



Keystone Bridge, Quabbin, sports accents of snow.
photo © David Brothers

ON THE FRONT COVER

a Northern Exposure Outfitters, Brookfield, dog-sledding tour in
Rutland State Forest
cover photo © by John Burk

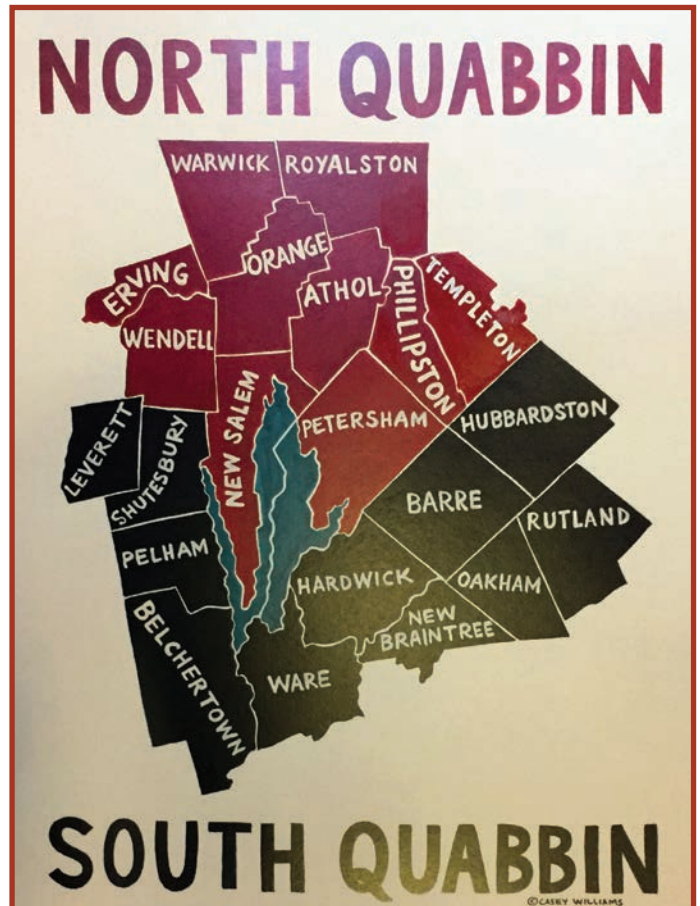
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volume 2, number 3 • January-April 2018

*this issue features winter activities, history, up-to-date listings, and
sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts*

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maps, bottom, show Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

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a note of thanks from Athol Historical Society

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

On behalf of the Athol Historical Society, we want to thank the Athol Cultural Council, New Salem Cultural Council, Oakham Cultural Council, Orange Cultural Council, Petersham Cultural Council, and Wendell Cultural Council for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with Local Cultural Council grants for 2018.

Thank you to our readers. You both humble and thrill us with your continued interest in the magazine. Your positive feedback keeps us motivated to continue producing this beautiful magazine.

A big thank you to our writers and photographers, without whom this magazine would not be possible. You are constantly providing us with interesting, unique, timely, and fun articles. And, those photographs—stunning!!

As always, we want to thank our advertisers, an ever growing list of businesses and organizations that continue to support our magazine. Please support them by bringing your business to them.

And a special thank you to Newspapers of New England for being so open and willing to work with us by continuing to print the magazine so many people love in the style that we all enjoy.

Gratefully,

Debra Ellis, treasurer
Athol Historical Society

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NORTH QUABBIN AND
SOUTH QUABBIN EVENTS
BEGINNING ON PAGE 51.**

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a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

We are elated to bring you this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine as the new year gets underway and we get underway with new printing arrangements through Newspapers of New England. We are delighted to be able to design the magazine now with color on every page while maintaining the heft and weight of cover and interior pages our readers have come to expect.

We are also pleased with this issue to be able to widen our distribution area for *Uniquely Quabbin* by delivering the magazine to Deerfield, Greenfield, Montague, South Deerfield, and Sunderland in addition to the twenty-one communities in our coverage area.

We are grateful to the former Athol Press and the Chase family for sponsorship during our formative issues. We are particularly appreciative of the printing expertise of Ted Chase at the Highland Press for previous magazine covers and of the late Scott Cowl, who worked pressman's miracles to produce the interior of the first five issues of our magazine.

As always, we are very thankful for the enduring support of our many advertisers and encourage you to bring your business to them.

Our dedicated writers, photographers, artists, and production personnel once again present you with our magazine full of words and images highlighting unique circumstances that distinguish our region.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*. We wish you happy reading.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

***Uniquely Quabbin* magazine gratefully acknowledges the support of**

**Athol Cultural Council • New Salem Cultural Council
Oakham Cultural Council • Orange Cultural Council
Petersham Cultural Council • Wendell Cultural Council.**

about Uniquely Quabbin

Quabbin region, Massachusetts—*Uniquely Quabbin* serves the twenty-one Quabbin region towns.

Athol Historical Society, Haley's Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau collaborate to produce *Uniquely Quabbin* in cooperation with writers, photographers, and artists from the greater Quabbin area.

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We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at haley.antique@verizon.net or 488 South Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 with proposals to contribute to UQ or for letters to the editor.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serves the twenty-one communities of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin.



Snow dominates the landscape seen from Belchertown's Enfield lookout on a clear blue winter's day.
photo © by Dale Monette



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on a winter walk with Thoreau

text from Thoreau's journal • engraving by Abigail Rorer

On Saturday, January 30, 1841, Henry David Thoreau took a walk as he did most days. There was snow on the ground and it was a beautiful day; here is his account of his adventure on that walk.

Suddenly, looking down the river, I saw a fox some sixty rods off, making across the hills on my left. As the snow lay five inches deep, he made but slow progress, but it was no impediment to me. So, yielding to the instinct of the chase, I tossed my head aloft and bounded away, snuffing the air like a fox hound. It seemed like the woods rang with the hunter's horn. I gained rapidly on the fox; but he showed a remarkable presence of mind, for, instead of keeping up the face of the hill, which was steep and unwooded in that part, he kept along the slope in the direction of the forest, though he lost ground by it. Notwithstanding his fright, he took no step which was not beautiful.



The course on his part was a series of most graceful curves. It was a sort of leopard canter, I should say, as if he were nowise impeded by the snow, but were husbanding his strength all the while. When he doubled I wheeled and cut him off, bounding with fresh vigor, recovering my strength each time I touched the snow. Having got near enough for a fair view, just as he was slipping into the wood, I gracefully yielded him the palm. He ran as though there was not a bone in his back, occasionally dropping his muzzle to the snow for a rod or two, and then tossing his head aloft when satisfied of his course. When he came to a declivity he put his fore feet together and slid down it like a cat. He trod so softly that you could not have heard it from any nearness, and yet with such expression that it would not have been quite inaudible at any distance. So, hoping this experience would prove a lesson useful to him, I returned to the village by the highway of the river.

Petersham resident Abigail Rorer is proprietor of The Lone Oak Press: theloneoakpress.com

Be Very Careful When You Pronounce

by Kathryn Chaisson

What do the five Quabbin area towns of Athol, Petersham, Oakham, Barre, and Pelham have in common? What makes them different from the neighboring Orange, Erving, New Salem, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, Wendell, New Braintree, Belchertown, Hardwick, Gilbertville, Hubbardston, Leverett, Rutland, Shutesbury, and Ware?

It's all about how their names are mispronounced.



Oakham (OAK-ham = correct; OAK-um = incorrect)

This mispronunciation probably came about because a town with the same name elsewhere in the world is called "OAK-um" but locally, the town is known as "OAK-ham."

Athol (ATH-all = correct; ATH-oal = incorrect)

Athol residents have long endured deliberate distortions of the name by jokesters who like to add a silent "e" at the end of the town's name. Some might be surprised to learn that the Athol name is regal in its history.

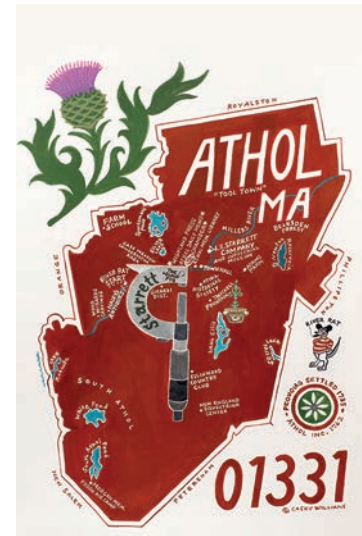
John Murray, one of the founders,

named it Athol for the duchy of Atholl, Scotland, because the landscape reminded him of his homeland.

Shaun Suhoski, a native of nearby Gardner (GAHD-nah), has lived in Athol for two years and has served as its town manager for three. Recently, he met with a consulting group that spent twelve hours looking over the town.

One of the consultants was from the South, and according to Suhoski, kept pronouncing it AY-thol, which also happens to be the way it's pronounced in Athol, New York.

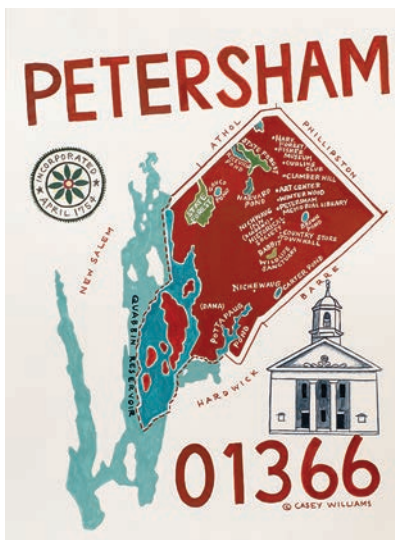
Athol has a lot of "great attributes," says Suhoski, who describes his adopted town on the municipal web page as "a community proud of its scenic beauty, affordable quality of life and enduring mill town legacy."



Petersham (PETERS-ham = correct; PETER-sham = incorrect)

Westford native Steven Boudreau said his pronunciation of the town where he works was immediately corrected by locals when he started his job as Petersham's administrative coordinator five years ago. Throughout the quiet hill top town can be found designated natural and wildlife areas, a curling club, monastery, and country store.

Barre (BAR-ry = correct; BAR = incorrect)



Names of Certain Quabbin Region Towns

Former Palmer resident Andrew Golas, a relative newcomer to his job as Barre town administrator, continuously gets jabs from friends who ask him how the job is going in “Bar.”

He classifies Barre as “a quintessential New England town with beautiful commons and historic buildings with a residential population committed to the preservation of the natural character and development of the local economy.”

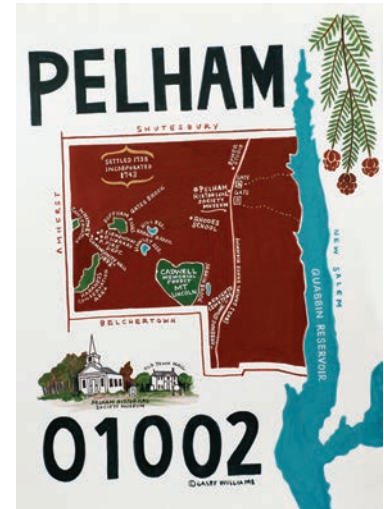
Pelham (PEL-um = correct; PEL-ham = incorrect)

Pelham town clerk Kathleen Martell hasn’t encountered any mispronunciations, but the small town of 1,350 has the oldest town hall in continuous use in the Quabbin region and is one site of Shays’s Rebellion. Today, much of the land is forested and preserved for drinking water.

