

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving

THE NORTH QUABBIN: Athol•Erving•New Salem•Orange•Petersham•Phillipston•Royalston•Templeton•Warwick•Wendell

THE SOUTH QUABBIN: Barre•Belchertown•the Brookfields•Hardwick (Gilbertville)•Hubbardston•Leverett•New Braintree•Oakham•Pelham•Rutland•Shutesbury•Ware

# CONTENTS

volume 8, number 2 • September-December 2023

*This issue features photos and art, history, event listings, and sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts.*

Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts . . . . .	4
Swift River cold water fishery studied . . . . .	6
varied trees characterize region . . . . .	8
autumn brings late-blooming wildflowers . . . . .	10
fall camping grounds described . . . . .	12
trolley cars served area towns . . . . .	14
free love raised colonial era eyebrows . . . . .	16
vital statistics help identify African American burial sites . . . . .	18
commune transformed to Renaissance Community . . . . .	20

continued on next page

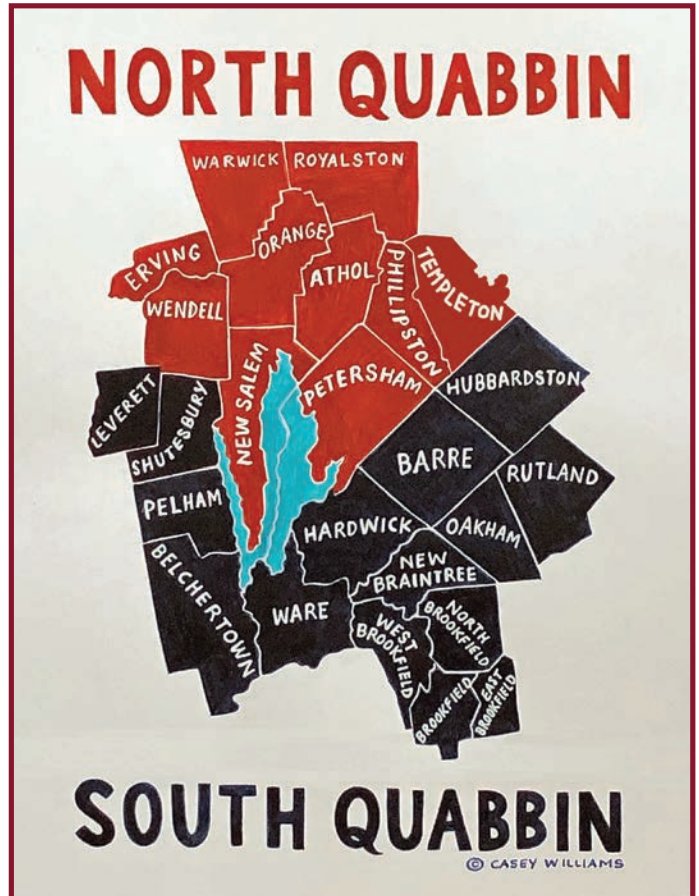


Tully Pond in Orange reflects resplendent Tully Mountain.  
photo © by David Brothers

## ON THE FRONT COVER

### *Forest Conjunction*

a painting in walnut ink and watercolors on paper  
by Bruce "Pan" Wilson



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

# CONTENTS

Hardwick Fair, Garlic & Arts celebrate place . . . . .	22
first European settlement in region: West Brookfield . . . . .	24
surrounded by natural features, Athol hosted industry. . . . .	26
teenager likens diagnostic approach to video game . . . . .	28
Backroads Tour showcases artists and crafters. . . . .	30
from the pens of <i>Uniquely Quabbin</i> poets . . . . .	34
early Americans grieved while telling the bees . . . . .	36
Eastern Star sponsored farewell ball in Enfield . . . . .	37
hobby, accidental authors enjoy producing books . . . . .	39
specialty food entrepreneurs offer wide selection . . . . .	43
finding mushrooms. . . . .	44
challenge addressed to create healthier dishes. . . . .	46
Nature's Nuances . . . . .	65
varsity football schedules. . . . .	68
<i>Uniquely Quabbin</i> listings . . . . .	70

## about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

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

Advertisers support *Uniquely Quabbin* along with earmarked donations made to Athol Historical Society, which will send a letter acknowledging a tax deductible gift. The International Music and Art Foundation provided a seed grant to support the magazine and evolving consortium of Quabbin region museums, historical societies, and arts centers.

## a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . . Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2023. The generous support from the councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

I also want to thank readers who have so generously made donations to our magazine. Your thoughtful donations, with praise-filled notes, help keep us going financially.

Grants, advertisers, and donations help keep us going. We always appreciate donations you can make by mailing a check to Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331, going to [uniquelyquabbin.com](http://uniquelyquabbin.com) and choosing the donate button, or scanning the QR code you will find in this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*.

I want to thank our advertisers who play such a big role in the success of *Uniquely Quabbin*. An ever-growing list of businesses and organizations continuously support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please get out there and support them as they support us.

Well . . . what a summer! Heat, rain, humidity . . . thank goodness you had a *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine to fill your hours spent inside. Now we look forward to fall and all the pleasures that days filled with sunshine and crisp air bring us. So now that you have this new issue in hand, enjoy new articles to read, event listings to keep you entertained, and, as always, the beautiful photos and artwork from our contributors who make all of us want to get out there and enjoy the foliage. Put a cinnamon stick in your glass of apple cider, grab a cozy blanket, and sit down on your porch with our magazine!

Thankfully,

Debra Ellis, treasurer

Athol Historical Society

Please consider donating to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine  
with a check to Uniquely Quabbin  
c/o Debra Ellis, business manager  
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue • Athol, MA 01331

## a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

Autumn's in the air, and our *Uniquely Quabbin* writers, photographers, and artists have once again captured the season and the lore of our region in this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

Something about colorful autumn brings a particular brightness and special light to our pages supported dependably and generously by advertisers, local cultural councils, and donors.

As our magazine goes to press, it shimmers with information about our region. We hope you like it.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher  
Haley's

**submit letters to the editor  
for *Uniquely Quabbin*  
to [marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com)**

### *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine



**gratefully acknowledges the support of**

**Athol Cultural Council • Barre Cultural Council**

**Brookfield Cultural Council**

**Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council**

**Hubbardston Cultural Council • New Salem Cultural Council**

**North Brookfield Cultural Council • Oakham Cultural Council**

**Orange Cultural Council • Pelham Cultural Council**

**Petersham Cultural Council • Phillipston Cultural Council**

**Royalston Cultural Council • Templeton Cultural Council**

**Ware Cultural Council • Warwick Cultural Council**

**Wendell Cultural Council • West Brookfield Cultural Council**

**FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN  
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN  
BEGINNING ON PAGE 70**

## Uniquely Quabbin

September-December 2023 • Vol 8, #2 • ISSN 2472-081X

published at Athol, Massachusetts

*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine is published three times a year  
by Haley's in January-April, May-August, and  
September-December.

Free

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Marcia Gagliardi, editor and publisher

Debra Ellis, business manager

Mark Wright, graphics designer

Elizabeth Callahan, editorial consultant

John Burk, photographic consultant

*Uniquely Quabbin* is printed by

*The Republican* of Springfield

Writers and columnists: Copyrights by Emily Boughton, John Burk, Elizabeth Callahan, Carla Charter, Sue Cloutier, Christopher Coyle, Sasha Ellsworth Dyer, Debra Ellis, Ami Fagin, Brian Fournier, Marcia Gagliardi, Clare Green, J. R. Greene, Joey Haverty, Carl I. Hammer, Sally Howe, Diane Kane, Pat Larson, Christine A. Noyes, Rick Taupier, and Charlotte Westhead

Photographers: Copyrights by David Brothers, John Burk, Sue Cloutier, Mary-Lou Conca, Christopher Coyle, Rick Flematti, Clare Green, Mitchell R. Grosky, Neil Halin, Diane Kane, Kathy Kramer-Howe, Nancy Lagimoniere, Amber Howe McCarty, Christine A. Noyes, Dale Monette, Meghan Stone, Claire Sygiel, and Rick Taupier

Artists: Copyrights by Emily Boughton, Elizabeth Callahan, Ami Fagin, Brian Fournier, Elizabeth Lindgren, Barbara Kline Seamon, Casey Williams, and Bruce "Pan" Wilson

Front cover art by Bruce "Pan" Wilson

Cover designed by Mark Wright.

UQ logo by Mark Wright. *Uniquely Quabbin* logo by Mary Pat Spaulding.

Copy proofed by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri and Richard Bruno.

*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine is produced as a collaboration of

Athol Historical Society • Haley's Publishing

North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and

Visitors Bureau

with an initial grant from

International Music and Arts Foundation.

We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at [marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com) or 488 South Main Street, Athol 01331 with proposals to contribute to UQ or for letters to the editor.

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



## Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts

### *contentedly observing the magic of fire in a fireplace*

text by Sally Howe

Shedding complaints about summer heat and humidity, I wonder, "Where is that favorite cardigan?"



Autumn fire illuminates the fireplace.  
photo by Kathy Kramer-Howe

Not quite time to turn on the furnace. Instead, I lay a fire and contentedly observe its magic. The brick fireplace at our cottage has an old-style Heatilator. It must have been built shortly after 1927 because that's when someone invented the Heatilator. On both sides of the hearth are two connected vents, one below and one above, separate from the firebox. Cool air draws into the lower vent, gets warmed, and exits the top grate to release heat into the room. I put my hand in front of the upper vent and feel a warm wafting.

Who thought of controlling fire, bringing it inside? Apparently the first evidence of controlled fire, in Wonderwerk cave in South



Sally Howe

Africa, dates back one million years. Later, the Romans used fire to heat circulating water for early in-floor heating. I remember seeing in a museum an exhibit of an early

*continued on page 57*



***Passenger, Light Truck, SUV, Medium Truck, Heavy Truck, Earthmover, Construction, Farm, Forestry, Implement, Industrial, Forklift, Lawn & Garden, Boat Trailer, Golf Cart, ATV, And More!***

**Services Include:**

Mount/Dismount, Tire Ballast Installed, Flat Repair of all Types  
Emergency Road Service for Truck, Farm and Earthmover, Earthmover and Farm Tire Section Repair  
Commercial Truck Tire Retreading, Small OTR and Industrial Tire Retreading



19 Convenient Locations  
Throughout New England

***Find us online at [www.petestire.com](http://www.petestire.com)***

**978 544 8811**



# colors, brush sizes, techniques evoke atmosphere

text and painting in watercolors on paper by Elizabeth Lindgren



*Bonfire on Halloween Night*  
watercolor on paper

By experimenting with ideas and translating them into a series of thumbnail sketches to convey the meaning of words in my children's book *The Witch's Midden*, I created *Bonfire on Halloween Night*. After choosing the preferred sketch, I drew a master copy on tracing paper and then, using tracing paper treated with graphite, transferred the sketch to a piece of cold-pressed, three-hundred-pound watercolor paper.

Colors, brush sizes, and techniques evoke mood and atmospheric quality. Starting with the bonfire, warm shades of yellow and orange create the impression of intense heat and lively firelight. Next, I painted the illuminated night sky, first wetting the area, then applying shades of blue and purple and allowing colors to bleed together. The bottom third of the picture features a warm shade of yellow as trick-or-treaters and their cast shadows in black allow the yellow undercoat to show through the figures to give them dimension and subtle luminosity.

Author and illustrator Elizabeth Lindgren studied illustration and fine art at the Art Institute of Boston. She works in pen and ink and watercolor. Author of the Sooty Wick Mystery series for young adults and a children's book, she's writing a fourth book in the Sooty Wick series and another storybook.



