighteen years to carve out our own unique purpose. There is a path of paramount importance to embark upon. That path is either one of our own temporary

(Continued on page 3)



Kelsie got inspiration for part of her speech from the TV show “Twilight Zone.”

“Strong principled convictions guided by the love of God will not be shaken.”

(Continued from page 2)

comfort, or the path of impacting others by fearlessly being faithful to our beliefs. Because at the end of all of the great accomplishments performed by the class of 2012, what’s going to matter the most is that we have remained steadfast in our convictions. J.C. Watts, a former congressman and football player, expressed the divide between belief and action like this, and I quote: “Character is doing the right thing when nobody’s looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that’s right is to get by, and the only thing that’s wrong is to get caught.”

Strong principled convictions guided by the love of God will not be shaken. Emily, Becka, Cam, Alex, Aaron, Matt, Adryan, Alan, Naomi, Elizabeth, Nate and Abe, we must be strong and courageous, realizing the full impact of the Apostle Paul’s words, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7) Proverbs has shown the way to worthy success, saying, “In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.” (Proverbs 3:6)

So class of 2012, stand with sure footing, remembering that although standing up for righteous-

ness is not always popular or even easy, it is worthwhile. Our futures are of inestimable value if their foundation is integrity. We have a creator who is watching over us and for us, if we will only listen to his call. Class of 2012, if you are tempted to think that this life is yours, only to have as much fun as possible while you’re alive, remember that your life, your talents, and the blessings of each day are all borrowed. We have no assurance that our good fortune will see another day, only the assurance of the one who came before us. I know this because our God shows up to those who are truly seeking him, because he has shown up to me when I have asked. The missionary martyr, Jim Eliot, stated simply, but profoundly, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Yes, we will graduate today and receive our diplomas ... that is as long as Mr. Correia remembers to bring them. I am confident that the class of 2012 will not only survive, but thrive with hard work and strong goals. But we must not forget to give credit where credit is due, first of all to our parents, who have given us the needed kick in the pants when we needed to just get moving and explained time and time again how real life is just not fair – also to our teachers, who

would not settle for mediocre performance.

Recently, I watched an episode of “Twilight Zone.” I know many of you must be screaming in your heads, “*how can this be appropriate for a graduation speech?*” Well, allow me to defend myself. The story starts in a dark courtroom where a man is on trial for his worth, his usefulness to society, and his life. He stands powerless below the high platform of the chancellor, who is looking on him in utter disgust. The chancellor’s perch is the stuff of nightmares, or more accurately, the courtroom used to examine every sin we have ever committed. The lowly man called himself ... a librarian ... and even more quaint, he believed there was a God. Because of his actions, the state had declared to him, “you are obsolete” ... because they had determined that there was no God. How utterly absurd was this lowlife, he obviously had no useful purpose whatsoever. He was just “a ghost from another time,” said the judge. But this seemingly outlandish product of the writers’ imaginations, where books and the belief in God are archaic, is not as far-fetched as we may conjecture. Quite a majority of Americans today say they believe in God, but for all practical purposes God is just a dusty trophy in the back of their closets.

(Continued on page 6)

Will there be future generations of Gardners?

Congratulations to Uncle Clayton and Aunt Gerry! They have a second grandchild, named Ronnie Kuan Gardner! He is a wonderful complement to granddaughter, Tara. Here are some e-mails from Uncle Clayton that talk about the happy event.

“On April 15, 2012 a cute and healthy 8+ pound baby boy (named Ronald Quan Gardner, nicknamed Ronnie) was born at Seattle’s Children’s Hospital to my son ,Ronald. Ronnie is the only male in the third generation of Will and Olive Gardner’s descendants. As such, he is the only one of their descendants who can pass on and preserve the Gardner name. I say he is the only male in their third generation because:

1. Earl’s only son Paul is not likely to have a son.
2. Raymond’s only son, Stephen, is also not likely to have a son.
3. Adelbert’s four sons (Billy, Bobby, Tommy, and Milton) do not yet, as far as I know, have any sons.
4. Adelbert’s daughter, Adele, has a son whose last name is Gardner. I believe he has never had a son.
5. Clayton’s son, Ronald, has a son named Ronald Kuan Gardner, nicknamed Ronnie