“Our hometown glimpses make up the bigger picture of America,” wrote local historian Richard J. Chaisson in his “Athol History Trail” pamphlet. “Every town holds its fascination for all who look close enough. Each has its own story of how it came to be and where it is heading.”

Kathryn Chaisson was raised on local history by her father, Richard, who is responsible for naming the nine-town region known as the North Quabbin.

Maps © by Casey Williams.



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Plaques and Structures in Quabbin Region Bring to Mind

by Allen Young

Unexpected plaques and structures throughout the Quabbin region bring to mind events and people from the past. Some are poignant or thought-provoking, and it's fun to see them.

The Peace Statue in Memorial Park in the center of Orange, on the north side of the Millers River, tops the list. The statue depicts a World War I doughboy presumably speaking to a schoolboy with the haunting words "It shall not be again." Installed in 1934, the statue became the official Commonwealth of Massachusetts Peace Statue decades later under legislation filed by former State Senator Steve Brewer (D-Barre). The twelve-foot bronze sculpture by Joseph Pollia of New York attracted national attention when it was unveiled as a memorial to veterans of World War I. Orange citizens care for it lovingly and raised money to refurbish it in the 1990s.

In Hardwick, a boulder with a plaque in Memorial Park honors veterans. A plaque installed by Hardwick's historical society proclaims that the Hardwick Fair—



Peace Statue, Orange
photo © by David Brothers

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Poignant, Thought-Provoking Events from the Past

held annually and featuring the environment and agricultural aspects—is the oldest continuous country fair in the United States. The plaque lists the many accomplishments of Brigadier General Timothy Ruggles (1711-1797), who established the fair in 1762.

A plaque on Royalston's First Congregational church recalls the region's most notable natural disaster, the hurricane of 1938. The Old Schoolhouse Memorial, a bronze tablet on a stone alongside Route 68 a quarter mile northwest of South Royalston village, is dedicated "to the memory of a group of village boys who here learned their lessons of patriotism and died for their country." The tablet lists eight names and depicts the school the boys attended prior to the Civil War.

Indeed, most area towns have war and veterans' memorials in prominent places, including Athol center with its veterans park, and there are other monuments in Athol that could be easily missed.

Athol History Trail signs serve to remind us of many past events, including Indian-settler conflict, the falling down of the Sentinel Elm, and the Underground Railroad that helped slaves escape to safety. A plaque on a rock in front of a house at 559 Petersham Road in Athol marks the birthplace of Lysander Spooner (1808-1887), a writer and activist. Also in Athol, an old decorative small flower planter there at the intersection of South Main and Mount Pleasant streets was a gift of the South Main Street Needle Workers, a women's organization, although the plaque that once identified it is gone. The planter originally served as a trough for watering horses.

The fountain installed in 1898 at the edge of the uptown common in Athol honors the memory of

Ginery Twichell, a stagecoach driver, railroad magnate, and United States Congressman. The fountain stands near a former tavern, a frequent destination for Twichell and his team of horses pulling a stagecoach.

A fountain installed by members of an important reform movement in American history, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), installed in Orange's Central Square in 1904, initially included drinking cups and a small basin below for dogs. The WCTU gained national prominence campaigning against the use of alcoholic beverages. Related to other popular reform movements and sometimes overly zealous, the WCTU blamed alcohol consumption for many of the nation's social ills.

A monument with a sculpture of a soldier holding a rifle serves as another World War I memorial in the center of Barre. It includes the names of those who served. Nearby is an 1866 monument to honor soldiers from Barre who fought in the Civil War. A standing marble statue in Rutland commemorates those who

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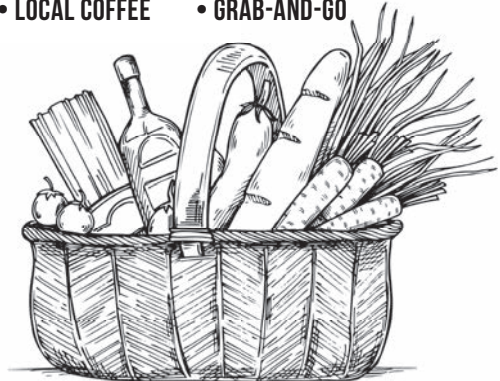
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Monuments, from left, on Barre Common, Rutland Common, and Hubbardston Common commemorate Civil War veterans.
photo left © by John Burk • photos center and right © by David Brothers

Quabbin Region Monuments and Plaques Honor the Past

continued from Page 9


served in the Civil War. In Hubbardston, the marble Civil War memorial features an eagle, not a soldier.

The Civil War is remembered in another way on the walls of the main meeting room of the Royalston town hall—with names of men who died in the Civil War, citing the location of their death.

A monument near the Pelham Historical Society building at the junction of Daniel Shays Highway and Amherst road, commemorates a late eighteenth-century encampment site of a portion of Shays's rebels against Massachusetts authority. The memorial commemorates General Benjamin Lincoln (in big letters compared to

those referring to Shays), who raised three thousand troops and routed the rebellion on February 4, 1787. It ends with the line, "Obedience to the law is true liberty."

A temporary alternative monument was brought to Petersham two hundred years later by two eastern Massachusetts school teachers who received permission from the Petersham Historical Society. The sign mentions General Lincoln in very small type (compared with the type used for Shays), and its last line contrasts with the original plaque by saying, "True Liberty and Justice may require resistance to law."



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A New Braintree road marker, erected during the 1930 Massachusetts Tercentenary, commemorates an event that occurred off the byway later called North Brookfield Road during the colonists' war with the Nipmuc Indians, named King Phillip's War. The marker says, "Edward Hutchinson's company seeking a parley with the Nipmucs was ambushed by Indians in 1675, and more than half were slain." While settlers experienced violence during the late seventeenth-century conflict during what amounts to essentially a land war, suffering of the Indians (then called savages) was as great or greater. White settlers, who saw themselves as civilized, decapitated Metacom, the Indian leader called King Philip, and displayed his head in Plymouth on a pike.

Perhaps the oldest and saddest memorial is the Leonard Monument



Shutesbury millstone marker with bronze plaque remembers World War I veterans.
photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

on Wendell Road, Warwick, just south of Moore's Pond. It commemorates a tragedy that took place in 1824 when James, the three-year-old son of Francis Leonard, was killed when he fell from a cart.

A simple, eloquent monument in Shutesbury makes use of a millstone as holder for a bronze plaque installed on Memorial Day 1937 to commemorate Shutesbury soldiers in the World War I.

Belchertown Common hosts a number of war memorials—to soldiers in the Civil War, Vietnam War, and Middle East wars. On the Phillipston common, the marker denotes the spot where a tree was planted in the 1930s by schoolchildren to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of George Washington's birth. The tree is gone, but the plaque remembers it.

A website, www.waymarking.com, can lead curiosity-seekers to many such markers.

Columnist Allen Young lives in Royalston. He received the University of Massachusetts Writing and Society Award in 2004.

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Seventeen Quabbin Region Towns Qualify

by Pat Larson

Many towns in the Quabbin region have undertaken programs to reduce energy use in town-owned buildings. The Massachusetts Green Communities Program provides financial grants to support town efforts to reduce energy use by twenty percent over five years. The Green Communities Act was signed into law in July, 2008, along with the Global Warming Solutions Act. Both Massachusetts laws have the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

In 2010, towns could begin applying for Green Community designation and receive funding to help with projects in town buildings to reduce energy use. Some of the first towns in the state to receive the designation and then grants to do work included Athol, Belchertown, and New Salem.

Some towns like Athol and Belchertown were quick to work on meeting the five required criteria for each town to earn Green Communities Designation and thus receive funding to help implement the town's energy reduction plan.

Compiling an energy reduction plan of twenty percent over five years is just one of the criteria each town must fulfill before applying for Green Communities designation. A town follows energy reduction plan goals concerning energy conservation and efficiency.

Another criterion that each town must act on requires adopting a fuel-efficiency vehicle policy for purchase of new vehicles bought by the town. However, many town-owned vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances, and police cruisers are exempt from the policy due to their special equipment.

Another criterion includes zoning by-laws that support expedited permitting in a town and right-of-site zoning for renewable energy research or manufacturing. The final criterion concerns an amendment to the building energy code known as the Stretch Energy Code. In some places, it has been difficult to adopt the code at town meetings where local builders have been concerned about higher costs for more insulation, tighter building construction,



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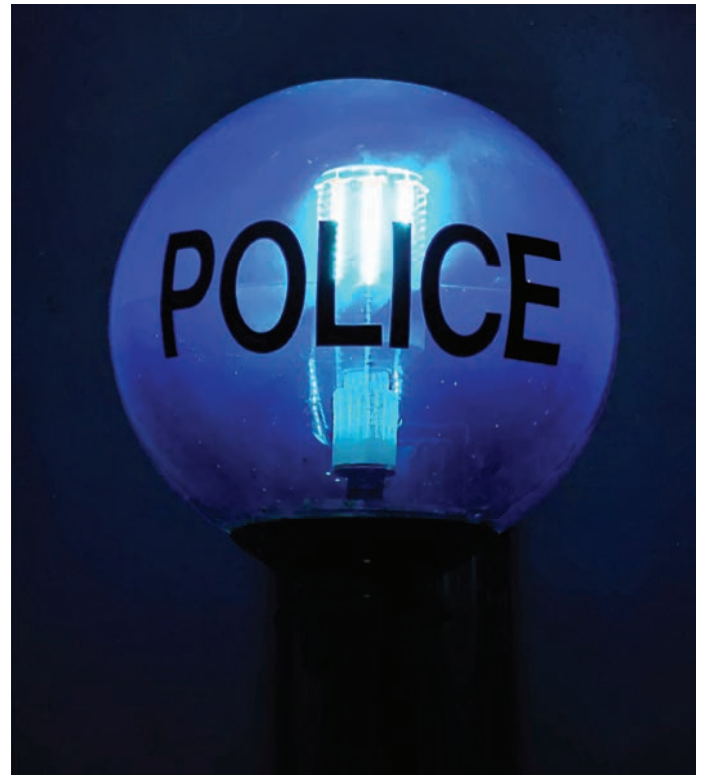
for Green Funds

and more expensive energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems. However, by the end of 2017, 214 cities and towns in the state had adopted the Stretch Energy Code including 17 out of 21 towns in Quabbin region. Only Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, and Rutland had not adopted the Stretch Energy Code and applied for Green Communities designation by the end of 2017.

Jim Barry, the Green Communities coordinator for western Massachusetts, said it is beneficial for towns in the region to receive Green Communities designation and be eligible for funding to help cut energy costs in their town buildings.