# Mass Wildlife and Trout Unlimited study Swift River cold water fishery

by Rick Taupier

Swift River below Quabbin Reservoir has long been one of the two most popular fly fishing destinations in Massachusetts. While the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, MassWildlife, stocks the river several times each year with rainbow and brown trout, many anglers recognize wild brook trout as the core of Swift River fishery.

MassWildlife recently asserted that Swift River indeed likely qualifies as the best wild brook trout stream in New England outside of Maine. Even in Maine, few rivers have as prolific a population. And the size of the fish stuns the state's cold-water biologists. Recent population studies have seen wild brook trout up to twenty-two inches caught and released. Estimates suggest more wild brook trout greater than twelve inches in the Swift River than in all other Massachusetts rivers combined. Yet, MassWildlife has not stocked brook trout in Swift River in nearly thirty years.

The question of what led to such a prolific, self-sustaining cold-water fishery rests at the core of a new study jointly underway by MassWildlife and the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Brian Keleher and Adam Kautza, MassWildlife fisheries biologists, lead nearly thirty MassWildlife staff and Trout Unlimited volunteers and provide necessary technical support and help with equipment installation. With contributions from hundreds of donors, Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation and Trout Unlimited have allocated forty-five thousand dollars for the three-year study.

Using passive integrative transponders, called PIT tags (tracking technology relying on antennae that require no power), the study of wild brook trout will follow the movement of up to three thousand fish over three years. Dual antennae will record tagged brook

continued on page 42

*by enthusiasts, for enthusiasts since 1969!*



CYCLEDIGNONLINE.COM (978) 249-2244

305 State Road, Phillipton, MA

SHOP ON-LINE

## Barre Historical Society



### EVENTS

Join us when J.R. Greene presents  
***The Creation of the Quabbin Reservoir***

Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Allen Hall, Barre Town Library  
19 Pleasant Street, Barre, Massachusetts

Please email with your questions, and check our website  
and Facebook page for additional information  
as the date nears.

### ALWAYS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

18 Common Street Barre, MA  
barrehistory@gmail.com - barrehistoricalsociety.org





Mass Wildlife and Trout Unlimited volunteers install a dual antenna to track fish on Swift River below Quabbin Reservoir.  
photo courtesy of Rick Taupier

**Uptown**  
PACKAGE STORE

*A Great Selection of Liquors, Wines, Beers, & Full Lottery!*

**Beer**  
**Wine**  
**Spirits**

**174 Market Drive**  
**Athol**  
**978-249-6782**

*Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.*  
*Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.*

**FRAMES/INK**  
Preservation  
**Picture Framing**  
for more than 25 years  
We frame Art, Textiles,  
Memorabilia, and More!!  
**287 West Road**  
**in Petersham, MA**  
**(978) 724-3394**  
is the number to call for  
professional framing.  
**frames-ink.com**



# region's forests characterized by trees

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

The Quabbin region supports many kinds of trees. Some like the chestnut oak that has leaves resembling the American chestnut, are typical of ridge tops. Others like the yellow birch with its curled golden or silvery bark grow in stream valleys and at the edges of swamps. Each has its special habitat. Paying attention to trees in all seasons can add to enjoyment of Quabbin adventures and make each visit memorable.

Trees comprise a significant part of our landscape whether as individual trees in towns, in agricultural settings, on lawns, or as part of the complex of species in a forest.



Yellow birch trunks, left, and chestnut and oak leaves, above, show forest contrast.



An old field grown locust tree, left, in Quabbin Reservation and an old white oak qualify as notable trees.

Some trees in town or along a woodland trail are notable, perhaps because they grow tall or have a huge trunk or twisted shape. Such trees may have special history or be current champions or legacy trees.

Champion trees qualify as the largest of a species in a particular state or country. Field-grown trees typically win as champions because they can spread in all directions. Trees growing in a forest become thin as they reach to the light and share the canopy with competing trees. Regardless, amazing trees survive in forests of the Quabbin region. The oldest trees—legacy trees—provide benefits ranging from having fungi digesting dead wood to a mammal seeking winter shelter in a

Submit letters to the editor, poems, or opinion writings to

Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin* at [marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com)

## Original Tire Company

### Tires and Alignments

We don't want to be the biggest—just the best.

Joseph D. West  
978.249.3477

443 South Athol Road  
Athol, MA 01331

## Godin

REAL ESTATE

Lynn Brooks, REALTOR®

1447 Main Street  
Athol, MA 01331

Office: (978) 249-8131, ext. 217  
Cell: (508) 335-3861





# varying in age, species, appearance

trunk cavity. Legacy trees enrich forest diversity.

The aptly named shagbark hickory tree has distinctive bark matching its common name. Curled plates of bark arch out in multiple directions from its trunk. The brown creeper, the tiny bird that finds its food under those curls, also uses bark arches as a roofs for their nests.

Hickory trees produce nuts, important food for birds and mammals. As timber, the strong, resilient hickory supported structures and wagon wheels and remains valued for making furniture. Field-grown shagbark hickory has a distinctive shape with angular branches. The shagbark hickory at the junction of Russell Road and South Main Street past Quabbin Gate 24 in New Salem is particularly shaggy. If left to age in place, the tree could be a legacy tree.



Shagbark hickory trees show signature bark and angular branches near Quabbin Gate 24, left, and on New Salem Common.



Trees growing in a field show off their classic shape in all four seasons. People often value and protect such specimen trees for all to enjoy. When given space, mature trees add needed shade and a windbreak. In yards or working fields, however, they need protection from injury caused by working vehicles and toxic chemicals. Workers can safely tend even very old trees and keep them alive for hundreds of years of appreciation.

A few Quabbin towns have American elm trees that survived the 1920s bout with Dutch elm disease. At that time, cabinetmakers imported elm logs from Europe to use for veneer, and that brought the problem. The fungus hid in those logs, and bark beetles spread

fungus spores to trees. The American chestnut also suffered a devastating blight in past years. Hybrid breeding programs with resistant plants and treatments continue to be developed to save both species. One notable mature elm stands between homes on the west side of South Main Street in Orange, and two are on the Uptown Common in Athol. A resistant American chestnut was recently planted on the New Salem Common. Perhaps readers have seen other chestnut trees or elm trees.

If you know of a special tree, consider participating in a new tree discovery and documentation process in Massachusetts. The state Legacy Tree Program works with the National Register of Champion Trees to recognize the largest and most interesting known

**continued on page 52**

## SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Keeping alive the stories of  
New Salem and the  
four "lost" towns of  
the Quabbin*



40 Elm Street, PO Box 22  
New Salem, MA 01355  
Telephone: 978-544-6882

[www.swiftrivermuseum.com](http://www.swiftrivermuseum.com)  
[www.facebook.com/swiftrivermuseum](https://www.facebook.com/swiftrivermuseum)  
[swiftrivermuseum@gmail.com](mailto:swiftrivermuseum@gmail.com)



Serving  
Preschool  
Kindergarten  
Grades 1-6

An affordable independent school  
Challenging hands-on academics  
Creative arts and music  
Learning in nature

**Fall and Winter Open Houses**

**The Village School**  
253 S. Royalston Rd.  
Royalston, MA 01368  
978 249 3505  
[villageschoolma.org](http://villageschoolma.org)

# enhancing autumn colors, late season wildflowers

by John Burk



Cardinal flowers bloom late near Doane's Falls in Royalston.

Distinctive late summer and autumn wildflowers brighten Quabbin region forests, meadows, and waterways as the growing season winds down. Colorful blossoms enhance autumn's color palette and serve as crucial food sources for ruby-throated hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, moths, and other insects.

Bright red displays of cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*, make for picturesque sights along rivers, streams, wet meadows, and other moist environments. The name derives from similarly hued robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals or from red birds of the same name. New World explorers introduced specimens to Europe during the seventeenth century.

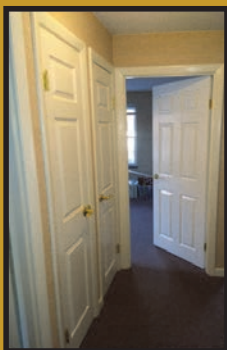
The only member of the bellflower family with red coloration, cardinal flower blooms from late July through September, often forming large colonies in suitable habitats. Ruby-throated hummingbirds use elongated beaks to extract nectar and pollinate tubular flowers. Some cardinal flower populations suffer from collection by humans and late summer floods.

Unlike most woodland wildflowers that emerge in spring, white wood aster, *Eurybia divaricata*, a highly shade-tolerant species, blooms late in the growing season. Common throughout most of New England especially in the Appalachian Mountains and

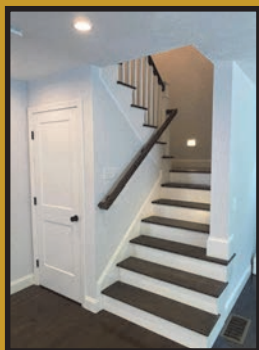
## Love Your Home Again!



BEFORE



AFTER



### Interior/Exterior Residential & Commercial Experts

- ◆ Interior Painting
- ◆ Wallpaper Removal and Hanging
- ◆ Real Prep Work
- ◆ Hepa-Vac Clean Up
- ◆ Exterior Painting
- ◆ Deck Refinishing

License# 163620, Fully Insured, Workmen's Comp



## Quality Painting & Restoration

508-713-4913



We guarantee drop cloths and plastic are used at all times. We protect floors, carpets, furniture, roofs, decks, driveways, walkways, plants and anything you do not want painted! Local Rutland owned & operated.





# benefit butterflies, bees, moths, and other insects

associated foothills, it thrives in dry open woods, forest edges, and roadsides.

White wood aster serves as a host plant for pearl crescent and checkerspot butterflies and provides nectar for many late season pollinating insects. Wildlife such as wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, eastern chipmunks, and mice feed on seeds. Robust flowers, hardiness, and low maintenance make white wood aster an excellent garden plant.

Showy lavender, purple, and light blue flowers of New England aster, *Symphyotrichum nova anglie*, brighten meadows, forest edges, wetlands, and roadsides from August to autumn's first frosts. Individual plants usually grow up to six feet high and produce from fifty to one hundred flower heads laced with numerous petals.

The long bloom period of New England asters reflects adaptation to relative scarcity of insects in late summer and autumn. Flowers provide sustenance for migratory monarch and painted lady butterflies, moths, and honeybees. Hairy stems and dense leaves provide protection from damage by other insects. Though named for New England, the range of the species extends through much of the United States and southern Canada.

Prolific growths of goldenrod stand as prominent signs of summer's transition to autumn. Roughly two dozen varieties, adapted to various habitats and soils, grow in Massachusetts. Canada goldenrod, *Solidago canadensis*, a common species, thrives in sunlit fields, open woods, and stream banks. Individual plants produce as many as a thousand tiny star-shaped flowers on arched stems.

A crucial food source for butterflies, bumblebees, honey bees, ants, and wasps, goldenrod also serves as a host plant for other insects. Goldenrod gall flies create large ball-like growths called galls where gall fly larvae overwinter. Several bird species, including woodpeckers and chickadees, feed on goldenrod seeds and galls.

Goldenrod's scientific name *Solidago*, which means to heal or make whole, reflects historical use of roots and flowers by Native Americans and other cultures worldwide for medicinal purposes. After the Boston Tea Party of 1773, colonists replaced traditional English teas with concoctions of dried goldenrod leaves. Many people erroneously blame goldenrod for allergies, but large pollen grains disperse by insects, not wind. Common ragweed, which blooms at the same time, causes most hay fever.

Logically named for unusual flowers that never open while in bloom, closed gentian, *Gentiana andrewsii*, thrives in places with rich moist soils such as wet meadows, flood-plain forests, swamps, fens, and thickets. Plants produce clusters of six or seven cylindrical blue or purple flowers that resemble bottles or Christmas tree lights.