If Ronnie grows up and has a son, then Will and Olive’s fourth generation will have a descendent with last name Gardner. Likewise, if there is fourth generation son, there will be a Gardner in their fifth generation. And, hopefully, this will continue for many generations. Sincerely, Clayton”

Uncle Clayton later writes:
(Continued on page 6)



Cindy Eggleston and Teresa Vasko at Rod & Irene Ames' 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

TERESA VASKO

Her eventful
June and July
2012

QUICK RESPONSE SAVES LYNDON HOME

(from *The Caledonian-Record*, Mon. July 9, 2012)

By: James Jardine, Staff Writer

An alert motorist and fast response from the Lyndonville Fire Department combined to knock down a potentially disastrous structure fire and save a family home.

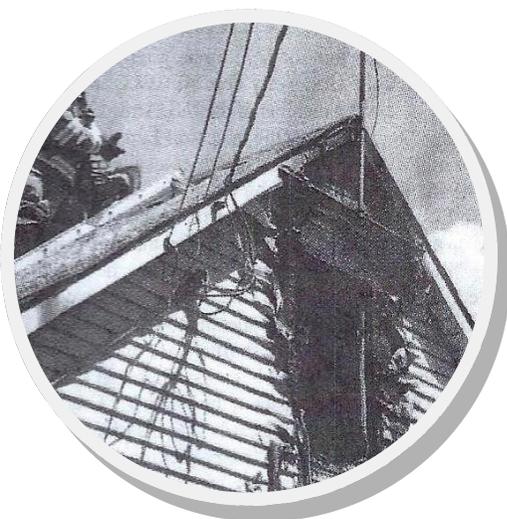
On Sunday around 12:37 p.m., Tim and Gail Carpenter of Lyndon were driving along Back Center Road when they noticed smoke and flames in the upstairs window of a single-family, two-story home. At that point, the residents, who were all on the first floor of the home, were unaware of the fire breaking out on the second story. The Carpenters quickly alerted the Rumrill family, who live in the home, and the emergency was called in.

Even before the first firetruck arrived on scene, neighbors and passers-by had several garden hoses pouring water on the roof of the house and the siding in an effort to keep the house wetted down. Everyone got out of the house as the Lyndonville Fire Department arrived on the scene minutes later along with an ambulance from Lyndon Rescue. As firefighters arrived, thick, black smoke was pouring out of the second story window. Within minutes, the flames had totally burned a hole around the window and the fire was gaining strength quickly. Smoke began pouring out of

a vent in the pitch of the roof on the other end of the house.

According to Lyndonville Fire Chief Greg Hopkins, firefighters extinguished the second story blaze within 10 to 15 minutes of mounting the attack. After the fire was extinguished, firefighters assisted with clean-

up. He estimated most of the smoke and fire damage was confined to the second floor while there was some water damage on both floors. While there was an electric fan operating in the second story window near the origin of the fire, Chief Hopkins could not conclusively identify the fan as the source of the fire.



The home was owned by Teresa Vasko, who lives across the street from the home, which is rented to Anthony Rumrill and Gidget Goutah-Lyon and their daughter Kyja Lyon-Rumrill, 5, son Skye Boutah, 16, daughter Jade Lyon, 18, and her daughter Xaryia Lyon, 18 months. None of them suffered any injuries.



Assisting the Lyndonville Fire Department were trucks and crew from the

St. Johnsbury Fire Department and the Sheffield-Wheelock Fire Department. The East Burke Fire Department provided station coverage.

The months of June and July 2012 for Cousin Teresa Vasko have been a "mind-blowing" series of happenings. As you can see from this issue, these events are the topics of several articles.

Let's go back to Rod and Irene Ames' 50th wedding anniversary celebration that was held at the United Church in Derby on June 23rd.