Eric Smith, community development and planning director in Athol, said the town “would not have been able to take on many of the energy –saving projects if it had not been for Green Communities funds. The town is continuing to look at additional projects and recently received a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant to help do a heating system assessment in the town hall.”

continued on page 33



Green community funds support efficient alternatives like LED bulbs in town department fixtures.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky



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Family Fuel Oil

Quabbin region oil companies often operate in a friendly family atmosphere. Representatives of two or three generations of the same family working at the company may greet customers they have served for decades. New customers often feel comfortable that the people who provide heating oil know them as they have perhaps known other families for many years.

Huhtala Oil & Propane of East Templeton, Orange Oil Co of New Salem, R J McDonald, Inc., of Barre, Ron's Fuel of Athol, and Sentry Oil of Rutland represent the Quabbin region's fuel businesses operated for generations, respectively each by the same family.

Orange Oil celebrated its seventieth anniversary in 2017, and Huhtala Oil & Propane turned seventy in 2015. Ron's Fuel recently saw its thirty-first year of business; R J McDonald, its fiftieth; and Sentry Oil its thirty-fifth. .

Especially in winter and periods of bitter cold, family fuel companies experience long daily hours of operation. Often well into the night or starting very early in the morning, family members at family oil companies respond to customer calls. They arrange for servicing temperature-challenged equipment and providing heating fuel when tank contents dwindle faster than indicated by state-of-the-art computers.

"We are a full-service company on call twenty-four/seven," said David Huhtala. "No heat is always a priority, and we send someone out right away if a customer runs out of oil or propane or needs service work." In anticipation of emergency fuel deliveries due to winter storms, the Huhtalas monitor weather and arrange for weekly delivery.

"We have no answering service," said Pam Harris of Orange Oil. "A family member answers a customer's call within the hour, twenty-four/seven. We treat our oil with a product additive to stabilize the fuel, thus minimizing service calls."

McDonald advised consumers to check vents to be sure they are clear and to be sure carbon monoxide



Fuel provider families gather with their oil tankers.
photos courtesy of family fuel oil providers

Providers Explain Heating Business

by Debra Ellis and Marcia Gagliardi

detectors are working. "Have your heaters checked by a professional before they break down," he said.

"The Northeast is the most oil-dependent region of the country," Harris said.

Harris and her daughter Kirsten McCarthy explained that crude oil for the regional market originates in Russia, Norway, Saudi Arabia, at United States oil derricks, and in the tar sands of Canada because of the fracking process. Crude oil arrives by ship, train, and pipeline at US refineries.

From crude oil sources, Harris and McCarthy said, refineries remove impurities to various degrees of refinement to create petroleum products suitable for home and commercial use. Number 2 oil fuels furnaces in most Quabbin region petroleum-dependent homes and businesses, while kerosene, Number 1, serves places with outside tanks.

Huhtala, Harris, and McCarthy explained that oil prices fluctuate, and fuel oil companies constantly monitor changes.

"Several variables contribute to a price change," according to Huhtala, "such as supply and demand and following what the market shows. Prices do not change daily, but after an upward or downward trend for a few days, there will likely be a change in price."

"The cost of oil is driven by Wall Street," Harris said. "World events drive the price of oil up or down. People come out with statements that affect the news media and affect the price of oil. And then, too, nature has its own play."

Quabbin region fuel oil providers encourage consumers to conserve when possible, keep equipment in good working order, and stay in touch with their service representatives.

Harris suggested that consumers can install heat pumps to assist with air conditioning and energy efficiency in warmer weather. Upgrading winter heating equipment, she said, can save money and go easier on the environment.

Each of the region's fuel oil providers services a radius of as much as twenty-five miles and as many as four thousand customers, including some seventy-five percent residential and twenty-five percent commercial.

Each of the region's fuel providers maintains a fleet of oil tanker trucks and service vans. Individual providers each employ as many as fifty workers. Websites for each business feature up-to-date information and opportunities to communicate and pay bills on line.

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Debra Ellis is business manager of *Uniquely Quabbin* and treasurer of Athol Historical Society. Marcia Gagliardi is editor and publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

If you can't head for winter hiking trails,

by Mark Wright



Winter hikers cross a footbridge in the Royalston woods.
photo © John Burk



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you can always make a run for the hills

The Quabbin region, both North and South, has a wealth of recreational assets that span organized group sports through individual endeavors. While it's unlikely that anyone is heading out to do some rock climbing or canoeing for the next two months, some of our warmer weather staples are still on the roster with some not-so-subtle changes in gear and attire.

Hiking may be the Quabbin area's most loved sport. With a network of hundreds of miles of blazed trails carefully marked for level of difficulty, you could hike the region every summer for a long time and not repeat a path. We're not about to let a little snow put a damper on that, either. There are dozens of trails along the network blazed and packed by intrepid folks both willing and able as well as insistent not to let the beauty along those paths go unseen just because it's winter.

Simply strap on some show shoes (or crampons if you're a little more daring and plan some ice hiking),

continued on Page 25



Winter sports of all kinds make life fun in the Quabbin region. Aria Flematti, then three, and her mom, Shannon, hit a slope. photo © by Rick Flematti



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Something to Do for Leisure, Fun, or Food?

by Laurie Smith

Getting outside for fun can be difficult in our often harsh New England winters, but ice fishing offers a great cold-weather pastime for many people, including children. While many old-time, seasoned ice fishermen take to the frozen lakes, the sport also attracts a growing number within younger angling fraternities and sororities. Whether you are looking for something to do with family or friends, for leisure, for fun, or for food, ice fishing has something to offer everyone as long as you plan and prepare appropriately.

Safety comes first when you are talking about venturing out onto ice. Do not go out alone, and be sure someone knows where you are when you go. Ice depth should be at least four inches to be safe to walk on, and that guideline is for fresh newly formed ice. Ice that forms over flowing water and currents is not safe, and you should always avoid it.

You can check on ice safety by contacting local bait shops, and you can test ice thickness by using an ice chisel, auger, or even a cordless drill with a long bit. Have foot wear with a good tread to prevent slipping. A bit of snow on the ice makes walking much easier than on glare ice. If you are headed out onto clear ice, wear ice tracks that strap on to your shoes.

Keep warm and dry. If you haven't ice fished before, you may want to consider going out the first few times on milder days. Dress in layers, and be sure you have waterproof, insulated boots. Hand warmers make a nice addition to put into your gloves, as your hands will feel cold as you manipulate bait and equipment. You should have snacks and warm drinks for the down time while you wait, especially when fishing with children.

Ice fishing requires a variety of equipment. An ice auger, a spiral cutting tool, will make a hole in the ice.

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Go Ice-Fishing!

Expensive power augers make quick easy work of hole making whereas affordable, handheld augers use muscle power. The law allows five lines per person, so each person fishing can drill up to five holes. With deep ice and a hand auger, expect a workout! You can certainly drill fewer holes if you prefer.

You will also need an ice scoop strainer to remove slush and ice from the hole. Sometimes when I take children out, we go to areas where people fish frequently, and we can use already established holes.

Fish with tip-ups and jig poles. A short jig pole is made specifically for ice fishing. You fish through the hole in the ice, often jiggling the bait up and down. Tip-ups are set up over the hole with a flag that moves to show that a fish has made contact. Young children ice fishing love to chase flags.

For bait, use small, live fish called shiners as well as worms and artificial jig lures. Bring a five-gallon bucket to keep your gear in, and then you can use it as a seat while you fish. A large fishing sled is helpful to tote all of your gear, especially if you have a long walk. You can use the sled to pull the kids around afterwards while you wait for fish to bite.

Some great places to try your hand at ice fishing in the Quabbin area are as follows: Lake Mattawa and Lake Rohunta in Orange; Comet Pond in Hubbardston; Lake Ellis in Athol; Lake Moore and Clubhouse (Sheomet) Pond in Warwick; Ruggles Pond in Wendell; Metacomet Lake in Belchertown; Tully Lake in Royalston; Laurel Lake in Erving; Lake Wyola in Shutesbury; Hardwick Pond in Hardwick; and Queen Lake in Phillipston. Ice fishing is not permitted on the Quabbin Reservoir.

Some Quabbin area bait and tackle shops that sell ice fishing equipment and bait are Flags Fly



Jaeden Corbitt, left, and Adam Beauvais score a sunfish while ice fishing at a Quabbin region lake.
photo courtesy of Laurie Smith.

and Tackle and GRR Gear, both in Orange, T&S Ice Fishing in Athol, and R&R Sports Shop in Belchertown. Make sure you have a valid fishing license if you are fifteen years and older.

Lakes and ponds listed above have a variety of fish such as yellow perch, sunfish, large- and small-mouth bass, and chain pickerel. Some locations also have trout. Lake Ellis in Athol gets stocked with trout by the Quabbin Anglers Association specifically for the annual ice fishing derby. Lake Mattawa and Comet Pond are also home to Atlantic salmon.

The website www.northquabbinwoods.org has a great section on fishing with information on a variety of locations that can be fished all year round.

Laurie Smith is an early childcare provider living in Athol.



The Cultural Center at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick incorporates academia, visual arts, and performing arts.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

Do you have to go to the city to find good theatre?

Paula J. Botch

As a child, I was certain I'd grow up to become a great star of the silver screen. Although I was born with brown hair and eyes, my mind's eye portrayed me all grown up looking just like actresses of the day—Grace Kelly and Tippi Hedren—beautiful, blonde, and stylishly outfitted with hat, purse, and heels.

Somehow, it never happened.

Theater is nevertheless a lifetime passion, my first love in the arts. Over the years, a twist of fate took me backstage among the techies to run lights at a number of community theaters. But being onstage or backstage has drawbacks for actually seeing productions, and it's really fun in the audience simply enjoying the show.

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Abby Theatre on the Eagle Hill campus is a state-of-the-art facility for theater productions.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

No way! It's right here in Quabbin's back yard!

Living far from a city in the Quabbin region doesn't mean we're missing out on fabulous theater and entertainment opportunities, all at reasonable prices.

The Cultural Center at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick incorporates academia, visual arts, and performing arts. Abby Theatre on the Eagle Hill campus is an amazing state-of-the-art facility for theater productions. There's not a bad seat in the house to enjoy plays such as the beautiful musical *The Fantasticks* and the upcoming *Little Mermaid*, performed by the Gilbert Players, founded by John and Linda Tomasi of Hardwick. Other plays and musicals such as *Little Women, the Musical* and the upcoming *Our Town* and *Les Miserables* constitute Eagle Hill Productions, performed by the school's students.

In addition to plays, Eagle Hill Center is a venue for musicians and other performers. Jazz, blues, swing, big brass, and big band players will surely get your groove on. Comedy or cabaret nights may be more to your

liking or maybe an art tea—an opportunity for conversations with local artists.

Barre Players Theater's history began in 1921 with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed in the park by local talent with an audience of about a thousand people. Director George Vivian was a theatrical producer from New York and a summer resident of Barre. Over many years, the group grew and changed, incorporating in 1992. The Players purchased a Greek-Revival-style building at the south end of Barre Common, and with recent modernization and upgrades, the theater feels quite comfortable.