Though closed flowers make entry difficult for most insects, large bees push gentian petals apart to access



Goldenrod serves as a crucial food source for butterflies, bumblebees, honey bees, ants, and wasps.

continued on page 53



# Quabbin region features opportunities for

by Carla Charter

Fall presents the perfect time to enjoy the natural beauty of the Quabbin area whether during a fall camping getaway or on a hike through fall foliage.

Rutland State Park offers a portion of the Mass Central Rail Trail for hiking and non-motorized transportation such as biking and cross-country skiing. Established in segments, when completed the trail will stretch for 104 miles from Boston to Northampton. The portion that goes through Rutland runs approximately a mile, according to Kyle Bergman, park supervisor. The Rutland segment is handicapped accessible.

He said wildlife such as deer, moose, bear, and foxes live in the park, also a great area for bird watching. For fall leaf peeping, he suggested the beach front at White Hall Pond along the trail, adding the park offers a fine fall hiking option, especially for families. The web link [mass.gov/locations/rutland-state-park](http://mass.gov/locations/rutland-state-park) provides more information. Bear's Den in New Salem off Neilson Road, operated by Trustees of Reservations, features a

Swift River gorge as well as a small cave and a stream. Less than a quarter mile of easy hiking, according to Trustees' information, the property does not permit camping or unleashed dogs.

Tully Lake Campground in Royalston, another Trustees of Reservations property, stays open all week for camping and hiking until Indigenous Peoples' Day, formerly called Columbus Day, according to Abby Cooke, campground manager.

"Fall camping brings a lot of young adults and retired folks, people who do not have kids in school," said Cooke, adding that some families also camp on weekends. Camping in the fall has advantages, she said. "There is nicer weather for hiking with not as many bugs. You can canoe in the fall, too, and it is less crowded, especially during weekdays."

For those who would like to try fall camping, Cooke suggests bringing a warm sleeping bag and extra blankets. "Other than that, it's not much different from camping in the summer and you will have a campfire to keep you warm," she said.

Hikes offering classic New England views for leaf peepers include a hike to Doane's Falls and a hike along Long Pond, both in Royalston. "The leaves are really nice out there," Cooke said. "If you keep going on the trail, you will go up to the ledges that overlook Long Pond, and you can see Tully Mountain in Orange." She added that the recreation area is also a

**Stan's**  
liquor mart  
Fine Wine & Spirits

**STOP BY AND CHECK US OUT**  
1586 SOUTH MAIN ST., ATHOL • 978-249-9550

**HOME TO:**

**400 PLUS  
CRAFT  
BEERS**

**600 PLUS  
WINES  
FROM  
AROUND THE  
WORLD**

**150  
PLUS  
WHISKEYS**


**MAKE STAN'S YOUR ADULT BEVERAGE DESTINATION**  
Find Us On Facebook 

**Come See Stan's Great Selection Of  
Fine Beers, Wines, and Spirits!**

**Dale's Auto Body  
Towing & Repair**

25 Bickford Drive  
Athol, MA 01331

Phone (978) 249-4035  
[dalesauto1@yahoo.com](mailto:dalesauto1@yahoo.com)



**CELEBRATING 38 YEARS  
OF SERVICE TO THE  
NORTH QUABBIN AREA**

RS906



## fall camping

great place for photography. More information about the Tully Lake Campground and a trail map can be found at [thetrustees.org/place/tully-lake-campground/](http://thetrustees.org/place/tully-lake-campground/)

At Bears Den Conservation area in Athol, hikers and campers will find Paige Cabin for general use from March 1 to December 15 each year depending on the weather. Buckman Brook and the Duck Pond shelters are available throughout the year, according to David Small, Athol conservation agent.

According to the December 2022 *Paige Cabin and Shelter Report*, Bears Den Conservation Area had 164 reservations that year. Paige Cabin had the most reservations with 82, Buckman Brook with 56, and the Duck Pond with 26. According to the report, as many as 438 people stayed overnight at the shelters in 2022. Campers came from Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and 53 towns in Massachusetts.

With no charge to use Bears Den facilities, reservations are mandatory. Find information



computer drawing © by Emily Boughton

about reservations and a trail map at [athol-ma.gov/parks-trails/pages/bearsden-conservation-area](http://athol-ma.gov/parks-trails/pages/bearsden-conservation-area)

Several state parks that do not offer fall camping, do provide several unique autumn hiking opportunities. They include Otter River State Forest, the oldest state park in Massachusetts, with an entrance in Baldwinville, a village of Templeton. Otter River State Forest has a trail to Beaver Pond with a bench for viewing fall foliage and an active railroad bridge.

Other places for families to view fall foliage include Baldwinville's Beaman Pond and Wilder-Mackenzie Trail in Otter River State Forest. After Labor Day, the gate at headquarters is closed to vehicles, so hikers have to park and hike in. Find more information about Otter River State Forest and a trail map at [www.mass.gov/locations/otter-river-state-forest](http://www.mass.gov/locations/otter-river-state-forest).

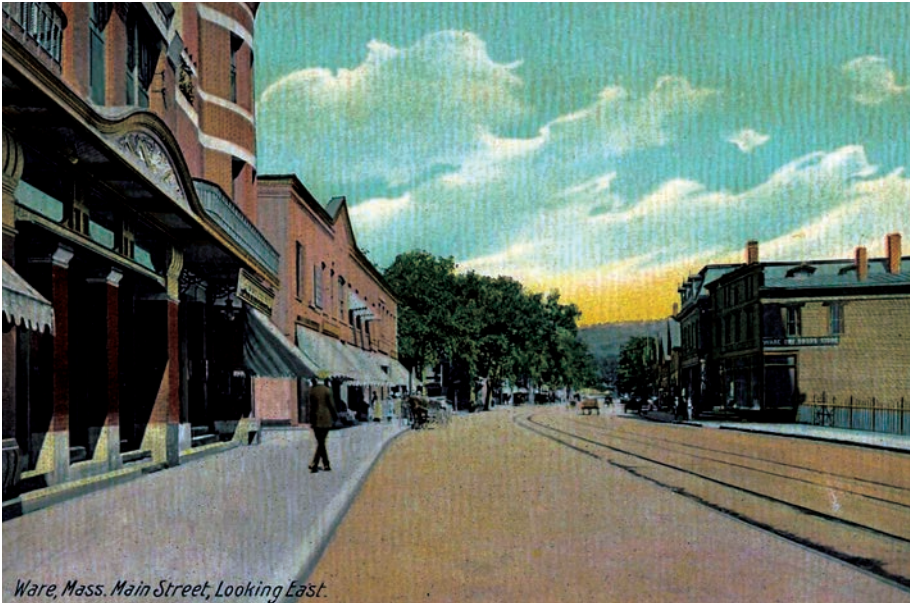
Carla Charter is a freelance writer. She lives in Phillipston.

An advertisement for Heyes Forest Products. The background is a photograph of a forest with trees and fallen leaves. Overlaid on the image are two dark green rectangular boxes with white text. The top box contains the company name and website. The bottom box contains a sustainability message. On the right side, there is a photograph of a 'Tree Farm' sign. The sign is diamond-shaped with a green border and contains the text 'WOOD WATER TREE FARM RECREATION WILDLIFE'. Below it is a smaller rectangular sign that reads 'TREE FARM 444 Owned &amp; Managed by FRED HEYES, Orange, MA www.heyeforest.com • 978-544-8801'.



# trolley cars served residents of north and south

by Christopher Coyle



Trolley cars running along tree-lined streets characterized rural American towns in the years following the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century. Palmer & Monson Street Railway organized in 1897, and by June of 1898, trolleys served several of Palmer's villages. The line extended north to Ware in 1900. The line paralleled the two steam railroads along what is Route 32 today and terminated on Main Street in Ware. The Palmer & Monson company abandoned the line to Ware in 1927.

Trolley tracks ran through downtown Ware from 1900 until 1927 when the Palmer & Monson Street Railway abandoned the line.

postcard from the collection of Christopher Coyle

Selectmen granted a franchise to build a street railway in Ware on August 4, 1899 under the condition that the line would have to be

## Free ESL lessons!



LITERACY  
VOLUNTEERS  
of  
ORANGE/ATHOL

Improve your English with an  
ESL tutor - for free!

Call LVOA today! 978-249-5381

We are located in the Athol Library.  
All of our services are available at no cost  
to Adults in the North Quabbin region.

We also offer free literacy lessons to adults!

Do you know someone in need?  
Do you wish to become a volunteer tutor?  
Email: [lvoa01331@gmail.com](mailto:lvoa01331@gmail.com)

(And check out our other ad in this issue of UQ!)



## Family Pet Veterinary Services

Dr. Sue Ellen Mowcomber • Dr. Jennifer Whitmore

(978) 249-4626

697 Templeton Road • Athol, MA



# Quabbin regions in early twentieth century

finished by December 1. But other than the arrival of a few poles along the side of the road, the deadline passed with nothing completed, and the franchise was lost.

Hampshire & Worcester Street Railway formed in April of 1900 and included a branch to Ware and Gilbertville. The company bought land on the west side of the road between Ware and Gilbertville to build a power station, car barn, and siding next to Ware River Railroad to receive supplies. Tracks ran parallel to those of the Palmer & Monson Street Railway along Main Street in Ware. The first Hampshire & Worcester Street Railway car ran down Ware's Main Street at 11 p.m. on August 31, 1901, just an



An advertisement for the trolley cars running between Athol and Orange features photographs of sites along the way in windows and even in wheels

advertisement from the collection of Christopher Coyle.

hour before town financial support would have run out. Four cars soon ran between Gilbertville and Ware. Passengers could transfer in Ware between cars of the two street railway companies.

continued on page 54



## SEASONAL IMAGES

Photos and Prints by Photographic Artist

David Brothers

Many local North Quabbin images to choose from.

All Photos are printed using Epson Archival Paper and Ink  
978-249-8229 • david55195@yahoo.com



# AOTV AUCTION

**4 Days • Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2 & 3**

Channel 1301 • WVAO 105.9FM • Streaming on [aotv13.org](http://aotv13.org)

## Donate • Volunteer • Bid

**Contact us**  
**978-249-4470 • [info@aotv13.org](mailto:info@aotv13.org)**

Auction List • Auction Info • Sponsors — Go to [aotv13.org](http://aotv13.org)



163 S. Main Street • Athol, MA 01331 • 978-249-4470 • [aotv13.org](http://aotv13.org)

# colonial era free love raised eyebrows, risked

by Carl I. Hammer

With the 1967 Summer of Love and throughout the 1970s Age of Aquarius, free love—the sharing of intimate partners—raised few eyebrows. That certainly was not true two centuries earlier in the Age of the Revolution.

At his fifty-year anniversary sermon in 1864, Warwick's long serving Unitarian minister, Preserved Smith, alluded to the pastorate of his predecessor, Samuel Reed (1779-1812) when "several persons of both sexes, some of whom, I believe, were members of his [Reed's] church and congregation, became New Lights, and adopted what in modern times is called the 'free love doctrine.'"

John Blake, Warwick's first historian, identified those New Lights as persons "born again" in current terms. The gist of "this disgusting story," according to Blake, was that an itinerant Baptist preacher, Elder Hix, had come to Warwick and gathered a small congregation composed of the few local Baptists as well as members of the local Congregational Church. They apparently

embraced some version of "spiritual marriage," and, as a result, two male members of the congregation absconded in 1779 with the wives of two other members while Hix himself absconded with the daughter of two of the absconders. In 1779 Amzi Doolittle, a prominent citizen, left Warwick with Hannah, the wife of Thomas Barber, while Doolittle's wife, Jerusha, left with Amos Marsh, another leading Warwick citizen. Hix himself left with the Doolittles' young daughter Lavinia.