According to Teresa, she decided to attend at the last minute. Like everyone who attended, she was having a great time applauding the happy couple when she spied Cindy Eggleston of Sanbornville, NH. Cindy, of course, is an honorary subscriber to the newsletter because of her connection to Will Gardner's Lang side of the family. In fact, both Teresa and Cindy were bridesmaids at Sandra Baraw's wedding many years ago. (Sandra is Aunt Edith's daughter and is also an honorary subscriber to the newsletter because of her connection to Will Gardner's Lang side of the family. See "The Lang-Johnson-Eggleston Connection" on www.gardnernews.org.) They quickly got together to discuss old times. Both ladies found out they had more in common than they ever could have dreamed. They both had been math teach-

(Continued on page 5)



Aunt Lois at placid Lake Memphremagog waiting to board the cruise boat

“Titanic-like” Event on Serene Lake Memphremagog By: Teresa Vasko

In June, I went on a cruise on Lake Memphremagog with Delta Kappa Gamma, a women teachers’ organization. I had first visited Aunt Lois and told her what I was doing. She often sees this boat go by her home. So she was watching for us and waved as we waved to her. It occurred to me that day that she would enjoy going on a boat ride, so I made arrangements to take her out on July 15th.

We had a picnic lunch on her deck. It was a very warm, sunny day. We played three games of cribbage while waiting for the time to go to the boat. I did call the boathouse to see if the cruise was still planned since there was a forecast for thunder storms. The owner said that there was only a 20% chance of a storm and the trip was still on. So we put down our drinks and treat to share in the car, drove less than a mile down the road Lois lives on to the boat access.

We had a choice of being on the first story or on the top open deck. Lois wanted to go on top, but was a little anxious about the stairs. The owner allowed us to go on the boat before everyone else and Lois got up just fine. It was hot and sunny, but on the water there was a nice breeze. We enjoyed the ride and the views. The owner told of the landmarks and sites as we passed. Lois was able to enjoy the talk since she has new hearing aids. We were having a lovely time.

Near the Canadian border, it started to rain. A lady suggested that Lois might be more comfortable in a chair than on the padded benches that were very wet.

“Good idea,” I thought, and got her the chair. The workers on the boat were now swabbing the deck since the rain had intensified. A horrible squall hit us.



The boat tilted and Lois skidded across the deck in the chair. Now everyone was on the starboard side with a couple of ladies on the floor. People were getting life jackets out. Of course Lois and I were on the boat when the life jacket demonstration was given on land. I did get one on Lois and someone helped me into one. Now the boat was really tilted, like the Titanic. We were instructed to move port side; however, that was uphill. There were about 35 people on the boat, each helping others. The storm didn’t last long, but will long be in our memories. One lady lost a gold earring while putting on the life jacket. I found it!



You know the saying, “there are no atheists in a fox hole.” Well, there aren’t any on a sinking ship! As I was praying for our safety, I remember reading that “Nearer my God to Thee” was played by the band as the Titanic sunk. God

saved us, thankfully.

When we were on dry land, one of the lady passengers came up to Lois and said, “When I grow up, I want to be just like you. You were smiling the whole time.” Lois is ready to meet her maker!

I told Lois, “The next time I have a ‘fun idea,’ don’t listen to me!”

(Continued from page 4)
ers for over 30 years! How is that for serendipity?

On Monday, July 9, 2012, the house across the street from John and Teresa’s home caught fire. John and Teresa rent that house to a couple with several children. The newspaper article reprinted here in this issue is from “*The Caledonian-Record*” and it records that event and its aftermath.

On July 15, 2012, Teresa made arrangements to take Aunt Lois on a boat cruise that plies the shores of Lake Memphremagog from Newport, VT into Canada. This usual placid lake can be observed in a great view right from Aunt Lois’ deck. The cruise started off well until a rogue rain squall almost toppled the boat. Read about it in the accompanying article on this page written by Cousin Teresa.

And Teresa has even more to report on what happened to her in July!

“The Stars & Stripes Parade has taken place in Lyndonville for 32 years. When asked by the head of the Chamber of Commerce if I would be the Grand Marshal I said, ‘I thought you asked old people to do that.’”

“Since she is young, she got a good laugh out of that. I guess I am OLD! I tried to find out why I was selected. The theme was ‘Community’. I am a native and have lived here for all but 10 years of my life. I also taught over 3,000 of the town’s students. It appears that the honor is for the volunteer things I have done since retirement. I know there are many other well qualified people for the honor, but I had a fun time at the parade.”



Congratulations!