The show season begins in October with plays every couple of months through August. Past productions include the magnificent musical *Fiddler on the Roof* and a stunning *The Miracle Worker*. Christmas-themed plays make wonderful fun during the holiday season, followed by spring productions of comedies, dramas, or musicals each year. Children and teens participate in productions

continued on next page

Curtain up! Light the lights!

continued from previous page

in a youth theater with comedies such as *Gone with the Gust* and *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. A young adult theater has delivered plays ranging from *Legally Blonde, the Musical* to *Witness for the Prosecution* during summer months. A teaching group, Barre Players offers teens opportunities to work backstage as crew and up in the booth as lighting and sound technicians for many productions.

Hubbardston Community Theatre, entering its twenty-sixth season, started in 1993 with a production of *The Pied Piper* directed by Russell Killough-Miller. This group seeks to provide theatrical experiences for children and families, and opportunities are open to anyone over the age of six. One show each year is performed at the Hubbardston Center School in March with *The Wizard of Oz* coming this year. Previous productions include *Mary Poppins*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Annie*, and *Oliver*.

A Hubbardston Community Theatre summer camp encourages children to work with all aspects of play production. The camp ends with a performance on the final night for an audience of family and friends.

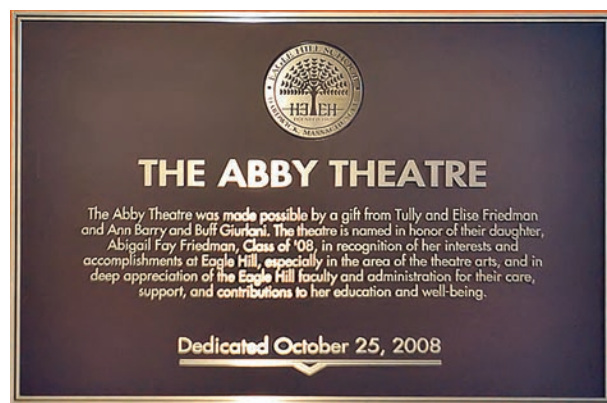
Less traditional is the Drama Circle, started at Mount Wachusett Community College in the 1990s. During the summer of 2018, it will move to the Village Lyceum in Petersham. According to longstanding artist-director Genevieve Fraser, the Drama Circle is dedicated to original works for the stage and screen. Writers are invited to submit their scripts for possible readings with occasional readings of classical works. Future possibilities include selecting scripts for staged readings and workshop productions. Whether their plays are read or staged, writers must provide their own scripts for readers and actors.

The Drama Circle is free and open to the public. Donations help defray costs for maintaining Davis Memorial and Petersham Unitarian Church where readings and productions will be held.

Just beyond our Quabbin borders, you'll find more productions -- Theatre at the Mount in Gardner performs a cascade of outstanding play productions each season and the Shea Theater Arts Center in Turners Falls hosts a mix of plays, musicians, and interactive theater events.

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Dedicated in 2008, The Abby Theatre at The Center at Eagle Hill honors Abigail Fay Friedman.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

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Paula J. Botch is a writer and photographer who lives in Orange, Massachusetts – and she truly loves theater life.

*With this issue, Uniquely Quabbin magazine
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February 10, 1675 begins unexpected journey through region's towns

Mary Rowlandson's Ordeal Remembered

by Carla Charter

On the tenth of February 1675, came the Indians with great numbers upon Lancaster, their first coming was about sunrising; hearing the noise of some guns, we looked out; several houses were burning and the smoke ascending to heaven.

With little embellishment, Mary Rowlandson describes the Lancaster, Massachusetts, raid that changed her life. The words appear in her 1682 book, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.

In anticipation of the raid by Narragansett, Wampanoag, and Nashaway/Nipmuc Indians intent on regaining their land, many colonists had sought refuge in the home Mary shared with her husband, Reverend Joseph Rowlandson, and their three children, Mary, Joseph, and Sarah, called Grace. During the attack, Reverend Rowlandson was away soliciting military aid for the town from Governor John Leverett, for whom the town of Leverett was named.

A two-hour battle ensued at the Rowlandson home. It ended with thirteen colonists killed, the home on fire, and at least twenty-four colonists taken captive. While escaping the burning building, Mary and her six-year-old daughter, Sarah, were wounded.

...the bullets flying thick, one went through my side and the same (as would seem) through the bowels and hand of my dear child in my arms.

Despite her wounds, Mary and her children, including the injured Sarah, survived the initial attack. The Indian party took them hostage. Then began a month-long forced trek for them, through central and western Massachusetts.

The night following the raid, the Indians camped with their captives near Lancaster then moved on to Princeton. From there, according to her narrative,



Mary Rowlandson

This day in the afternoon, about an hour by sun, we came to the place where they intended, viz. an Indian town, called Wenimesset, northward of Quabog.

Wenimesset is believed to have been situated on the Ware River near New Braintree.

Since leaving Lancaster, Mary's wounded daughter, Sarah, had only been getting worse.

Thus nine days I sat upon my knees, with my babe in my lap, till my flesh was raw again; my child being even ready to depart this sorrowful world, they bade me carry it to another wigwam . . . whither I went with

continued on page 44

Snow Orchard *Discovered*

by Margaret Ellis Feldman

Found recently among what she called her “unfinished work,” the watercolor *Snow Orchard* by Barbara Ellis has never before been shown publicly. Barbara was adamant that she would never sign a piece until she was convinced it was complete, so, as she signed *Snow Orchard*, she must have been happy with the painting.

In watercolor, negative spaces where there is no paint are sometimes more important than painted areas, and Barbara was a master of negative space. Her use of seemingly random splashes of deeper blue in the sky and horizontal bands of amber, lavender, and browns place the painting among the works of her later years.

The artist depicts an obviously much-loved apple orchard, shown by the bench and bucket set on it. Nearby,



Light infuses *Snow Orchard* by the late Barbara Ellis, courtesy of Margaret Ellis Feldman. three small birds—mere daubs of paint, but full of energy and vigor—lend their music to the quiet scene. The trees themselves fill with life as they absorb golden sunshine and reach to express their joy in the glory of the winter day.

Artist Margaret Ellis Feldman is the daughter of the late watercolorist, Barbara Ellis.

Quabbin region features all kinds of winter sports

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grab your poles, and head out. The North Quabbin Trails Association is a good place to start for information on what areas are typically open. If you're a seasoned hiker and set out to pack a path yourself, give the association a call and say that you've done so. Many trails also support cross-country skiing.

Which brings us to sledding. There hasn't been a need to travel by sled in our region for a very long time, yet every year, thousands of us head out with friends, children, and grandchildren to plunk ourselves down on a sheet of plastic, a metal saucer, or the favored Flexible Flyer to soar down any local hill we can find. The Quabbin

region has some great sledding if you know where to look. Parks and conservation land feature traditional sledding hills, of course, and then many have neighborhood secrets filled with daredevil kids who wouldn't mind sharing the ride with some new friends. There's no real database or list for sledding; you've just got to get out there and look, ask around, or best yet, ask someone old enough to have used an original Flexible Flyer.

And don't forget to keep your eyes and ears open for some open ice for skating or a pick-up hockey game. Many communities still clear ice for skaters and monitor for safety. So, bundle up, grab your gear and head out to the Quabbin Region for an old fashioned, winter sporting good time.

North Quabbin Trails Association and the Quabbin Anglers Association can both be found on Facebook.

Please contact a local police or fire department on their business line to find out about ice safety and the town hall of your choice for information about open skating and sledding areas.

Mark Wright is executive director of the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau. He designs the covers for *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine and consults with *UQ* staff about graphic design.

1946: FISHING LEGALIZED IN QUABBIN WATERSHED

by J. R. Greene

Construction of Quabbin Reservoir required depopulating and flooding the Swift River Valley between 1926 and 1946. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts purchased more than eighty thousand acres of land for drinking water and watershed protection in parts of Franklin, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, constituting the largest single piece of land ownership in Massachusetts.

Because the reservoir functions as the main water supply for several dozen cities and towns mostly in metropolitan Boston, the Commonwealth restricts access and recreation within the Quabbin reservation. Restrictions began even before the Quabbin valley was flooded. In 1938, the Commonwealth blocked roads leading into the valley with gates staffed by reservoir employees in order to restrict access only to project workers and the few remaining valley residents. The Commonwealth wanted to keep curious onlookers away from land-clearing operations including massive burning of downed trees and brush. The numbered gates still block watershed roads.

When reservoir flooding began in the late summer of 1939, the only part of the valley open to the public was at the southern end near the administration building in Belchertown. People could drive over a paved road to view the flooded valley from that area. But officials closed off even that road after the United States entered World War II in December, 1941. A police unit stationed at the administration building became the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) police station for the next six decades.

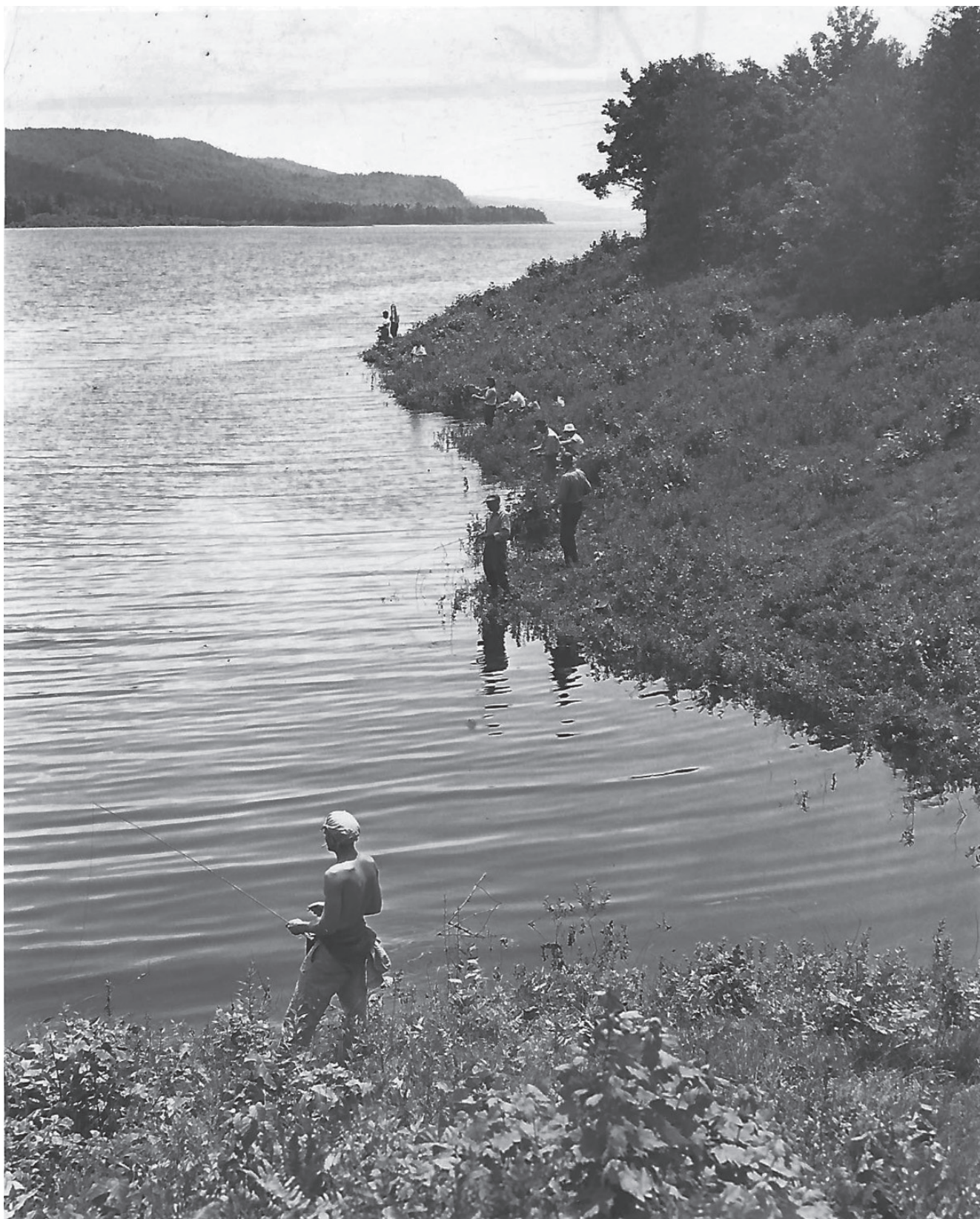
During the war, airplanes from Westover Air Force Base in nearby Chicopee used Prescott Peninsula for bombing practice with the northern end of the peninsula fenced off to keep people from being injured. The fence remained standing after the war with the peninsula designated as a wildlife sanctuary. It, along with the islands and the Mount Zion peninsula, continue to be off limits to the public.

