

# Slavery: Program shows how people are connected through economy

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changed. Although some are still shackled, most live in financial slavery making unlivable wages or held to service by financial bondage, said Browne.

"If we have a simple idea of good and evil, we won't be able to tackle slavery today," said Browne. "I hope this made them think about present day economic inequality and the black-and-white issue

today."

For Pina, this was a message he felt the kids needed to learn. Growing up Cape Verdean Portugese in the late 1950s, Pina remembers things that his students may feel live only in the world of textbooks.

"As we move further away from that era some of these kids are really unaware of the ramifications of that," said Pina. "They do need to talk about this. They need to

**Katrina Browne believes that the best time to start this conversation is with middle-school-aged children.**

understand these issues."

"I hope what they pull out of here today is that we can all look back far enough and find that we are part of the problem," he said.

Browne said her film and

the discussion was not meant to be another "guilt trip." Rather, she wants people to begin to think about what "white privilege" is and examine the racial baggage that we all carry.

Browne believes that the best time to start this conversation is with middle-school-aged children.

"They are in the midst of grappling with the issues of good, evil and morality in a very intense way with this incredible honesty and sincerity to the conversation that is refreshing," said

Browne.

Standing in the circle, holding her corner of the web, eighth-grader Lauren Downes made her contribution to the discussion.

"There is bad stuff going on today," said Downes. "In a way, we are all involved in something horrible whether we know it or not."

You can reach John Tilton at: [jilton@recorder.com](mailto:jilton@recorder.com) or 413-772-0261 ext. 264



file photo  
Real Pickles' Dan Rosenberg and Addie Holland have won a Good Food award for the second year in a row. They make their pickles in Greenfield.

## Pickles: Local winner

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Deerfield's Atlas Farm and Sunderland's Riverland Farm, two suppliers who grow organic vegetables for the winning garlic dill pickles, as well as Deefield-based Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture for its work in raising regional awareness about the benefits of buying local food.

Real Pickles uses the tra-

ditional fermentation process — with no vinegar — to make its line of pickled vegetables. Its Organic Garlic Dill Pickles are made with certified organic vegetables from local family farms. The pickles are available by the jar from area retailers and served at many local restaurants.

Real Pickles' Organic Garlic Dill Pickles was among 99 winning products in eight categories chosen from nearly 1,000 entries from around the country.

On the Web: [www.realpickles.com](http://www.realpickles.com)

## Death Notices

Full-text paid obituaries can be found on Page A2. Because of differing deadlines, notices sometimes appear a day or so before the obituary.

### Alton W. Fellows

ORANGE — Alton W. "Billy" Fellows, 80, of 383 East River St., died on Sunday (1-15-12) at Kindred Parkview Hospital in Leicester.

Calling hours will be Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main St.

Services, with military honors, will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be in South Cemetery.

Guest book, directions and flowers available online at:

[www.wittyfuneralhome.com](http://www.wittyfuneralhome.com)

### Sheila M. Dunnigan Kane

THE WOODLANDS, Texas — Sheila Marie Dunnigan Kane of The Woodlands, former resident of Greenfield, Mass., died Dec. 1 in The Woodlands.

A memorial service will be held April 14 at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church on Main Street in Greenfield.

### Edward F. Treml Jr.

TURNERS FALLS — Edward F. Treml Jr., 80, died Monday (1/16/12) at the Buckley HealthCare Facility in Greenfield.

Arrangements, under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home in Turners Falls, were incomplete at press time. Sympathy message available at:

[www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com)

### John P. Walsh

LEYDEN — John Patrick Walsh, 61, of Leyden, died Wednesday (1-11-12) at home, after a lengthy illness.

A graveside service will be held at West Leyden Cemetery in spring.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Hospice of Franklin County 329 Conway St., Suite 2, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home in Greenfield. Sympathy message available at:

[www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com)



AP photo  
This undated handout photo provided by Florida Atlantic University shows a baby, looking at a monitor, wearing a band that contains a little magnet that the head-tracker, under the monitor uses to determine head position which, in turn, enables the eye tracker to find the eye and the pupil. New research suggests babies don't learn to talk just from hearing sounds — they're lip-readers, too. It happens during that magical stage when a baby's babbling gradually changes from gibberish into syllables and eventually into that first "mama" or "dada."