Jerusha Doolittle and Amos Marsh were pursued by their "exasperated friends and relations" to New York state, according to Blake, and returned by them for trial at Northampton, then still the county seat. From the court record in 1781, we learn that Amos Marsh and Jerusha Doolittle,

not having the Fear of God before their Eyes nor regarding the duties of the Marriage State on the first day of June in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Seventy nine . . . did Committ adultery with each other in evil example to others to offend in like Case against the Peace and dignity of the Government and People of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.

They were then sentenced to:

sett upon the Gallows for the space of One Hour with a Rope about their Necks, and the other end cast over the Gallows, and in the Way from thence to the Common Goal be whipped Ten Stripes each and pay costs of Prosecution and stand Committed till this Sentence is performed. And it is further ordered that forever after they shall wear a Capital A of two Inches long and proportionable on the outsides of their Arm or on their back in open View.

It is known that some Baptists in Rhode Island and adjacent parts of southeastern Massachusetts earlier had taken "spiritual soulmates" in preference to their legally married spouses. But there also seems to have been a much

## NEW SALEM CIDER



67 South Main Street • New Salem, Massachusetts 01355  
(978) 544-3437 • [newsalemcider@gmail.com](mailto:newsalemcider@gmail.com)  
[www.newsalemcider.com](http://www.newsalemcider.com)

**HARD CIDER**  
with a beautiful view of Quabbin



Monday-Friday, 12 noon to 5 pm

Saturdays, 12 noon to 7 pm

Sundays, 12 noon to 6 pm

hours subject to change

mid May through November



**New Salem Auto**  
90 Fay Road  
New Salem, MA 01355

**Tom Carey Jr.**  
Automobile Repair  
&  
Metal Fabrication

visa • mastercard  
discover • wright express  
accepted

8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday

978-544-6947



# penalties and “exasperated friends and relations”

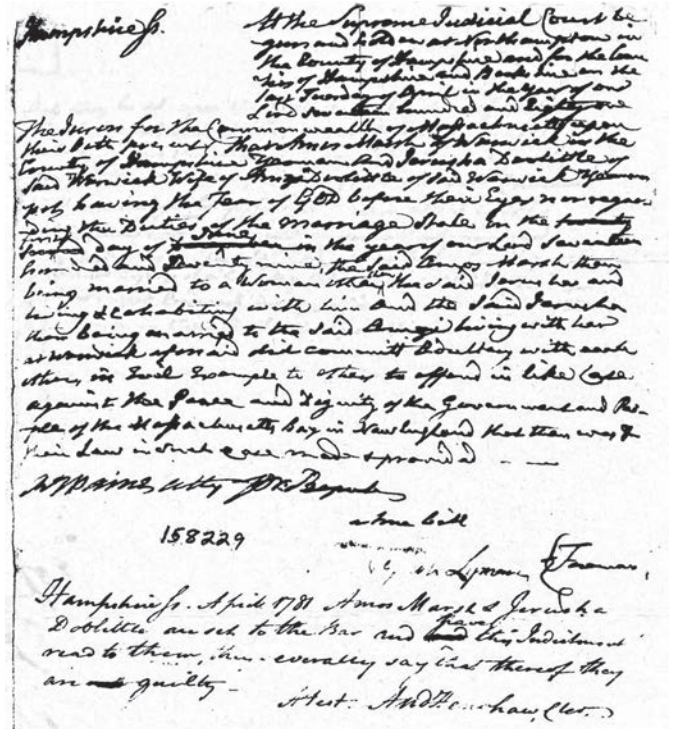
more recent manifestation of this remarkable practice amongst the Baptists of Richmond, New Hampshire, which bordered Warwick on the northeast. In 1775, James Ballou, a relative of the important early Universalist teacher, Hosea Ballou, had relocated to Richmond with his family from Cumberland, Rhode Island. According to the historian of the Ballou family, in 1776 James joined the new West Baptist church in Richmond:

But here a new trouble broke out in a freak of *spiritual wifery*, whereby a considerable number of the members became infatuated, insomuch that several discarded their old wives and took new ones. They called the former “old flood wives” and their new ones “spiritual wives.” These fanatics selected a new wife for James, whereat he became so disgusted that he quit the church forever . . . . The *spiritual wife* contagion soon died out after the desolation of a few families.

It is likely that Warwick’s Elder Hix had moved on from Richmond to Warwick where a number of Baptist families likewise had roots in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The newly converted Baptist household of Amzi Doolittle was at the center of Hix’s scandalous activities. Notably, the same household was proselytized in 1777 or 1778 by another early Universalist teacher, Hosea Ballou’s mentor Caleb Rich of Warwick, to gain the hand of Lavinia Doolittle’s older sister, Electa. At that time, Caleb was also busily preaching his new religious revelations not only in Warwick but also in Richmond and Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

Since his father-in-law, mother-in-law, and sister-in-law all notably participated in the Warwick scandal, it is not surprising that Caleb omitted any

continued on page 66



1781 trial court record outlines case concerning colonial era free love.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**SEPT. 30/OCT 1, 2023**  
**10AM — 5PM**

**FORSTERS FARM**  
 60 CHESTNUT HILL RD,  
 ORANGE, MA

**25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL!**  
**WEEKEND ADMISSION: \$5**  
 KIDS 12 & UNDER: FREE!  
 EBT, WIC, CONNECTORCARE: FREE!

INFO AT: [WWW.GARLICANDARTS.ORG](http://WWW.GARLICANDARTS.ORG)

AMAZING ART • FARM FRESH PRODUCTS • GARLIC CUISINE & CHEF DEMOS  
 HEALING ARTS • MUSIC & PERFORMANCE GALORE  
 FUN ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES • PORTAL TO THE FUTURE

Grocery • Lottery • Spirits  
 Boars Head Deli • Gifts  
 Fresh Weekly Specials • Shop Local Products

[www.newsalemgeneralstore.com](http://www.newsalemgeneralstore.com)  
 410 Daniel Shays Hwy. • New Salem, MA 01355 • Tel (978) 544-8177  
 Open 7 Days a Week  
 Monday-Friday 6 AM - 8 PM • Saturday 7 AM - 8 PM • Sunday 8 AM - 6 PM

Jeff, Natalie & Jack Reynolds, Proprietors

*A Friendly, Quabbin Market for All*

We are striving to provide a safe, friendly local market that focuses on good food, local Quabbin products and our community.

*Stop by and see us soon!*

# consulting town vital statistics can lead to locating

by Charlotte Westhead

The following article includes citations from colonial-era documents with wording considered inappropriate or even offensive in 2023.

Finding graves of colonial era African Americans likely begins with finding the names of African Americans in a given town by consulting records of vital statistics. The offices of town clerks and most town libraries carry vital records, which include the marriages, births and deaths of people in that town up to 1849. People considered not white are described as Negro, mulatto, or colored, often followed by a question mark.

The marriage section in Barre Vital Records, for example, includes information, with no color noted, that Mynah Walker married Peter Lewis. The marriage section also records that Priscilla Walker and Reuben Thompson of Bennington, Vermont, described as colored, married in 1799. In 1813, Priscilla Walker married Samuel Jones when the records list them as Negroes. Presumably Reuben Thompson died, although the records don't list his death. Those notations provide

four family names, Walker, Jones, Thompson and Lewis, to look for in local cemeteries.

The marriage section of Hardwick Vital Records lists Philip Bassett and Bathsheba Gore as Negroes married in 1755.

In Barre, according to the records, Prince Walker, likely born in 1856, married Betsey Daws, with both listed as Negroes. Prince Walker married Anna Morse in 1816. The records cite births to Prince Walker and his wife, Anna Morse, in 1821, 1823, 1829, 1831, 1832, 1837, and 1838. Perhaps more than one Prince Walker was born in Barre, since dates don't seem to make sense.

Vital statistics also record deaths of African Americans. For example, Prince Walker's wife, Betsey, listed as colored, died in 1809 when she was twenty-three, and five of his children died between 1822 and 1831.

Katy Reed, listed in Barre Vital Records as colored, died in 1834 at age sixty-three. Nimrod Reed, recorded as Negro, died in 1814. Katy and Nimrod share a gravestone in Adams Cemetery in Barre with two sons, Isaac and Prince Onison, buried nearby under individual stones in the back row of the cemetery by a stone wall. No record remains of who paid for the stones or who mended one, although many cemetery listings include such information.

Hardwick has records of the Oliver family since the mid 1750s. Robert Oliver, a wealthy man, served as lieutenant governor of royalist Massachusetts and may have brought or sent Thomas Oliver, whom the records call a "free-born Negro" to Hardwick. Thomas may



Gifts & decor  
Local crafters

80 New Athol Rd  
Orange, MA  
774-530-1947

**& Country Store**

**Have you been to Bates? Now two stores!**  
*both open 10-2 Th • 10-4 Fri & Sat • 11-4 Sun*

**Flea Markets Saturdays 9-2**

▪ looking for vendors for indoor flea market ▪



Collectibles  
Furniture  
Flea market

90 New Athol rd  
Orange, MA

**Store & Flea Market**

**ADAMS FARM**

(978) 249-9441

854 Bearsden Road  
Athol, MA

**PACKAGE #8**

**BBQ**

*call in your order today*

- 3 lbs Ground Beef Patties
- 2 lbs. Natural Casing Franks
- 3 lbs. Rump Steaks
- 3 lbs. Country Style Pork Ribs
- 2 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast
- 2 lbs. Any Type Pork Sausage
- 1 lb. American Cheese

*Come Check Out Our Other Specials of the Week*

Store Hours: Sun. 8 a.m. to noon  
Mon.-Tues. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Wed.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sat. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. •

We Accept  




# burial sites of colonial era African Americans

have remained on the estate when the Loyalist Olivers left. Leaving a person on a farm protected the property from seizure as abandoned by Tories. Thomas Oliver and Hannah Northgate, also listed as a free-born Negro, married in 1774.

Beginning in 1790, the United States census offers useful information for finding graves. In 1800, James Hall and James Hussey, both listed as “free persons of color” and each as head of a separate family of nine in New Salem. Jephtha Pharoah, also a person of color according to the records, headed a family of three in Greenwich.

Barre, once part of Rutland, records the 1754 sale in Rutland of Dinah when she was about 19, Mingo when she was about 21, and two infant children for 108 pounds. In Petersham around the same time, a girl named Dinah, about 19, sold for 50 pounds.

Church records in Athol reveal the baptisms and deaths of servants and others “of” Reverend Humphrey and the Oliver family. Others, including the Caldwell family of Barre, brought “servants” to be baptized in Athol.

The probate inventory of James Caldwell of Barre in 1764 values the African Americans Mingo at sixty-six pounds, Dinah at forty-nine pounds, Quork at fifty pounds, a second boy identified as Negro at forty pounds, the “oldest girl” identified as Negro at twenty pounds, a second girl identified as Negro at thirteen pounds, and a younger Negro child at six pounds. No one has yet discovered graves for the people listed.