During World War II, many local residents managed to sneak into the watershed to fish along the shoreline of the filling reservoir. Perhaps realizing that it would be difficult to prevent such access, officials opened the western, northern, and northeastern shores of the reservoir to foot access for fishermen with valid licenses in June, 1946, shortly after the reservoir was filled. The legislature authorized access under Chapter 421 of the Acts and Resolves of that year. Fishing from shore was popular, but many dreamed of fishing from a boat in deeper parts of the reservoir. Governor Paul Dever apparently heard of the desire of many to use motor boats, so he ordered the MDC, managers at Quabbin, to establish a program for fishing from boats in 1952.

To allow access for boats, MDC opened three launch areas: the west arm accessed from the Gate 8 road in Pelham; the northern and central parts of the reservoir reached from launch areas in New Salem at Gate 31; and the third area accessed on the Hardwick—Petersham line at Gate 43. MDC built paved roads to the facilities from existing access roads and set up docks and registration shacks. Fishermen could take advantage of newly available rental boats or could bring their own, with limits on motor horsepower and number of boats launched per day.

Motor vehicle access by the public at Quabbin opened in 1946 to roads in the so-called Quabbin Park between the dam and dike in Ware, including access to the stone tower at the summit of Quabbin Hill, which provides spectacular views of much of the reservoir. Only a few other activities are allowed in the Quabbin watershed lands, mainly picnicking, hiking, and bicycling. While people rarely attempt to horseback ride, which is illegal, many bring dogs along with them on their hikes, as dogs are not formally forbidden.

J.R. Greene is author of sixteen books concerning the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to create it. He chairs the board of directors of Friends of Quabbin and represents them on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Council.



A photograph published in the July 6, 1946, edition of the *Boston Herald* featured this caption:
AMONG THOUSANDS WHO FISHED IN VAIN—Part of the throng which lined the shores of Quabbin Reservoir as it was opened (legally, that is) for fishing yesterday. Mystery of the day—where are the fish?
A penciled notation on the back of the photo says “near where West branch of Swift River flows into Quabbin.”
photo from the collection of J. R. Greene



Rocks line the shore of an old New Salem ice pond alongside abandoned Rabbit Run train tracks.
photo © by Dale Monette

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homeopathy: treating like with like

by Ellen Woodbury

One cool morning, I walk through Sari Schaffer's door into her kitchen: a rich smell of lemon and herbs fills me with a bright calm. Sari hands me a steaming mug of tea made with a mix of red zinger, ginger extract, and orange. "This warms you from the inside out" she says as she leads me past many bottles of tinctures.

A registered nurse, Sari lived in London for ten years working in an alternative health practice and graduated from the four-year British College of Homeopathy, Regents College. She has been a homeopathic educator and consultant for twenty-two years. Sari explains a brief history and theory of homeopathy while I sip my tea.

Taken from plant, mineral, and animal (say, bee venom) sources, homeopathic medicines treat "like with like." Eighteenth-century physician Samuel Hahnemann ran experiments on himself by taking tiny doses of various substances to see what symptoms happened. He then treated patients who suffered similar symptoms with substances or medicines that had caused the reactions in him.

Working to find the smallest effective dose, Hahnemann discovered that shaking the liquid form actually increased the power

continued on Page 41



Registered nurse and homeopath Sari Schaffer creates plant-, mineral- and animal-based remedies in her Phillipston- and Barre-based homeopathic practice.
photo © by Rick Flematti



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Millers River basks in snow and ice in a painting in pastels by Gail Oswald of Royalston.
© by Gail Oswald



A vast solar field sprawls behind the Orange Police Department in the North Quabbin valley.
photo © by Mike Phillips

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Green Communities funds provided the Shutesbury Fire Department with a thirteen-kilowatt pole-mounted photovoltaic (pvc) solar installation to provide electrical energy.
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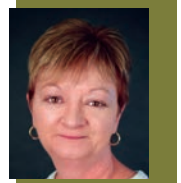


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Green Communities Conserve Energy

continued from Page 13

Several energy-saving projects have been completed in Athol town buildings since 2010. The town, with a population of some twelve thousand people, upgraded lighting in the police and fire stations, had new windows installed in the town hall while the new library used Green Communities funds to help with the heating system. Both the Department of Public Works building and the Millers River Environmental Center, a former school building owned by the town, had extensive weatherization work completed in recent years.

With a population close to fifteen thousand, Belchertown has not only benefitted from the initial Green Communities designation grant but from two competitive grants under Green Communities provisions in 2015 and 2017. The Green Communities grants and some other funding helped Belchertown reduce its energy use by twenty-one percent between 2009 and 2014 and reduce costs by approximately three hundred thousand dollars a year. Weatherization, some new equipment, lighting upgrades, and other projects not only reduced costs for the town but also the carbon footprint of town-owned buildings.

Shutesbury, one of the smaller towns in the region with a population of 1,700, received Green Communities designation and a grant of \$142,275 for energy efficiency projects in 2011. The grant funded a 15-kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the fire station to lower electricity costs at both the fire station and the highway building. Other projects included weatherization at the elementary school and lighting upgrades at the fire station.

"The Green Communities program is very good and helps towns carry out energy reduction plans to get them to a twenty-percent reduction in energy use," said Rebecca Torres, Shutesbury town administrator.

Other towns in the region with Green Communities designation have carried out similar energy-saving projects since 2011. Not only can towns cut down on energy use, but individual residents can also continue

to take advantage of programs to decrease energy use in their homes. Several programs for homes have been modified in the past year. The Mass Solar Loan program at masssolarloan.com helps with low-cost loans for people wanting to install PV systems.

Recently Mass SAVE also announced changes in their program to help people insulate their homes after a free energy assessment. This program, which offers a seventy-five percent discount for insulation projects with no cap on total project cost, will continue to be available in 2018. Go to masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/ or call 1-866-527-7283.

As people along with local and state governments continue to act on concerns about climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, work continues to reduce energy consumption in both the building and transportation sectors of the Quabbin Region.

Pat Larson is a retired educator who lives in North Orange.

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The Road Ahead
a visual haiku

by Ami Fagin

Visual Haiku #140, The Road Ahead reflects moments of visual curiosity about power lines, electric grids, telephone poles, and traffic lights. We typically overlook such human-made structures that power and guide our everyday life. We tend to see them as mundane and inconsequential for a visual art exploration or expression.

However, if one looks more analytically at such seemingly trivial and ordinary visual objects, our deeper complexities and universalities and our individual and collective experiences reveal themselves right at a traffic stop.

The Road Ahead poses the quintessential existential question we each face every day. The question crystalizes in *Visual Haiku #140* in all the mystery of everyday life we too often disregard.

Amy Fagin (who works sometimes as Ami Fagin) specializes in traditional manuscript illumination at her 20th Century Illuminations print studio in New Salem. Author of *Beyond*



© Ami Fagin

Genocide, she is an independent scholar in genocide studies. She will soon release her second book, *One Hundred and One Visual Haiku, Volume II*.

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QUABBIN AREA BISTROS SERVE GREAT FOOD AND DRINK

by Clare Kirkwood



Hanna Devine's Restaurant and Bar in Ware and The Blind Pig in Athol feature fine food and drink.
photos © by Diane Kane

Hanna Devine's Restaurant and Bar
91 Main Street • Ware • (413) 277-0707
<http://www.hannadevines.com/>

Open just over a year, Hannah Devine's pulsed with vibrant energy on a recent Friday night. Named for the owner's grandmother, this corner spot in downtown Ware is easy to find and offers convenient parking. Reservations are recommended for this well-lit, open space with high ceilings and reclaimed brick. It features a large bar lounge area with an extensive drinks menu, casual dining areas and intimate booths. Wonderful live music, the hustle and bustle of friendly, efficient wait staff and inviting smells make for a welcoming atmosphere.

On Mondays and Tuesdays they are a fabulous function venue, handling all details from flowers, photography and more. Throughout the week the restaurant provides a variety of events for dining and entertainment pleasure. Wednesday features musical bingo, and Thursday is Trivia night or "Eat, think, and drink night" with constantly changing specials. Friday and Saturday feature live music. Our hostess Stephanie took a few minutes to enthusiastically point out menu features as well as to highlight the freshness of the seafood which comes in just hours before mealtime with direct service from Ipswich.

continued on Page 39

The Blind Pig
98 Exchange Street • Athol • (978) 249-2795
<https://www.facebook.com/BlindPig.Athol/>

This pub-style restaurant, named after prohibition drinking places that charged for an animal attraction and served "free" drinks, has a welcoming atmosphere with friendly staff.

Although the bar seems to be the big attraction with a selection of New England craft-style beers on tap, it definitely is family friendly with the staff catering to the kids as well as their parents. The food is fresh, mostly locally sourced, and friendly to vegans, vegetarians, and those who choose gluten-free.


We sampled a burger with sweet tater tots, chicken and craisen salad, potato skins, and a hard cider on tap. All were delicious, well presented, and fairly priced. Portions were ample, grilled items juicy and smoky tasting and very satisfying.

Very casual, but a great place for beers, pub-style appetizers, or sitdown meals and takeout. Plenty of parking. They have great food at their functions as well. A welcome return to the downtown Athol area.

Check website for more details.