## Baby talk: Watch mouths while listening

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"The baby in order to imitate you has to figure out how to shape their lips to make that particular sound they're hearing," explains developmental psychologist David Lewkowicz of Florida Atlantic University, who led the study being published Monday. "It's an incredibly complex process."

Apparently it doesn't take them too long to absorb the movements that match basic sounds. By their first birthdays, babies start shifting back to look you in the eye again — unless they hear the unfamiliar sounds of a foreign language. Then, they stick with lip-reading a bit longer.

"It's a pretty intriguing finding," says University of Iowa psychology professor Bob McMurray, who also studies speech development. The babies "know what they need to know about, and they're able to deploy their attention to what's important at that point in development."

The new research appears in this week's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It offers more evidence that quality face-time with your tot is very important for speech development — more than, say, turning on the latest baby DVD.

It also begs the question of whether babies who turn out to have developmental disor-

ders, including autism, learn to speak the same way, or if they show differences that just might provide an early warning sign.

Unraveling how babies learn to speak isn't merely a curiosity. Neuroscientists want to know how to encourage that process, especially if it doesn't seem to be happening on time. Plus, it helps them understand how the brain wires itself early in life for learning all kinds of things.

Those coos of early infancy start changing around age 6 months, growing into the syllables of the baby's native language until the first word emerges, usually just before age 1.

A lot of research has centered on the audio side. That sing-song speech that parents intuitively use? Scientists know the pitch attracts babies' attention, and the rhythm exaggerates key sounds. Other studies have shown that babies who are best at distinguishing between vowel sounds like "ah" and "ee" shortly before their first birthday wind up with better vocabularies and pre-reading skills by kindergarten.

But scientists have long known that babies also look to speakers' faces for important social cues about what they're hearing. Just like adults, they're drawn to the eyes, which convey important

nonverbal messages like the emotion connected to words and where to direct attention.

Lewkowicz went a step further, wondering whether babies look to the lips for cues as well, sort of like how adults lip-read to decipher what someone's saying at a noisy party.

So he and doctoral student Amy Hansen-Tift tested nearly 180 babies, groups of them at ages 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 months.

How? They showed videos of a woman speaking in English or Spanish to babies of English speakers. A gadget mounted on a soft headband tracked where each baby was focusing his or her gaze and for how long.

They found a dramatic shift in attention: When the speaker used English, the 4-month-olds gazed mostly into her eyes. The 6-month-olds spent equal amounts of time looking at the eyes and the mouth. The 8- and 10-month-olds studied mostly the mouth.

At 12 months, attention started shifting back toward the speaker's eyes.

It makes sense that at 6 months, babies begin observing lip movement, Lewkowicz says, because that's about the time babies' brains gain the ability to control their attention rather than automatically look toward noise.

But what happened when these babies accustomed to

English heard Spanish? The 12-month-olds studied the mouth longer, just like younger babies. They needed the extra information to decipher the unfamiliar sounds.

That fits with research into bilingualism that shows babies' brains fine-tune themselves to start distinguishing the sounds of their native language over other languages in the first year of life. That's one reason it's easier for babies to become bilingual than older children or adults.

But the continued lip-reading shows the 1-year-olds clearly still "are primed for learning," McMurray says.

Babies are so hard to study that this is "a fairly heroic data set," says Duke University cognitive neuroscientist Greg Appelbaum, who found the research so compelling that he wants to know more.

Are the babies who start to shift their gaze back to the eyes a bit earlier better learners, or impatient to their own detriment? What happens with a foreign language after 12 months?

Lewkowicz is continuing his studies of typically developing babies. He theorizes that there may be different patterns in children at risk of autism, something autism experts caution would be hard to prove.

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