Records of the French and Indian War in 1755 identify Zebulon Basset, listed as a Negro, and in 1758

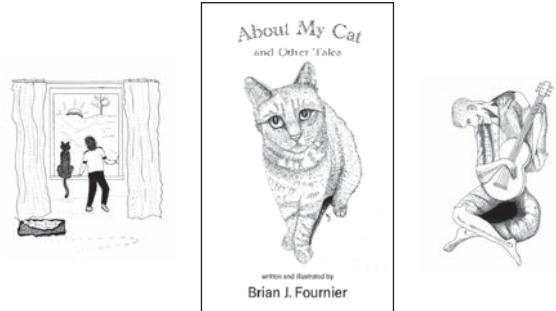


Katy Reed and Nimrod Reed, who died in 1834, share a gravestone. The gravestone of their sons Isaac and Prince Onison stands nearby.

photo © by Charlotte Westhead

Dan, also listed as a Negro, as soldiers both serving for Hardwick. To date, no one has found gravestones for those soldiers.

continued on page 60



## About My Cat and Other Tales

selected poems 1970-2020  
written and illustrated by Brian J. Fournier

*Barely camouflaged in the rhyme and meter of Brian Fournier's verse in About My Cat are profound glimpses of a boy emerging from a painful childhood as he finds his true creative spirit in adulthood and changes his family legacy once he becomes a grandfather. Through inspirations born of pain, conversations with his feline companions, and sharing of his inner reactions to deeply moving human experiences, Brian's poems truly take the reader on a journey to discover what one finds in between each and every line.*

—the Reverend Candi Ashenden, DMin  
pastor at Athol, Massachusetts, Congregational Church

available at  
Haley's, Athol • New Salem General Store • Petersham Country Store  
brianfournierbooks.com • Amazon • Barnes and Noble



*Trillium Ayurveda & Yoga  
School of Yoga*

*with a Bit of Bliss and Zen*

Yoga Alliance Certified School of Yoga.

for personal and professional growth • new and advanced trainings

Contact Charlotte Weltzin AP, eRYT500

*www.TrilliumAyurveda.com*

# Warwick's 1960s Brotherhood of the Spirit commune transformed to thriving Renaissance Community

by Marcia Gagliardi

Warwick's Brotherhood of the Spirit Commune numbered more than three hundred young adults in the early 1970s. Drawn by altruism, spiritual aspiration, and just plain curiosity, they came from all over the country to live together in community. At its peak from 1971-1973, commune members gardened and kept house and shared life together during the divisive years of the Vietnam War.

Commune membership required a two-week trial residency followed by approval of group members. Anyone joining the commune gave all assets over to the group. Some brought children with them or had them once in residence.

"Somewhere between two thousand and three thousand communes existed in the US in the 1960s and 1970s with about seventy-five in the state of Vermont, making it one of the epicenters of the experiment," said Yvonne Daley in a 2021 *Forbes* magazine interview with Russell Flannery.



Debbie Edson, center front with guitar, leads meditation and singing during an early 1970s evening gathering of Brotherhood of the Spirit commune members.

photo from collection assembled by Dan Brown, now housed in  
Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries

Spirit in Flesh, the commune band, toured extensively during the commune's entrepreneurial phase in the 1970s and brought considerable national recognition to the Warwick group.

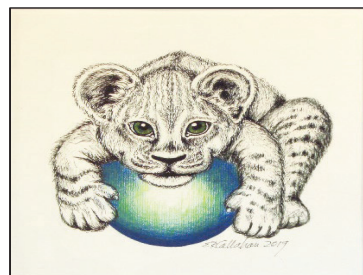
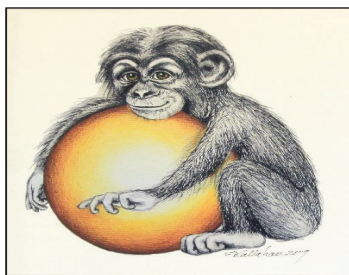
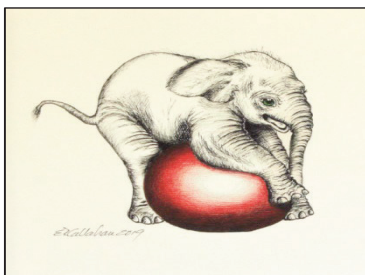
"Back then, I thought of it as people sharing, or whatever, doing what they did together," remembered Ann Powers, retired elementary school teacher of Athol. "I pictured them working together in a congenial atmosphere. To make it work, they had to give and take."

Despite acceptance from some longtime residents of Warwick, the commune often found itself in violation of town ordinances and codes. Some longtime residents felt misled or deceived by the group, and many in Warwick and surrounding communities just didn't understand what was going on.

"It's amazing how some people in town could see past all that and see us as human beings despite our long hair and unconventional lifestyle," said Debbie Edson of Gill during an oral history session convened in 2022 in Warwick Free

## JUNGLE BABIES

A gift to be cherished for the nursery. 3 - 8" square Prints \$75



Call the Rutland artist, Elizabeth Callahan 774-272-0364





"I don't think I will ever forget seeing the photo of so many of the members posing in front of the house that they shared in Warwick," said Janice Lanou, retired director of Orange Public Libraries, of the December 1970 cover photo for the record album of the Brotherhood of the Spirit band, *Spirit in Flesh*. "I was amazed that the balcony didn't collapse with all that weight on it," Lanou continued. "Also relieved, I should say."

photo from collection assembled by Dan Brown, now housed in  
Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries

Public Library by contractor Steve Striebel. Edson and her husband, Doug, reminisced cordially with 1970s Warwick constable George Day, 1970s Warwick School Committee member Frederika Harris Fellows, and 1970s journalist Harry Greenwald of Warwick.

In 1974, members had mostly moved to Turners Falls and started businesses including greeting cards, silk screening, restaurants, rock bands, and several contracting entities, among them Renaissance Builders

**continued on page 61**

**GROW FOOD  
EVERYWHERE**

[seedsofsolidarity.org](http://seedsofsolidarity.org)

farmstand • workshops • ideas

#### KIMBALL LAW OFFICE

Nicholas R. Kimball, Esq.  
Leigh-Anne Kimball, Esq.

Real Estate  
Wills  
Probate

43 New Athol Road  
Orange, MA 01364  
(978) 709-1774  
kimballlawoffice@gmail.com  
Fax (978) 709-3004





# at Hardwick Fair and Garlic & Arts festival,

by Pat Larson

Celebrations of place often engage the landscape in summer and fall in the Quabbin region. They include celebrations of people and of the land —local farmers, craftspeople, and others along with food and natural resources of the region. Despite challenges of coping with the COVID pandemic and then figuring out ways to blossom to celebrate both old and new traditions, local fairs and festivals returned in 2022 to resume in full swing for the 2023 season.

The Hardwick Community Fair, started in 1792, receives billing as the oldest fair in the United States. The South Quabbin region community fair in Hardwick stopped several times during periods of war and difficult years. In 1947 after WWII, it returned and has continued ever since.

“The Hardwick Community Fair happens the third weekend in August with the aim of maintaining a community celebration that




Hardwick fairgoers view exhibits, wait for performance, and get together to gab.

photo by Neil Halin

highlights the town’s agricultural roots,” explained Fay Butler, president of Hardwick Community Fair Association. In the early years before the Civil War, it served as an open-air market with area farmers displaying their goods for sale to the public.

More than 230 years later in the North Quabbin region, a new tradition began. A group of neighbors gathered at Seeds of Solidarity Farm in Orange to talk about finding local places to sell their goods. Observing its twenty-fifth anniversary this year, North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival will take place September 30 and October 1 at Forster’s Farm in Orange



LUNA BODY THERAPEUTICS

MASSAGE THERAPY  
AYURVEDIC BODYWORK  
CAROLYN CULLEN LMT CYT  
978-633-5423



138 Fryeville Road, Orange **978-575-0614**

- **Dog/Cat Grooming**
- **Dog/Cat Daycare & Boarding**
- **Pet and Farm Feeds**

Open 7 Days...Close By To Everywhere!

**aquarium fish and supplies • small birds and reptiles**

Monday-Friday 7-6 • Saturday-Sunday 9-5  
[www.mounttullykennels.com](http://www.mounttullykennels.com) • Like Us on Facebook 



# communities get together to celebrate place



The Garlic & Arts Festival takes over a hillside in Orange for a weekend honoring farms, agriculture, arts, crafts, and performance.

photo courtesy of Garlic & Arts Festival

to “celebrate the place where we live and how we are able to create a livelihood in that place where we live,” according to Deb Habib, one of the founders of the Festival in 1999.

North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival and Hardwick Community Fair illustrate how all-volunteer organizing committees support community building and bring community spirit to events celebrating local place. For both events, organizing committees of from twenty-five to thirty volunteers meet regularly. Some volunteers grew up with the event and served as longtime organizers and are now the elders, while others new to the area and committee have joined to share the commitment.

When the North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival started in 1999 at Seeds of Solidarity Farm and then moved to the open field at Forster’s Farm in 2000, elders Carol Hillman and the late Robert Colnes from New Salem Preserves served on the organizing committee. One of the festival founders, Ricky Baruc, who

sells garlic at his Seeds of Solidarity booth, recalls that Colnes once asked, “Who is in charge? What’s the process?”

And someone replied, “No one. It just happens and is magic.” Twenty-five years later, the organizing committee has grown much larger with decisions still made by consensus.

Lydia Grey, a local maker of pottery and one of the founders of Garlic & Arts, continues on the organizing committee and as a vendor. Now an elder on the festival committee, Grey works with new people on various festival tasks. She shared about the necessity of thinking about who might be a good fit for certain tasks. Grey worked with Kelly Surprenant for several years on mapping out the field layout and feels that Surprenant brought both her visual sense of layout and computer skills to help. “Now we enjoy doing the task together even though Kelly could do the job alone.”

Growing up in Orange and knowing the festival from its early

years, Surprenant, a friend of Grey’s daughter, grew up knowing the neighborhood and festival site. She lives in Wendell with her own business, the Rainbow Rack. After selling cupcakes and doing other things as a vendor for a few years, Surprenant eased into helping Lydia map out the field for all vendors and continues to do so as a member of the organizing committee. Mapping out the field includes taking a lot into consideration for both long-time vendors and new vendors. To Surprenant, it is “awesome to be part of a local festival that gives an opportunity to craftspeople, artisans, and farmers to sell locally and interface with other people who are doing the same thing. The festival also gives opportunities to new businesses that are local because local opportunities are few and far between out here.”

Newcomers Ruth and Nick Curry moved to New Salem from Chicago in 2021 when they bought a house

continued on page 62

**TECH 1 COMPUTERS**  
**HAS MOVED!**  
OUR NEW ADDRESS IS  
**358 Main Street**  
**Athol, MA!!**  
SOLUTIONS FOR ALL YOUR  
COMPUTER AND NETWORKING NEEDS.  
BUSINESS. MUNICIPAL. RESIDENTIAL.



**CONTACT US TODAY**  
**978.544.2763**  
[WWW.TECH1COMPUTERS.COM](http://WWW.TECH1COMPUTERS.COM)



**CUT OUT THIS COUPON**  
**FOR \$15 OFF LABOR!!**

# first European settlement in region

by John Burk

Site of the Quabbin region's first European settlement, picturesque and rural West Brookfield features a variety of historic and natural landmarks. Located in southwestern Worcester County uplands, its 21.1 square-mile landscape comprises six prominent hills, ridges, and valleys of Quaboag River and tributaries. Elevations vary from 590 feet on Quaboag River to 1,227-foot Ragged Hill on the western valley wall of Mill Brook. Foster Hill, a significant Native American and colonial historical site, rises near the Brookfield town line.

At 320 acres, Lake Wickaboag, West Brookfield's best known natural and cultural landmark, provided crucial resources for Native Americans and early settlers. Quaboag River meanders northeasterly past marshes and old fields near the town center. Aptly named Rock

House, a giant natural rock shelter, serves as centerpiece of a popular Trustees of Reservations property in the western part of town. The town features five state-owned wildlife management areas.

Native American activity centered around Quaboag River, Wickaboag Lake, and adjacent meadows. A village at Lake Wickaboag's southern end served as a seasonal gathering point for the Nipmuc. Other sites included Foster Hill, where Native fires created open fields and grasslands, and Rock House, which provided shelter from northerly winter winds.