Feathers float in "Lost and Found," a watercolor painting by Candace Anderson.
© by Candace Anderson

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restaurants

continued from Page 37

Seafood was obviously a big draw on the Friday night I was there as many huge, mounded platters sailed by while we waited to be seated. We chose the calamari with Thai sauce as an appetizer (also available with marinara) - fresh, hot, and perfectly fried with handmade batter. Awesome! We sampled the onion soup—lovely, with a garnish of fresh green and purple sprouts on top of the cheesy crouton. The panko-fried goat cheese and beet salad with citrus vinaigrette was a huge hit for freshness, flavor balance, nutrition and presentation. We shared the crème brûlée with coffee for dessert. Again, great presentation, texture and flavor.

We agreed the atmosphere, quality and presentation were high while prices were fair and moderate. The hostess, Stephanie, proudly told us about her sister, the chef, a graduate of Johnson and Wales. “She’s the big deal around here!”

We couldn’t agree more and look forward to returning to this fun, bright spot in downtown Ware! Check website for menu and specials updates which change frequently.

Just want to add one more thought about Hannah Devine’s: it could be a place for casual drinks and appetizers, a destination for a dress-up special date night, or anything in between!

Clare Kirkwood is a freelance writer living in Athol. She is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. This represents the final edition of her *Uniquely Quabbin* food column, which she originated. The editorial board is grateful to her and looks forward to future columns by her protégé, Diane Kane.



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Snow-topped Mount Monadnock makes the most of the distance in this pastel painting by Gail Oswald of Royalston.
© by Gail Oswald

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homeopathic treatments involve small dosages, effectively cutting down side effects

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of the medicine. The more the medicine was diluted and succussed or shaken, the more active the medicine became. Sari says "The idea that less *can* be more effective doesn't seem possible, but homeopathy has survived because of its remarkable results. Of course, a clean diet plays a big role in peoples' health."

Using small dosages can cut down on side effects since the medicines do not build up in the bloodstream, according to practitioners of homeopathy. And since medicines do not build up, they tend not to interact with other medicines.

Sari picks a bottle from the rows of many-sized bottles and explains how she readies a medicine for a patient. For the particular treatment, she adds a drop of chamomile extract (stock she gets from England) to ninety-nine drops of alcohol. She vigorously succusses the bottle forty times. Depending on the desired strength of the medicine, she may dilute and shake further. She drops some of the liquid on tiny sucrose tablets ready for the patient to take by placing a designated number under the tongue. From eighty-five to ninety percent of the medicine is absorbed directly into the bloodstream.

Whereas mainstream medicine often considers patients in terms of a diagnosis or part of the body, say such as "the hip replacement in Room 3," homeopathy undertakes to treat the whole person who has a particular diagnosis. Therefore, the homeopath needs a lot of information about the patient in order to determine the most beneficial medicine or remedy. Past health and life circumstances, family health history, and present condition help to guide the practitioner to the right medicine.

Sari describes her process. First is the phone consult which begins her gathering of information. Next is a face-to-face appointment where Sari and the patient go

over any lab tests and the intake form for Sari's practice. Third, Sari makes customized medicine for the patient. Fourth, the patient takes the medicine while in the office in order to observe "if we're on the right track," Sari says.

In addition to treating people and animals with specific symptoms, homeopathic medicines can also offer daily support to bring about mental and emotional balance. Patients may add homeopathic tablets to water they sip on throughout the day.

Sari practices in Phillipston and Barre. She will provide a free ten- or fifteen-minute phone consultation for conditions of adults, babies, or animals or schedule an appointment at (978) 249-2557.

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.



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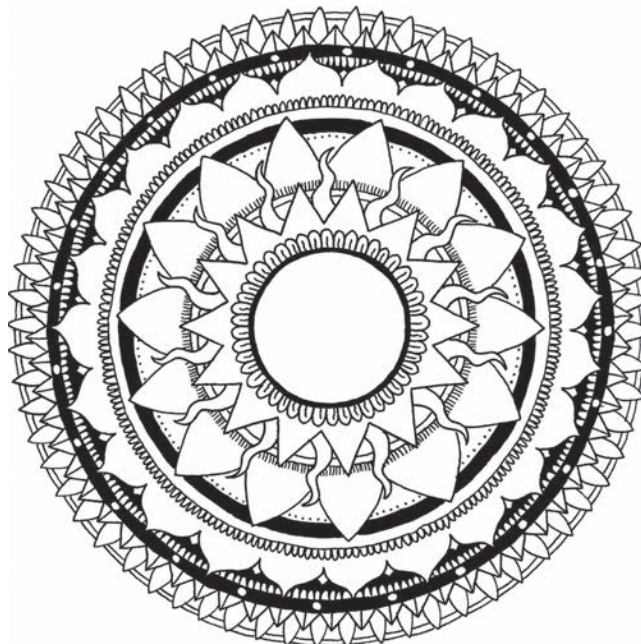
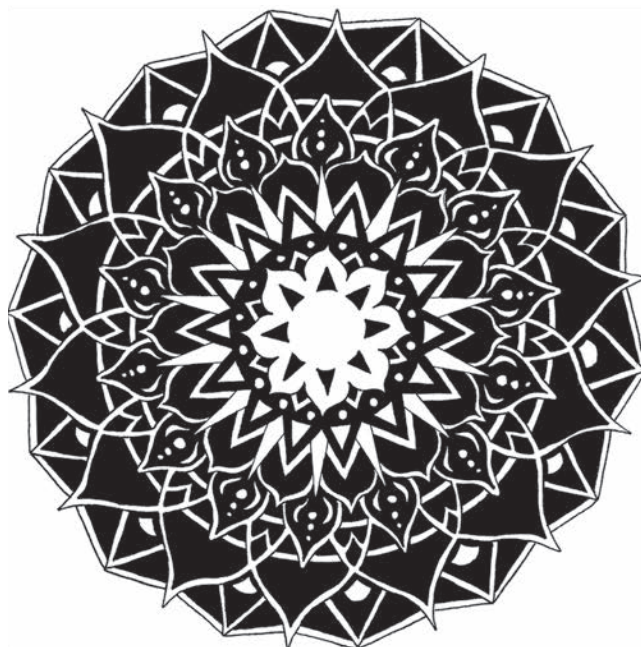
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Rowlandson Journal Recounts Harrowing Journey

continued from page 24

a very heavy heart, and down I sat with the picture of death in my lap. About two hours in the night, my sweet babe like a lamb departed this life on Feb. 18, 1675. It being about six years, and five months old.

Mary continued in the morning her child was buried:

In the morning when they understood that my child was dead they sent for me home to my masters' wigwam . . . I went to take up my dead child in my arms, to carry it with me but they bid me let it alone; there was no resisting, but go I must and leave it. When I had been at my masters' wigwam, I took the first opportunity I could get to go look after my dead child. When I came I asked them what they had done with it: then they told me it was upon the hill. Then they went and showed me where it was, where I saw the ground was newly digged, and there they told me they had buried it. There I left that child

in the wilderness, and must commit it and myself, also in this wilderness condition , to Him who is above all.

Legend has it, that the Indians buried Sarah, called Grace, in what became known as Warwick at the foot of a hill called Mount Grace, in her memory.

Mary's daughter, Mary, lived in the same encampment, although the Indians did not allow the two to speak, according to the memoir. Mary did, however, get to visit with her son, Joseph, who was held six miles away by another group of Indians.

The occasion of his coming to see me at this time, was this: there was, as I said about six miles from us, a small plantation of Indians, where it seems he had been during his captivity. And at this time, there were some forces of the Ind. gathered out of our company. And some also from them (among whom was my son's master) to go to assault and burn Medfield. In this time of the absence of his master, his dame brought him to see me.

The next move seems to have been to current-day Petersham, which was not settled until 1733. In her narrative, Mary describes her arrival and impressions of that land:

We traveled about a half a day or a little more, and came to a desolate place in the wilderness, where there were no wigwams or inhabitants before, we came about the middle of the afternoon to this place, cold and wet, and snowy, and hungry and weary, and no refreshing for man but the cold ground to sit on, and our poor Indian cheer.

The Indians stayed for four days. With the English army chasing them, they soon went on the move again, crossing the Millers River in what would eventually be called Athol. A rock known as Rowlandson's Rock denotes the place where the Indians and their captives crossed, according to local lore. Banquaug in Rowlandson's narrative is a phonetic spelling of the word



Photography by John Burk

featuring New England and the Quabbin Region

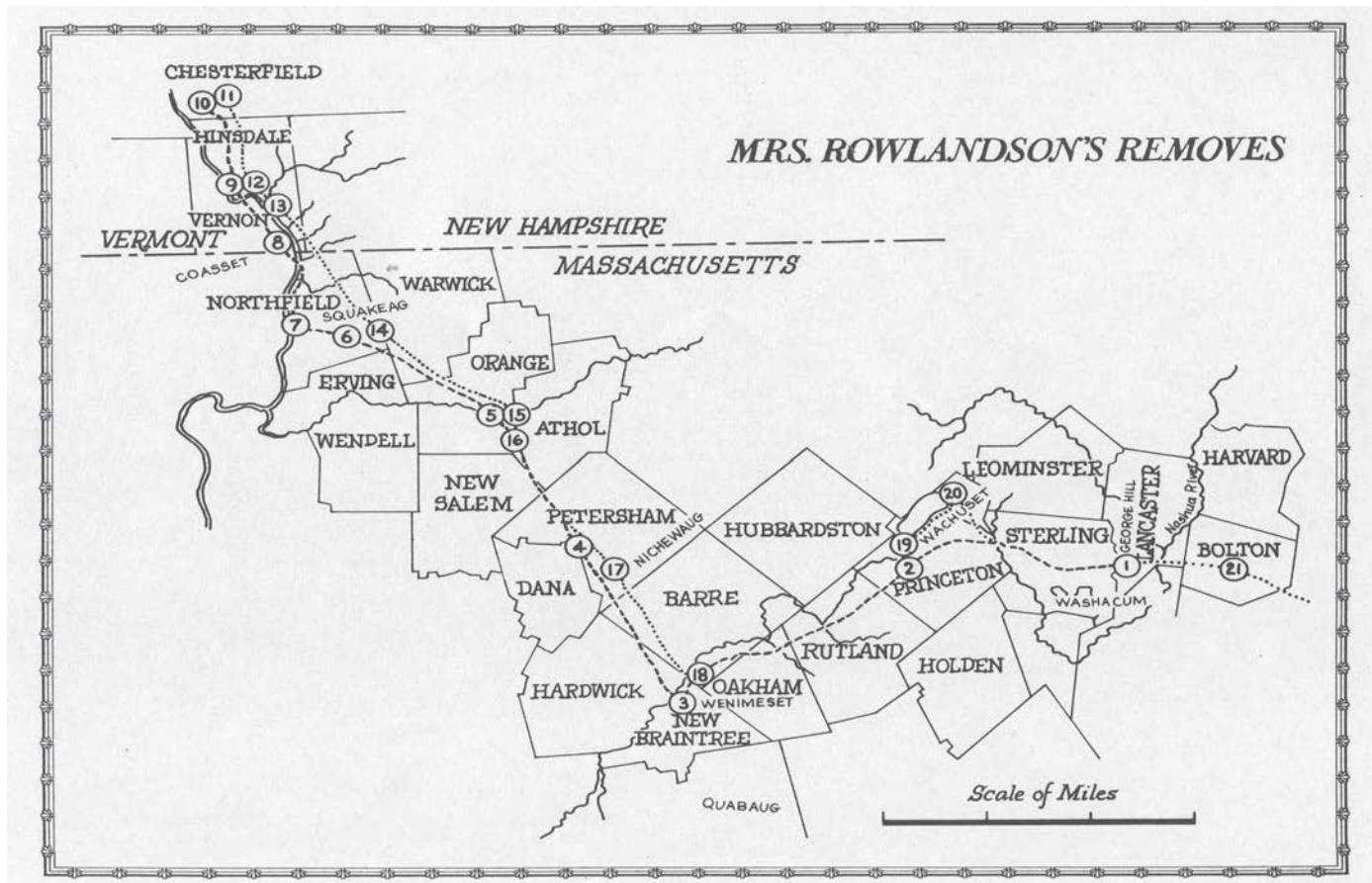
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Mary Rowlandson's captivity took her through towns that would eventually surround Quabbin Reservoir.