To Rod and Irene Ames on their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Go to www.gardnernews.org/nita's_page.htm to see a short video of the celebration.



Teresa Vasko, Grand Marshal of the 2012 Lyndonville Stars & Stripes Parade, rides along with "Teddy."



Ronnie Kuan Gardner

(Continued from page 3)

"Ronald Kuan (note the K not a Q) Gardner was born in Seattle's Swedish Hospital (Not Seattle's Children's Hospital).. Kuan is Ronnie's mother's last name. Her first name is Annie. Ron and Annie no longer live together. Sincerely, Clayton"

Later on Uncle Raymond writes:

"Hi Paul, I think Clayton sent you a note about continuing the "Gardner name". He forgot about my grandson, Andrew (son of Stephen). Ray"

Uncle Raymond sends Paul yet another e-mail about Adele's son that says:

"I looked it up in my genealogy. I find that Adele had a son born 18 Mar 1975. I have his name as Richard Brent Gardner. That would make three to carry on the Gardner name. Ray"

So, what does this flurry of e-mails mean? It means the "Gardner" name is alive and well because both Uncle Raymond and Uncle Clayton have grandsons that carry the name (Andrew Gardner and Ronnie Gardner) and Adele's son, Richard, carries the Gardner name as well.

Like Megan Ludgate and Kelsie Griffes, Andrew Gardner graduated from high school this year. He graduated from Reading High School in Reading, MA and plans to attend Colby Grantham College in New Hampshire.

Who knows what great things lay in store for future generations of Gardners!?

(Continued from page 2)

And I don't mean to make this speech just another corny, "we are the future; we are the change," kind of speech. Because, really, who are we kidding? We're just out of high school! We're going to college! I barely consider myself mature. I don't expect you to leave here and suddenly be a passionate environmentalist.

Don't get me wrong, that would be fantastic if you did; but what I really want you to do is go out there and enjoy life. Experience the art, the music, the dance, the literature, the sports, the science, and all of the great things humans have created. The possibility of our own end, and not just from climate change, is frighteningly real, but it is not our only possibility.

Another author, Jeffrey Bennett, compares our civili-

zation to an adolescent. And it is possible we will grow up as a civilization, admit our failures and find solutions to our problems. We will learn to respect all others, to give our teachers equitable contracts. And we will continue to explore - to dream of what awaits us.

Like every senior here today, our society is struggling to make its way to adulthood. If you want teens to become great people; not only do you have to address their immediate problems, but also you must find a way to inspire them to the point where they believe that the problems are worth fixing. In the same way, I believe we can grow up as a civilization when every person grows up with enough inspiration to care about making this world a better one.

So, good luck, class of 2012, I hope you find some inspiration. *Megan Ludgate*

(Continued from page 3)

Life is only about living for the moment and following their heart. Yes, class of 2012, we should follow our dreams, shoot for the stars, and follow our passion. But don't let your love for God or your love for others become obsolete. The band, Stellar Kart, says it best in their song, *Me and Jesus*, "So make the most of life that's borrowed, love like there's no tomorrow."

So live freely and fearlessly, knowing that you have the best advocate by your side to guide you, and that really living and prospering is just

beyond your comfort zone. Stand strong on the power God gives through Salvation. The *New King James Bible* illustrates it this way, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (*1st Corinthians 1:18*) To others you may seem downright eccentric or antiquated; but our peace and fulfillment in life, apart from material success, comes from being different, from standing up for our God what we have claimed as truth, and from stepping out in faith and learning to seek God of our own accord. This is no long-

er just what our parents taught us, their faith, their morals, or their principles; but it is a foundation to build our adult lives on. So my friends, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good pleasing and perfect will." (*Romans 12:1-2*)

So I hope that when all is said and done, when Emily becomes a professional violinist playing at Carnegie Hall; Karen gets a part in a traveling theater group; Matt makes an

earth-shattering medical discovery; or the rest of you strike it rich enough to hand Mr. Correia the keys to a shiny new Porsche ... that we can say we've held truth close, walked in step with the Creator, and make our families proud. I don't know about all of you, but as the old hymn goes, "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow. And I know who holds my hand."

Congrats class of 2012! We did it! *Kelsie Griffes*