Foster Hill was the first colonial settlement of Quaboag Plantation, incorporated as Brookfield in 1673. Pre-incorporation settlers established house lots, a large planting field, and a meetinghouse during the late 1660s. A grist mill, financed by entrepreneur John Pynchon, opened on Sucker Brook in 1669. East Quabbin Land Trust acquired the former mill site and adjacent land in 2014.

After onset of King Philip's War, Nipmuc soldiers destroyed the isolated Foster Hill community during a three-day siege in August 1675. Residents sheltered in a fortified tavern until arrival of Colonial soldiers. Colonists temporarily abandoned Brookfield until 1686, when resettlement began. Periodic conflicts with the Nipmuck continued until 1710.

Present West Brookfield became Brookfield's First Precinct in 1754 and incorporated as a separate town in 1848. A residential and commercial center developed along Boston Post Road in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Fertile Quaboag Valley farms yielded commodities such as cranberries, livestock, meat, cheese, butter, wool, potatoes, corn, oats, and barley. Diederick Leertouwer, Dutch envoy for Massachusetts and New Hampshire, reputedly planted the New World's first known asparagus in present West Brookfield during the 1790s. Dairy farming became the primary form of agriculture in the late nineteenth century. Cheese and condensed milk factories opened during the 1860s. The latter exported milk and other items to Boston, Springfield, and other markets.

Early industries included blacksmiths, saw mills, tanneries, cloth and leather producers, shoemakers,



A hundred-year-old postcard captures activity at Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield. postcard from the collection of J. R. Greene

## BROOKS MacMANNIS FLORIST & GREENHOUSES

2108 MAIN STREET • ATHOL, MA 01331

TEL 978-249-3595

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

*Come see our large fall selection for decorating yard and home  
and be sure to stop in for all your holiday needs.*



## *at picturesque, rural West Brookfield*

and woodworkers. A print shop, publisher of Brookfield's first newspapers, opened in 1794. Manufacturing expanded after the Western Railroad opened along Quaboag River in 1839. Shoemaking, the largest industry, thrived until the civil war disrupted southern markets. A corset factory, acquired by Bay State Corset Company in 1885, employed many women before closing in 1922. Small artisan businesses produced wagons, sleighs, saddles, furniture, tools, fishing rods, and hats.

Closures of shoe factories and other businesses in the late nineteenth century prompted a population decline that continued through the mid 1900s. Manufacturing revived



*Autumn sets off the common and First Congregational Church in West Brookfield.*

*photo © by John Burk*

after World War I when several wire manufacturers, a furniture company, a yeast producer, and others repurposed abandoned factories.

*continued on page 56*

# WITTY'S<sup>TM</sup>

## FUNERAL HOME

*With Care and Concern Since 1910*



ORANGE  
978.544.3160

# Athol, long known as Tool Town, bustled with

by John Burk

Known as Tool Town for its longtime leading industries, Athol boasts a rich industrial heritage and diverse natural features. Its 33.4 square-mile landscape lies within the central watershed of Millers River, which flows west for seven miles across the northern part of town. Significant tributaries include Mill Brook and Tully River West Branch. Pratt Hill at 1,282 feet and Round Top, at 1,254 feet, Athol's highest elevations, cap a range of valley hills on Millers River's south side.

Bearsden Conservation Area, a town-owned thousand-acre forested expanse, encompasses Round Top and adjacent hills, Newton Reservoir, several brooks, and Millers River frontage. Flood plain meadows on Millers River at Cass Meadow and Alan E. Rich Environmental Park provide habitat for wildlife such as box turtles and American woodcock. Upstream from Rich Environmental Park serves as starting point for the annual River Rat canoe race, a popular April tradition since 1964.

South Athol Conservation Area, established in 2015, preserves 210 acres along the former Rabbit Run

railroad corridor's northern end. Skyfields Arboretum, headquarters of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, MGLCT, features a meadow with planted native trees and shrubs and trails through Willis Woods. Adjacent Lawton State Forest, formerly a tree farm, was MGLCT's first land protection project.

Native American seasonal fishing and hunting sites likely included Millers River, Cass Meadow, Mill Brook, Lake Ellis, Lake Rohunta, White Pond, and other wetlands and meadows. Archaeological sites indicate human activity at confluence of the Millers and Tully rivers for at least seven thousand years. What is now called Athol was part of a large Squakeag territory in the upper Connecticut River Valley. The Squakeag relocated north after selling land to European settlers in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

European settlement of Pequioag, a plantation comprising what became Athol and portions of Orange, Royalston, and Phillipston, began in 1735 when five families from Hatfield established homes at present Pleasant Street locales. Athol, so named by proprietor



**MACK FAMILY**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
[www.mackfamilyfh.com](http://www.mackfamilyfh.com)

**Reflecting innovations in funeral service while respecting a tradition of excellence in family care.**



**Fiske Murphy & Mack Funeral Home 110 New Athol Rd., Orange • 978-575-0575**



# *industry surrounded by diverse natural features*



1920s postcards show Athol's L. S. Starrett precision tool manufacturing company, left, making the best of Millers River. Union Twist Drill, right, manufactured cutting tools in Athol for decades, until bought by Litton Industries.

postcards from the collection of Benjamin Ellis

John Murray, son of the Duke of Atholl of Blair Castle, Scotland, incorporated in 1762. Uptown Common, the original civic center, served as an important stop on the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike.

Industrial development began around 1760 when saw, grist, and fulling mills opened on Millers River and Mill Brook. Other early businesses included woodworkers, a scythe shop, and a cotton factory at Starrett Tool Company's present location. Boot and shoe making led Athol's industry during the mid-nineteenth century. Lee Brothers Shoe Company, the town's largest manufacturer for many years, opened a factory on Main Street in 1850. After closure in 1981 of J. F. McElwain Company, last of several shoe makers that used the facility, the building housed a casket factory and storage for the former Plotkin Furniture Company with its store on Exchange Street.

Advent of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad in 1848 prompted rapid growth and industrial expansion at the present downtown area, which became Athol's commercial and civic center. Small manufacturing centers formed at Mill Pond on Tully River and in the villages of Partridgeville, Pinedale, and South Athol.

Athol's tool manufacturing era began in 1868 when Athol Machine Company formed for production of a meat chopper popularly called the hasher, vices, and other devices invented by Laroy S. Starrett. Starrett established his own company in 1881 and developed a large factory complex on Millers River at Crescent Street. L. S. Starrett Company presently makes more

than five thousand products, including precision tools, measuring devices, and saws.

Union Twist Drill Company, founded in 1905, produced cutting tools and other metalworking equipment. The factory, Athol's second largest business by 1930, employed as many as eight hundred workers before moving to North Carolina in the 1980s after some years as the Union Butterfield Division of Litton Industries. L. P. Athol Corporation subsequently ran the facility as manufacturing, warehousing, industrial, and office space and sold the facility in 2018 to MassGrow, a cannabis producer.

Other diverse businesses sustained Athol's industrial growth into the twentieth century. Athol Manufacturing

continued on page 59



Shoe manufacturing in Athol began in the mid 1800s with Lee Brothers on Main Street. Later, the shop made shoes as Anwelt Shoe Company, likely shown in this early 1900s postcard, and J. F. McElwain Company. Eventually, it served as warehouses and a factory making caskets.

postcard from the collection of Benjamin Ellis



# teenager likens diagnostic approaches

by Joey Haverty



Joey Haverty loves to play video games when he isn't reading a great book or otherwise recreating.

photo courtesy of Haverty family

Some video games have tutorials that explain how to play the game and what you need to do to progress through the levels. Others have intros that tell you your goal and guide you through the challenges you will face. But sometimes you are just dropped in with no information on what to do or how to do it. You must figure out how to play on your own—how the quests work, what the enemies' abilities are, even who you can count on to help. The video game of my life worked that way.

At age six in 2016, I started getting headaches. My parents brought me to the doctor, who ran lots of tests. But like those annoying non-player characters, NPCs, in video games who say, "You're doing great," the tests said everything looked fine.

Still, the headaches did not stop. Every day, my head hurt so much I could hardly think. We went back to the doctor, who ran more tests. Another NPC labeled the results, "Looking good," but boss music throbbing in my head said otherwise. I knew something was wrong.

Sometimes, so much anger built up that I lost control. Other times, I could not do simple things I could once accomplish. And the headaches kept getting worse. Eventually, I ended up in the Boston Children's Hospital emergency room fifteen miles from my home in Natick (where our water comes from Quabbin Reservoir). At Children's Hospital, an NPC gave me something useful: new gear—different combos of medicine that we tried until we found one that worked.

For several years, medicine kept my headaches under control. Every now and then, symptoms resurfaced like how even on easy levels of a video game you occasionally



## Celebrating Over 75 Years



WHERE IT ALL STARTED Bob Harris, Sr. stands in front of his East Main Street, Orange business shortly after opening in 1947. He initially leased this station from the Sterling Oil Company. 75 years later, the Harris family is still taking a personal hand in their company.



NE-364309

In 1947 Robert Harris, Sr. leased a gas station on East Main Street in Orange, MA. He bought a delivery truck and started pedaling home heating oil. If a customer had a service problem or ran out of oil at night a phone call would get him out of bed. He worked at building the trust of customers by emphasizing a personal attention to detail.

In 1956, our business moved to its current location in New Salem, MA.

In 1983, the founder's son, Robert (Bob) Harris, Jr. took over the business along with his wife, Pamela. Two of their children Robert III and Kirsten eventually joined the business. Since Bob Jr.'s passing in 2019, the business is being run by Pamela, Robert III, and Kirsten. Bob 3 manages the service side, while Kirsten manages the delivery side. Although Orange Oil has grown significantly over the years, the personal service continues. Late night callers still awaken the owners who are ready to help with a "no heat" emergency.

With today's emphasis on energy conservation, we are proud to install highly efficient heating systems for our customers. It may seem strange that a company who sells oil would install systems that use less oil but that is just an example of our commitment to help our customers.

Our company is very involved in our community, sponsoring many youth sports teams, area fundraisers and community events. Not only do we work locally we also live here. We are truly "local folks," proudly serving you, our neighbors.



45 Elm Street, New Salem

TEL (978) 544-3222 • (413) 773-0222

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



# to strategizing while playing a video game

must fight a surprise enemy. Mostly, I had a relatively normal life.

However, video games always have that one super-hard-to-beat level. Sometimes, it feels hopeless, and you just want to give up. When I was nine, the headaches came back for revenge. They struck so hard they broke my gear—the medicine stopped working. To make matters worse, what little stable ground I had collapsed beneath the weight of my enemies. I tumbled down and down into the endless Void of Depression.

After almost two years stuck in the Void, my allies brought me out. My family cared for me, loved me, and took me to helpful doctors. New medicines provided solid ground to stand on and patched up the hole to the Void. But even though I got stronger, so did my enemies. My headaches and rage episodes attacked relentlessly. Like before, occasionally I lost my ability to do easy things. Together, the enemies leached my self-confidence.

To find a way to beat the enemies, I went to new doctors and took more tests. It felt like I spent more

time in doctors' offices than at school. At last, one NPC recommended that we treat me for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, ADHD. Though diagnosed years before, my inventory had filled with no space for additional medicines. I upgraded my bag to hold extra gear, and a new combo of medicines helped me get strong enough to level up.

Nearing the final levels of the game, I used powerful combinations of medications so well that my enemies feared to show themselves. I had only to confront the ultimate boss. The problem was that I did not know his name. For seven years, I'd fought individual attackers without knowing anything about the big boss who sent them. Then, at a meeting with an NPC, I learned his identity. I quickly realized it wasn't just another enemy. It was *the* enemy.