Pequoiag, the word used by the Nipmucs to describe the region that would come to be called Atholl and then Athol. The Millers River, once the Banquaug or Pequoiag River, flows through Athol.

Rowlandson describes the scene in her narrative

Upon a Friday, a little after noon, we came to this (Banquaug) river. They quickly fell to cutting dry trees, to make rafts to carry them over the river; and soon my turn came to go over. By the advantage of some brush which they had laid upon the raft to sit upon, I did not wet my foot, (which many of themselves at the other end were mid-leg deep) which cannot but be acknowledged as a favor of God to my weakened body, it being a very cold time...A certain number of us got over the river that night, but it was the night after the sabbath before all the company was got over.

She notes in her narrative that they did not stay near the river for long.

The greatest number at this time with us were squaws, and they traveled with all they had, bag and baggage, and yet they got over this river aforesaid; and on Monday they set their wigwams on fire, and away they went. On that very day came the English Army after them to this river, and saw the smoke of their wigwams on fire, and away they went.

From there the Indians and their captives traveled on through Northfield and into Vermont. Eventually the tribe returned on much the same route, finally arriving at Redemption Rock in Princeton where Rowlandson's freedom was negotiated for twenty pounds. Once free, she was taken to Boston and reunited with her husband and her older two children.

In 1682, six years after Rowlandson's ordeal, she recorded her experiences in her book *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God: Being a Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.

Carla Charter is a freelance writer. She lives in Phillipston.



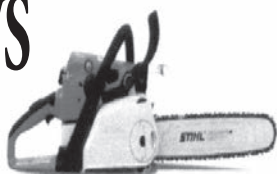
By late March, according to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, great blue heron pairs will populate rookeries throughout the Quabbin Region. Herons return to the same nest year after year, according to Mass Audubon.

photo © Mike Phillips

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by Sharon Harmon

He was always by my side.

—“The Homecoming” by Sharon Harmon

published in *Worcester Magazine*, June 1997

If a dog is considered humans’ best friend, then understandably leaving your “best friend” behind at a kennel poses emotional difficulty. Following are suggestions for places to leave your pets if the need arises.

Mount Tully Kennels Pet Hotel & Store in Orange provides boarding, grooming, and day care with a supply business in the attached store. Steve Drew and his wife, Theresa, jokingly referred to as “the boss,” opened their establishment in 1981. They initially trained dogs for bird hunting but eventually focused more on taking in other people’s animals. Open seven days a week, the kennels employ two groomers and thirteen part-time employees.

“We are the busiest from Memorial Day to Labor Day, when people head North, and during school vacations,” Steve said. “Working at the kennels with my wife is a labor of love. With this kind of small business, you have got to love animals.”

The Drews board both dogs and cats. “We have a great customer base,” Steve noted. “Sometimes we see dogs smiling.”

New to the place this year is a twenty-by-forty-foot training area with rubber mats. There the Drews can offer several classes and disciplines, including free dog-talk nights. A recent topic: Naughty Dogs Can Learn to be Nice!

Mount Tully sells farm animal food, hay, shavings, and straw, and twenty-one brands of dog and cat food. The pet store includes tropical fish for fish lovers and a great selection of reptiles.

Mount Tully Kennels • Pet Hotel & Store • 138 Fryeville Road just off Route 32, Tully • 978-575-0614

Carol’s Kennels in Orange opened in 2007. “I love dogs, everybody’s dogs,” Carol, a tall, blonde dog lover told me. “I am here twenty-four/seven. People bring their own food, and I offer toys with exercise every two hours. To stay here, dogs’ shots need to be up to date.”

With heat or air conditioning depending on the season, the kennels are off a bucolic road on an acre of land. She boards only dogs and also offers doggie day care. “My busiest time is July and August, the foliage season, and Thanksgiving,” she said. When I asked her about her favorite guests, she said, laughing, “I once had a huge Saint Bernard. He was very shy at first, but by the end of his stay, he was my best buddy and slobbering all over the place.”

Carol’s Kennels • Carol De Coste • 104 Butterworth Road • Orange • 978-575-1522 • Carol’s Kennels Facebook

The Belchertown Boarding Kennel, operated by Diane Villemaire, has been in business for thirty-one years. “We bought the kennel with the name a long time ago,” she said. “We board both dogs and cats but mostly get cats in the summer.”

The business does not include grooming. It features forty runs. Diane said the kennel becomes pretty full during Christmas vacation and sometimes in January and February if it is a good cold winter and pet owners want to get away. September is her slowest month.

Diane is a down-to-earth animal lover. “I don’t care much about social functions or talking about clothes or cooking, but I can talk about dogs all day long,” she said. She bred German Shepherds for many years. “One thing I like about what I do is that I walk out the door and I’m at work.” Diane has the occasional help of her husband, Alan.

Belchertown Boarding Kennel • 176 Ware Road • Belchertown • 413-323-7641 • obrott@aol.com

Several Quabbin region kennels can serve you.

Cindy and Tom Meaux have operated Shady Glen Boarding Kennel in Belchertown since 1989. In the past, they boarded chinchillas, ferrets, bunnies, and guinea pigs, but now confine the place essentially to dogs and cats.

“One time, we took in a python from Amherst, and we had to put him in a different tank with a live mouse for him to eat,” Cindy said. “We decided never to do that again,” she laughed. “Now we basically stick to dogs and cats.

“We supply food or customers can bring their own,” she continued. “We also encourage people to bring a tee shirt from the owner to help comfort the pet if it might have anxiety about separation.”

Most of their customers come from surrounding towns and some as far away as Athol and New Salem. Their busiest time seems to be summer and also major holidays.

“We are constantly working to improve our kennels,” she added. Lots of times, dogs that have been here before show up, get out of the car all excited, and actually run to get into the kennels.”

Shady Glen Boarding Kennel • 37 Amherst Road • Belchertown • 413-323-7349 • shadyglenkennel@gmail.com

Sharon Harmon is a poet and free-lance writer from Royalston.



Area kennels offer a variety of products, including fish and feed at Mount Tully Kennels, Tully, top. Customers enter a blue door at Belchertown Kennel offices, bottom left. Carol's Kennels, bottom right, and Mount Tully Kennels in Orange plus Belchertown Kennels and Shady Glen Boarding Kennel in Belchertown all offer boarding services.

photos © by Sharon Harmon



coltsfoot

Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

Spring Signs • Vernal Equinox

"In Nature's infinite book of secrecy, a little can I read."

—William Shakespeare



snowdrop

Certainly, winter's mask of white holds spring's secrets. Notice the buds that lay dormant all winter. As warm spring emerges, the buds swell and burst into their song of blooming. Yellow coltsfoot blooms along sandy roadsides, and white snowdrops humbly chase the snow away. Red maple buds become larger and more clearly visible. Lilac and forsythia bushes blossom. The Massachusetts state flower, the low lying trailing arbutus or commonly named mayflower, tenderly grows almost hidden within leathery green leaves. Bend down and smell the exotic perfume. Walk outdoors with your pencil and journal to draw the sights and capture your thoughts. Send the result as a snail mail letter to a dear friend to wish a happy spring.

As earth keeps orbiting round the sun while tilting on its axis, the nuances and bold expressions of seasons delight the senses. Once the winter solstice occurs on December 21, it appears as if the light begins its full return, even if by the smallest of degrees. Daily incremental slices of that radiant sun in the sky last longer until the spring equinox arrives on March 21 with an equal amount of day and night. Behold! Winter is past.

Let intimations of spring proclaim territory over the cold, snow-drenched wintered landscape of the Quabbin region. Look up and notice high wispy cirrus clouds, low stratus clouds offering rain, and puffy cumulous clouds painting portraits. Sky gaze. Daydream. Catch a sunbeam or rainbow. Feel the peace and beauty of the spring season.

Pay a visit to a local sugarhouse such as Green Roof Sugar House in Rutland, Johnson's Farm in Orange, Facey's Sugarbush Farm in Wendell, Shattuck's Sugar House in Belchertown, or Grand Maple Farms, Ken's Sugar House, or Thompson's Maple Farm in New Braintree. Become refreshed in the steam of boiling

maple sap invigorating your senses. The sweet and delicate scent shouts, "Spring!" Taste the liquid gold. Purchase some maple syrup, rich in minerals and nutrients, for home use.

Artists from all genres and walks of life have created a vast array of tributes to Spring. Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony, invites us to linger in the sounds of spring as he creatively crafted the storms and returning birds through music.

During a sun-lit warm walk near a wetland, listen for "cheronk-cherree." Returning red-winged blackbirds stake out their territories. The joy of seeing a male's flash of red on his wing is another salute to spring.

Walk in the evening misty rain when it is above freezing. You may see spotted salamanders congressing during their brief three days above ground in search of a mate.

When Mother Nature teases and sends another winter blast, just laugh! It won't last—the sun is on our side now. Relax, breathe, and sip more herbal tea. May spring bestow its bounteous gifts in appreciation of another season of light.

Clare Green, educator and naturalist, invites folks to walk her woodland labyrinth for peace and to visit the fairy cottage for some quiet magic and tea.



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Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

January 10, Wednesday

Reading Aloud for Grownups

7:00 pm

New Salem Library

South Main Street.

New Salem

Deb and Andy Lichtenberg of Pelham will entertain the audience reading short stories chosen by the readers and read with expression and delight.

Refreshments. No admission charge; Friends of the Library appreciate donations. Snow date is January 17. For questions or additional information, call 978-544-2611.