It terrified me when I heard that he went by the name of Tourette Syndrome. Books and media spread lots of misconceptions about people with Tourette. According to the Tourette Association of America, common ones include:

continued on page 66

**BATTERY  
POWER  
by  
STIHL**

- Zero Exhaust Emissions
- No Fuel Cost
- Low Maintenance
- Lightweight
- Quiet




Chainsaws  
Hedge Trimmers  
Blowers  
Kombi Motors & Attachments  
Trimmers

We also offer  
Traditional Fuel-Powered Chainsaws and Tools  
Backpack Blowers  
Arborwear Work Clothing  
ASTM Rated Electrical Hazard Safety Boots  
Forestry, Logging and Climbing Equipment  
And More!

at **ORANGE SAWS**

MONDAY–FRIDAY 9–5  
SATURDAY 9–1

20 Eagleville Road • Orange, MA 01364  
978.544.7296 • info@orangesaws.com • OrangeSaws.com



John Burk Photography  
featuring New England and the Quabbin Region  
*Prints for Home or Office • Stock Images*  
*Photo Restoration • Scanning • Artwork Reproduction*  
*Regional Books and Guides*  
*including*  
Best Day Hikes in Central Massachusetts  
[john-burk.pixels.com](http://john-burk.pixels.com) (fine art prints online)  
[zenfolio.com/johnburk](http://zenfolio.com/johnburk) (website)  
[jbphotos2002@yahoo.com](mailto:jbphotos2002@yahoo.com)

# Back Roads Studio Tour showcases work of artists and crafters

text and photos by Diane Kane

Back Roads Studio tours began in 1994 when a group of local artists and crafters came together to showcase their work. Every year since, studios in Petersham, Barre, Oakham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, and Spencer open to the public for a two-day behind-the-scenes look at how they create their art.

Tours are free and self-guided through the studios of nine talented craftspeople. This year, the event will occur from 10 am to 5 pm October 14 and 15.

"It's a great way for us all to connect," said Bonnie Waterhouse of Deer Run Studio in Barre. Waterhouse began crafting handmade jewelry by reconnecting with an old friend.



jewelry from  
Deer Run Studio  
Barre

"We decided to take metal classes together, which initiated my path into metal smithing," Waterhouse explained. "I went on to take classes at Snow Farm in Williamsburg, Massachusetts, and Worcester Center for Crafts in metals and fused glass creations. I started selling my jewelry in Barre's farmers markets and later expanded into local craft fairs and gift shops."

Waterhouse is originally from Princeton and has lived in Barre for twenty-seven years.

"Barre means home to me with quiet, peaceful woodlands. Seeing deer in our driveway inspired the name Deer Run Studio for my business."

Waterhouse displays her creations at the Petersham Art Center in Petersham and Dandelions in Barre. Online, she's on Facebook at [deerrunstudio](#) and at [etsy.com/shop/DeerRunStudio](#).

Lou Meyer-Dierk of Pieceful Primitives is a self-taught artist. "I started quilting at an early age, then progressed to counted cross stitch," Meyer-Dierk said. "I became interested in wool appliqué and rug hooking. My mother braided rugs and was often busy with crocheting and other projects. As one of six girls, we weren't allowed to sit around!"

Originally from East Brookfield, Myer-Dierk lives in Spencer. "I'm a small-town girl at heart," Myer-Dierk said. "My grandmother and mother were always busy sewing and crocheting. My sisters are all crafty in one way or another—guess it's in my blood!" Another generation of the family is picking up the craft, she said, with Myer-Dierk's granddaughter showing an interest.

Myer-Dierk shows at local fairs or contact her at [PiecefulPrimitives@gmail.com](mailto:PiecefulPrimitives@gmail.com).

Sue Morello of Sheldon Farm in Barre is a basket maker. "I have always been interested in arts and crafts," Morello said. "I've learned how to do stained glass, macramé, cross-stitch, knitting, cake decorating, and basket making, which is the craft I enjoyed the most."

With a gift certificate from a friend, Morello took her first basket-making lessons. "I enjoyed

it so much that I continued to take lessons for a year," said Morello. "I design my own baskets, hand dye my reed for colors, and have hand-painted panels on many, which is my original idea. I currently give basket-making lessons in Petersham and Brookfield Orchards."

Morello sells her baskets at the Petersham Art Center and sets up at arts and craft shows.

Other artists and crafters on the Back Roads Studio Tour include Sylvia Brown of Petersham Leathers, 202 Popple Camp Road in Petersham. Brown has created a collection of contemporary classic handbags. While formally trained as a musician, she loves creating fine handbags.

Jefferey Palmer's woodworking studio, Palmer Design Group, at 14 Mill Road, North Brookfield features handmade furniture. "Each piece of

continued on page 67



a basket from  
Sheldon Farm  
Barre



furniture from Palmer Design Group  
North Brookfield





## Year Round **FAMILY FUN**

- *Pick Your Own Fruits\**
- *Brew Barn and Cidery*
- *Famous BBQ*
- *Live Music*
- *Country Store*
- *Family-Friendly Events*

**RedAppleFarm.com | @RedAppleFarm**  

*\*Seasonal, check out our website to see what's available to pick each month July–November.*





Autumnal In.Design  
a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



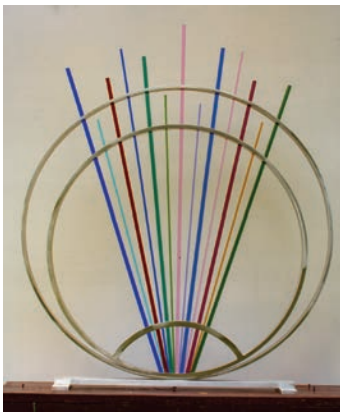
When autumn in New England swizzles its deciduous fanfare of fall color, the glory and beauty of the wooded landscape becomes thrilling and hypnotic.

On the breath of cool mornings around my house, essential “elements and principles of art” fully display in stands of oak, maple, pine, hemlock, and birch as they compel this resident watercolorist to illuminate line, color, value, texture, form, and space with emphasis, rhythm, pattern, and movement.

Interpret a veritable introduction to art appreciation with Visual Haiku #269  
*Autumnal In.design.*

ami fagin  
ketubahindesign.com  
beyondgenocide.net  
visualhaiku.graphics

ROBERT G. OSBORNE



See us at Paradise City Arts in  
Northampton, October 7-9

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

**Trail Head**  
OUTFITTERS & GENERAL STORE

**THE TRAIL STARTS HERE...**

**Part Outfitter, Part General Store,  
and Part of the Beautiful North Quabbin!**

1 South Main Street • Orange, MA

Trail Head offers a unique shopping experience. It combines our love of the outdoors with the casual atmosphere of a general store.

Enjoy in-house dining at the  
Corner Cafe inside of Trail Head!

Trail Head Tues-Sat 8am-6pm ~ Cafe Tues-Sat 8am - 2pm  
**[www.trailhead.biz](http://www.trailhead.biz)**  
Follow us on facebook for the latest news!





A mallard takes flight from a Ware waterway while a red-tailed hawk keeps watch in a nearby tree.

photos © by Claire Sygiel

# Eliminate Your Heating Bills

With fossil fuel prices the highest they've been in years, there's no better time to switch to wood heat.

Become energy independent by heating your home, shop, water, and more with a **WoodMaster CleanFire** outdoor wood furnace.

**Get Your FREE Estimate Today!**

  
**HIGGINS ENERGY  
ALTERNATIVES**



978-355-6343

HigginsEnergy.com

140 Worcester Rd. Barre, MA

Up To  
**\$2,000**  
TAX CREDIT  
On qualifying models and installation

\*For more details visit WoodMaster.com

## from the pens of *Uniquely Quabbin* poets

poem by Jean E. Hebert

### *Seeds*

Yesterdays were full of planting seeds . . .  
a word, a touch, a smile, a need,  
the count so numerous was not told to me.  
Yet, all were meant to be.  
A few of the seeds, I sensed, flew away.  
Or was it because the burdens were too heavy to weigh?  
I wasn't sure where the seeds came from.  
The pocketbook of seeds was an overflowing one.  
Planting seeds, without a doubt, was a curious deed.  
For you see, somehow, it really met my needs.  
The simple arithmetic just plain overwhelmed me.  
The more I planted, the more came back to me.

Today, I saw some of the sprouted shoots  
in a flower, a branch, or in the fruit.  
All the seeds I planted yesterday  
only made me want to plant more today.  
I did not see all, and I did not hear all.  
Am I to think some of the seeds too small?  
I saw you today. I saw you from within.  
You looked at me, and we looked again.  
It was in you, and it was in me,  
that wonderful seed growing into a tree.  
I saw your branches reaching to other lands,  
reaching out, touching other hands.

Tomorrow, oh, tomorrow, what shall I fear?  
It's so distant, yet so near.  
I must give to you more of me—  
more than the seed, more than the tree.  
Those before me planted their seeds, too.  
They were so generous in giving to me and you.  
One thousand years may not be enough  
to see the seeds grow in us.  
Do you think it is too much to ask?  
Would you please carry on this task?  
For, you see, planting seeds is never done.  
It must be carried on by everyone.

Jean E. Hebert of Orange, [Jebhebert@yahoo.com](mailto:Jebhebert@yahoo.com), has lived in the North Quabbin region all her life.  
She has received degrees from Northeastern University, Boston, and Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner.  
She recently retired from a twenty-year career with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

poem by Clare Green

### *Queen Anne's Lace*

cosmic pattern of infinite grace  
there is no question . . .  
I am Queen Anne's Lace  
pulsating, petaled, pink and white light  
glowing without thought or sight  
breathe unto me  
I rest in eternity  
dine upon my fragrant bouquet of beauty

linger and envelop me  
along the roadside, field, garden, or train track  
join myriad insects, bees, and rest with a snack  
flowers are never denied their moment  
Come  
like Autumn baskets we pack our treasured seeds  
to await through a cold winter's slumber  
dreaming of next year's summer . . .

Clare Green lives in Warwick and welcomes folks to stop by to visit the Woodland Labyrinth and Fairy Cottage.

[claregreenbooks.com](http://claregreenbooks.com)







*Leverett Farm and Garden* © by Barbara Kline Seamon of Leverett depicts emerging autumn in watercolor on paper.



**workshop13.org**

**13 Church Street  
Ware, Massachusetts 01082**

**(413) 227-6072**

*A New England  
country store with a  
touch of Scandinavia!  
Visit our  
country store where  
you'll find fresh baked  
goods, featuring*



*Finnish coffee bread*

*The coffee pot is always on!*

*Browse our books, gifts, cards, and specialty foods.*

*• featuring New England-made products •*

*Open year round*

*268 Baldwinville Road*

*Templeton, MA*

*978-939-8558*

*templetonkitchengarden.com*

*Celebrating 34 Years!*



# Telling the Bees

text and watercolor on paper by Brian Fournier



*Telling the Bees • watercolor on paper by Brian Fournier*

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, households commonly sent someone out to tell the bees when a member of the family had passed away. After all, bees have always been essential to farms and agriculture. Bees pollinate every flower in our world. The bee touches every vegetable and fruit we eat.

John Greenleaf Whittier, a Massachusetts poet, paid homage to the creatures in his poem “Telling the Bees” in 1858. He wrote from the viewpoint of a visitor to the farm where the woman of the place had died. Whittier carved out the poem, perhaps based on the Celtic custom of telling the bees. Half way into the poem Whittier’s visitor tells his story.