January 20, Saturday

The Second City

7:30pm -10:00pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

This topical new show features political satire made famous by Second City stars such as Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert, as well as brand-new scenes, songs, and improv straight from their sold-out shows in Chicago.

thecenterateaglehill.org



January 21, Sunday

Introduction to Basket Weaving

11:00 am - 4:00pm

Stone Cow Brewery

500 West Street

Barre

This class includes all the materials you'll need to make a medium-sized basket with opportunity for customization. Registration required. carterandstevensfarm.com

January 23, Tuesday

Getting Organized with Jenna

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

This workshop will give you a new way to think about your 'stuff', tips on controlling your calendar and simple things you can do to help reduce clutter and increase efficiency. Sign up is required.

978-249-9515

athollibrary.org

January 24, Wednesday

Family Game Night

6:00pm -7:30pm

Wheeler Memorial Library

49 E Main Street

Orange

Kids of all ages and their families are invited to join us in the library's program room to play new and classic board and card games

orangelib.org

January 24, Wednesday (continued)

80's Cinema at the Center

7:00pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Showing the 1985 cult classic *The Breakfast Club* directed by John Hughes. Snacks, beer, and wine available for purchase.

thecenterateaglehill.org

January 26, Friday

BINGO Night

Naquag PTO

285 Main Street

Rutland

Enjoy a fun night of Bingo, snacks, and more, all while raising money for a local school!

Fourth Friday Film Series

7pm-8pm

Wheeler Memorial Library

49 East Main Street

Orange

The library presents a free movie for adults on its big screen. No registration is required. Doors opens at 6:30. Info: 978-544-2495.

orangelib.org

A Night of Remembrance

8:00pm -10:00pm

Teresa's Restaurant

315 Palmer Road

Ware

Good To Be King - A Tribute To Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers. Tickets \$45 per person Includes Six- Course Family Style Dinner, Parking, Gratuity, Tax and Show

continued on next page

calendar listings compiled by Emily Boughton

submit calendar listings to calendar@northquabbinchamber.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 51

January 27, Saturday

Our Town

7:30pm -10:00pm

The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick

Eagle Hill Production presents
Our Town by American playwright
Thornton Wilder.
thecenterateaglehill.org

February 2, Friday

2018 Winter Whiteout

7:00pm

Pine Brook Camp
210 Lakeview Road
Shutesbury

The annual Winter Teen Retreat
is here again! It's sure to be a
weekend packed with a BLIZZARD of
activities! Ages 12-18, \$105.00
pinebrookcamp.org

February 3, Saturday

Tom Filiault

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse
6 Center Street
Wendell
Benefiting Seeds of Solidarity of
Orange.
wendellfullmoon.org

February 7, Wednesday

Sip 'n' Draw

6:00pm

The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick

(\$15) Sip and paint for adults, wine
cash bar available
thecenterateaglehill.org

February 10, Saturday

Rodney Marsalis

Philadelphia Big Brass

7:30pm – 10:00pm

The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick

Ranging from solo trumpet to brass
quintet to the full ten-piece ensemble
with percussion, this group reflects
the diverse makeup of men and
women in American culture.
thecenterateaglehill.org

February 11, Sunday

If I Am Not For Myself, Who Will Be
for Me?

2:00pm

Woods Memorial Library
19 Pleasant Street
Barre

February 14, Wednesday

Reading Aloud for Grownups

7:00 pm

New Salem Library
South Main Street.
New Salem

Dee Waterman, a local actor, and
Richard Trousdell, retired UMass
speech professor, will entertain the
audience reading selected short
stories.

Refreshments. No admission charge;
Friends of the Library appreciate
donations. Snow date is February
21. For questions or additional
information, call 978-544-2611.



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Wendell • Templeton • Warwick

February 16, Friday

Open Mic Night!

7:00pm -10:00pm

Workshop13

13 Church Street

Ware

\$5 suggested donation, beer and wine available for purchase. Spaces fill quickly! Register in advance to secure your slot to perform! workshop13.org

February 19-23, Mon-Fri

February Vacation Art Days!

8:30 am-5:00pm

Workshop13

13 Church Street

Ware

Full week, single day, aftercare options available. Check their website for a full listing of classes, camps, and workshops for kids and teens!

workshop13.org

February 19-23, Mon-Fri (continued)

Feasting on Ten-10 Minute Meals with Liz Barbour

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

The popular Liz Barbour is back to wow us with another cooking demonstration! Space is VERY limited. Registration Required! Call 978-249-9515 to register.

athollibrary.org

March 3, Saturday

Pancakes at the Farm

8:00 am

Heifer International (Heifer Farm)

216 Wachusett Street

Rutland

Heifer Farm invites you to Pancakes at the Farm! Come enjoy our annual farm-to-table breakfast and explore Heifer's Global Village. \$14 per adult, \$7 per child
heifer.org/farm

Viva Quetzal

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse

6 Center Street

Wendell

Benefiting the Community Network for Children.

wendellfullmoon.org

March 4, Sunday

Pancakes at the Farm

8:00 am

Heifer International (Heifer Farm)

216 Wachusett Street

Rutland

Heifer Farm invites you to Pancakes at the Farm! Come enjoy our annual farm-to-table breakfast and explore Heifer's Global Village. \$14 per adult, \$7 per child
heifer.org/farm

March 10, Saturday

Pancakes at the Farm

8:00 am

Heifer International (Heifer Farm)

216 Wachusett Street

Rutland

Heifer Farm invites you to Pancakes at the Farm! Come enjoy our annual farm-to-table breakfast and explore Heifer's Global Village. \$14 per adult, \$7 per child
heifer.org/farm

March 11, Sunday

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8:00 am

Heifer International (Heifer Farm)

216 Wachusett Street

Rutland

Heifer Farm invites you to Pancakes at the Farm! Come enjoy our annual farm-to-table breakfast and explore Heifer's Global Village. \$14 per adult, \$7 per child
heifer.org/farm

March 14, Wednesday

Baristas with Brushes

6:00 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

(\$10) Sip + paint for teens, cinnamon hazelnut latte

thecenterateaglehill.org

Reading Aloud for Grownups

7:00 pm

New Salem Library

South Main Street., New Salem

Martha vonMering and Evan

Goodchild will entertain the audience reading short stories chosen by the readers and read with expression and delight. No admission charge; Friends of the Library appreciate donations.

March 15, Thursday

Reverence, Resistance, Resilience film series

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

The Economics of Happiness and Joanna Macy and the Great Turning
Call 978-249-9515 to register.

athollibrary.org

continued on next page

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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March 16, Friday

Open Mic Night!
7:00 pm -10:00 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
\$5 suggested donation, beer and wine available for purchase. Spaces fill quickly! Register in advance to secure your slot to perform!
workshop13.org

March 21, Wednesday

Cinema @ The Center
7:00 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Pretty in Pink (1986), directed by Howard Deutch. Snacks, beer, and wine will be available for purchase.
thecenterateaglehill.org

March 22, Thursday

Curveball: The Story of Baseball's Female Jackie Robinson
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
An evening with author Martha Ackmann, who wrote *Curveball*, about Toni Stone, a woman ballplayer in the Negro Leagues.
athollibrary.org

March 24, Saturday

The Center's Got Talent
7:00 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Join the Center for the sixth annual community talent show. Vote for your favorite act to win the "Audience Choice" award. A fun night out for the whole family, and all profits go to a local fundraiser!
thecenterateaglehill.org

March 31, Saturday

Gas Light Tinkers
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse
6 Center Street
Wendell
Benefiting the Friends of Wendell Free Library
wendellfullmoon.org

April 3, Tuesday

Moving on with Autism
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Woods Memorial Library
19 Pleasant Street
Barre
Tyler Lagasse and his mother, Deb Lagasse will be at the Barre Library to share their story about not only accepting the diagnosis of autism... but thriving.
barrelibrary.org

April 5, Thursday

God's Seven Houses on Barre Common
7:00 pm
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street
Barre
Lester Paquin and Lucy Allen trace the fascinating history of meeting houses and churches on Barre Common from the 1700s to the present day.

April 7, Saturday

The River Rat Race and Big Cheese 5k
10:00 am Parade
1:00 pm Race Start
Millers River
Athol and Orange
Annual canoe race along the Millers River with hundreds of racers and events in the area all day long.

The Center's Got Talent
5:00 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
This is the Center's annual dinner and dancing event, featuring live music by Danny Bacher. Warm up with a swing dance lesson by a veteran swing instructor and then saunter upstairs for a scrumptious buffet dinner.
thecenterateaglehill.org

Please consider a donation to
Uniquely Quabbin magazine
Athol Historical Society c/o Debra Ellis
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue
Athol, MA 01331
Thank you.

April 11, Wednesday

Reading Aloud for Grownups

7:00 pm

New Salem Library

South Main Street.

New Salem

Dale and Lorna Peterson of Amherst will entertain the audience reading short stories chosen by the readers and read with expression and delight.

Refreshments. No admission charge; Friends of the Library appreciate donations. Snow date is April 18. For questions or additional information, call 978-544-2611.

April 14, Saturday

Easter's Great Gathering

8:00 am-1:00 pm

Red Apple Farm

455 Highland Avenue

Phillipston

Creating Easter family memories since 2011 with kids activities, egg hunts, raffles, hayrides and more. redapplefarm.com

April 18, Wednesday

80s Cinema at the Center

7:00 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Showing the 1986 classic

Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

thecenterateaglehill.org

April 20, Friday

Open Mic Night!

7:00 pm -10:00 pm

Workshop13

13 Church Street

Ware

\$5 suggested donation, beer and wine available for purchase. Spaces fill quickly!

April 21, Saturday

Clean Up Ware Day

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Ware

Clean Up Ware Day! Grab your work gloves and fill a trash bag. Let's make Ware MA a Better Place! Tree planting at United Church of Ware.

April 26, Thursday

So Close to Home with author Alison O'Leary

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Author O'Leary tells the story of an American family on board a ship that was sunk in the Gulf of Mexico by a German U-boat in 1942. Registration is required. 978-249-9515

athollibrary.org

April 28, Saturday

Ras Spectiv

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse

6 Center Street

Wendell

Benefiting the Orange Revitalization Partnership

wendellfullmoon.org

May 3, Thursday

Annual Meeting and Sharing

7:00 pm

Barre Historical Society

18 Common Street

Barre

Please bring an interesting antique found at your home or on your property. Following the Society's short Annual Meeting, we'll share the stories of these items.

continued on next page

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Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 55

May 4-6, Fri-Sun

Spring Pack Campout
Treasure Valley Scout Reservation
394 Pleasantdale Road
Rutland

May 11-13, Fri-Sun

Les Misérables

The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick

Les Misérables, presented by Eagle Hill Productions.
thecenterateaglehill.org

May 12 & 13, Sat & Sun

Boston Spartan Race Sprint Weekend
7:30 am Saturday – 5:30 pm Sunday
Treasure Valley Scout Reservation
394 Pleasantdale Road
Rutland

With 70 miles of technical traverses and topsy-turvy single- and double-track trails and 1,600 acres of beautiful, versatile terrain.

May 16, Wednesday

80s Cinema at the Center
7:00 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick

Showing the 1986 classic *Goonies*.
Snacks, beer, and wine will be available for purchase.
thecenterateaglehill.org



Snow-spangled New Salem Common invites an early morning walk.
photo © by Marcia Gagliardi



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