*I can see it now, the slantwise rain  
of light through leaves,  
the barn’s brown gable, the vine by the door,  
Nothing changed but the hives of bees.*

*Before them, under the garden wall,  
forward and back,  
went drearily singing the chore-girl small,  
draping each hive with shred of black,*

*Trembling I listen: the summer sun  
had the chill of snow.  
for I knew she was telling the bees of one  
gone on a journey we all must go.*

continued on page 56

**AL'S QUICK LUBE**



**Michael Guimond - Owner**  
187 Daniel Shays Hwy.  
Orange, MA 01364

**NO APPOINTMENT OIL CHANGES**

Mon-Fri ~ 8:00am - 5:30pm Phone: (978) 544-3317

**RON'S FUEL, INC.**



**BIG ENOUGH  
TO SERVE YOU**

**SMALL ENOUGH  
TO KNOW YOU**

**ATHOL, MA**  
**(978) 249-3548**  
**RONSFUELINC.COM**



## QUABBIN CURRENTS

### Eastern Star sponsored lesser known 1938 farewell ball in Enfield

by J. R. Greene

More than eighty-five years ago, the four Western Massachusetts towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, were set to be disincorporated by the state on April 28, 1938 to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir water supply for Metropolitan Boston. A great farewell ball took place on the evening of April 27, 1938 in Enfield Town Hall in observance of disincorporation. Quabbin history buffs know the event well. On the seventy-fifth anniversary, Ware Town Hall hosted a recreation of the event.

Few remember, however, that another ball in Enfield a month earlier eighty-five years ago.

The dam and dike that would block the southern ends of Swift River Valley—"like twin executioners," as one reporter called them—neared completion. The railroad connecting the four towns to Athol to the north and Springfield to the south had been removed almost three years earlier. A majority of the residents of the valley had already sold out and moved away. Many buildings in the towns had already been torn down or removed elsewhere by contractors to make way for flooding to create the reservoir. Some sections of the future reservoir basin had already been stripped of trees.

Enfield, the largest of the four doomed towns, had the only Masonic lodge in its final years. Zion Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was the ladies' auxiliary for the Enfield lodge and decided to hold a farewell ball for the town on March



Attendees dance to Dick Hamilton's orchestra during the March 28, 1938, farewell ball sponsored by the Zion Chapter of Order of the Eastern Star in Enfield not long before Swift River drowned the town during creation of Quabbin Reservoir.

news clipping from the collection of J. R. Greene

28, 1938. Dick Hamilton and his orchestra provided music in an event promoted as "Enfield's last big dance . . . with one last time together in the old town hall before our old town goes forever."

The poster advertising the ball promised "old-fashioned and modern dancing." Zion Chapter members "brought in evergreens and plants and decorated the hall with the colors of the Eastern Star, red, white, and green. An admission charge of only fifty cents must have helped draw more than three hundred people. Lewis

Johnston, town moderator of the nearby soon-to-be-drowned town of Greenwich, served as the prompter, another name for master of ceremonies. Newspaper photos of the ball show many attendees attired in formal clothing.

As a newspaper account notes, "It was hard to arouse the old carnival spirit. But they shook off their sadness and danced right merrily. Young and old, they all danced and joined "until the old boards of town hall shivered and creaked." The account continues, "It was not until

continued on page 60





*Two convenient locations to serve your memorial needs anywhere in the Quabbin region*

Headstones & Grass Markers  
Custom Designs & Styles  
Monument Cleaning & Maintenance  
Commercial Granite Signs  
Cemetery Lettering

Laser Etching  
Benches & Urns  
Veteran's War Memorials  
Boulders & Irregular Shapes  
Mausoleums & Columbarium

Bronze Memorial Plaques



## T.S. Mann Memorials

199 Petersham Road, Rt 32 | Athol MA  
978-249-2206  
[www.MannMemorials.com](http://www.MannMemorials.com)  
Mon-Fri, 8-5 | Sat, 8-2

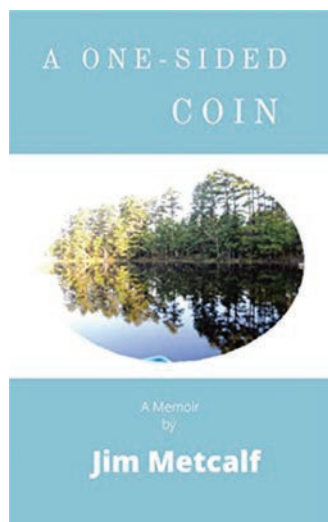
## Dorsey Memorials

707 Main Street | Amherst MA  
413-253-5212  
[www.DorseyMemorials.com](http://www.DorseyMemorials.com)  
Mon-Fri, 10-4 | Sat, 9-Noon



# hobby author and accidental author enjoy producing books

by Diane Kane



Jim Metcalf discovered the benefit of writing for pleasure during COVID-19.

photos courtesy of Jim Metcalf

Jim Metcalf calls himself a hobby writer. Born and raised in Ware, Metcalf settled in North Brookfield after working in northern New England.

“During my career in the healthcare and medical industry, I wrote many business reports, newsletters, and proposals but never any fiction or nonfiction works for pleasure,” explained Metcalf. “But I was known as a storyteller, so when I retired, I wrote a few short pieces for magazines and newspapers.”

The sudden death of his wife of fifty-five years motivated Metcalf to write a book.

“We met and fell in love at fourteen, then married in college,” Metcalf reflected. “My wife’s death was devastating, putting me into a couple of grief groups.”

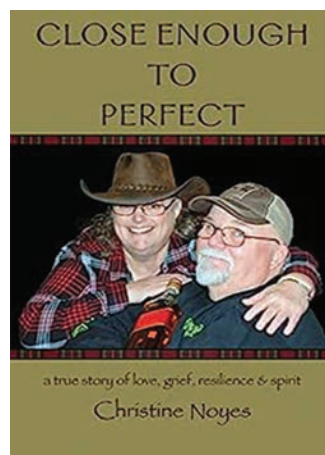
During one such group, participants wrote a paragraph about the person they lost. Metcalf found that it helped. So when friend and author Ed Londergan encouraged him to continue writing, Metcalf discovered a new passion.

“It certainly helped me through grief and the isolation of COVID-19,” Metcalf said. “With support and encouragement, I completed my memoir *A One-Sided Coin*, a story about our life together and rebuilding my life following Sandy’s death.”

Metcalf wrote the memoir as therapy for himself and as assistance for people grieving due to losing a loved one. But at eighty-one, he is not done yet.

“I am so excited about writing at my age and am working on a couple of books,” Metcalf said. “One is a nonfiction reflection of my small business, mentoring, and showing rural towns how they can grow economically and socially by supporting small businesses. I’m also working on a second book, a collection of fishing, camping, gardening, beekeeping, and life stories. The added twist is that my wife was a competitive cook in county fairs, so I am adding a unique recipe to each story,” Metcalf said. “The book is about sixty percent written, and at my age, I have to keep writing, or someone else will have to finish it.”

*A One-Sided Coin* is in print with an ebook available online.



Writing “just kind of happened” for Christine Noyes.

photos courtesy of Christine Noyes

For author Christine Noyes, most of her life has been a series of unexpected events.

“I call myself an accidental author because I never made a conscious decision to write. It just kind of happened.”

Noyes began working in her grandfather’s restaurant in Sutton as a child.

“I developed a love of cooking during those times and eventually became a chef in restaurants from Massachusetts to Connecticut,” said Noyes. “After nearly thirty years in the business, I left the kitchen to work in food-service sales so I could have normal daytime hours and spend more time with my husband, Al.

“When Al and I got married in 1989, we happened upon a company selling land lots and modular houses in Orange. We both immediately fell in love with the

continued on page 62

# Shutesbury, Warwick library directors suggest

compiled by Carla Charter

Mary Anne Antonellis, director of the M. N. Spear Memorial Library in Shutesbury, suggests the following spooky reads in keeping with the season.

## Adult Fiction

***The Writing Retreat*** by Julia Bartz



Alex attends a writing retreat at Blackbriar, home of horror author Roza Vallo. She and other attendees must write a novel from scratch for a chance at a million-dollar publishing deal, and it soon becomes apparent that they are trapped on the estate during bizarre happenings possibly linked to a pair of unsolved murders.

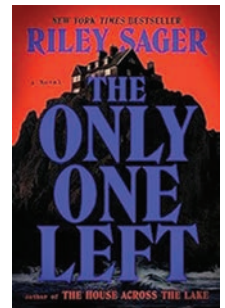
***How to Sell a Haunted House*** by Grady Hendrix

Louise and her five-year-old daughter return home to clean out her parents' house following their deaths. Generations of family secrets and a doll collection

challenge Louise and her brother to put aside differences in order to survive.

***The Only One Left*** by Riley Sager

Lenora Hope is sole survivor of a massacre sixty years before, and everyone believes she's guilty. Also suspected of murder, Kit cares for Lenora in her crumbling oceanside mansion. Soon, Kit fears for her own safety.



Ivan Ussach, Warwick Free Public Library, suggests

***The Passage*** by Justin Cronin

Pursued and imprisoned by shadowy figures involved in a government experiment of world ending proportions, Amy grew up abandoned. Lawmen Brad Wolgast must track the girl down and will do anything to save her. Wolgast frees her but cannot prevent the collapse of society, and the girl may be the only one who

has the power to save earth.

***The Sanatorium*** by Sarah Pearse

Elin Warner visits Le Sommet, a Swiss Alps sanatorium now a hotel,



to celebrate the engagement of her brother to fiancée Laure. When Laure goes missing, Warner, a detective, looks

for her during a storm closing off all the access to the hotel. Guests panic.

***Home Before Dark*** by Riley Sager

What better setting for a horror novel than an Old Victorian? Ewan and Jess Holt bought Baneberry Hall and moved in with their young daughter Maggie only to flee weeks later due to evil spirits haunting the house. Jess turns their experiences into a memoir. Years later, Maggie returns to Baneberry Hall to prepare it for sale and starts to believe her father's memoir.



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
open 24 hours a day/5 days a week  
open Saturdays 7am-4pm and Sundays 8am-4pm

## Strengthening the Foundations of Community

Great programs for the entire family

- Aquatics
- Sports
- Preschool Play
- Fitness
- Group Exercise
- Camp Wiyaka, Camp Selah

State-of-the-Art cardio equipment in our Fitness Center & Best Free Weight Gym in the Area!



Membership is easy. . .

Monthly bank draft or credit card draft with no contract and financial assistance available!

Membership fee eligible for insurance reimbursement (not all insurance applies)

## ATHOL AREA YMCA

545 Main Street, Athol • OIC building, 131 West Main Street, Orange

**978-249-3305**

**www.ymcaathol.org**



A United Way  
Member  
Agency

Find Us On  
Facebook





# spooky reads to match the witchy, goblin season

***Imaginary Friend*** by Stephen Chbosky

Kate Green and her son move to Mill Grove. Christopher disappears for six days. When found, he is unharmed except for a voice in his head telling him to build a tree house in the woods by Christmas. His mother and the whole town will never be the same again.

## Children's Books

### Picture Books

***Give Me Back My Bones!***

by Kim Norman



Sea creatures help to put back together a pirate skeleton who has become scattered across the ocean floor.

***Hardly Haunted*** by Jessie Sima

Nobody wants to live in House,

and she's getting a little worried . . . could she be HAUNTED?

***There's a Ghost in This House*** by Oliver Jeffers

A little girl searches her old house for ghosts that only the reader—with some help from transparent pages—can see.

***Zombies Don't Eat Veggies!*** by Megan Lacera

Mo the zombie's parents hope he outgrows his disgusting habit- eating vegetables!

***Creepy Carrots*** by Aaron Reynolds

Jasper the rabbit loves eating carrots- but what happens when his favorite food decides to fight back?!

## Chapter Books

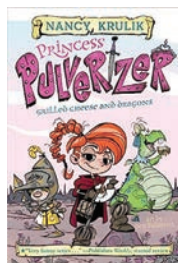
***Eerie Elementary***, series by Jack Chabert

Sam, Lucy, and Antonio defend their schoolmates from their evil school. It's alive . . . and it eats kids.

***Princess Pulverizer***

series by Nancy E. Krulik

Princess Serena needs to complete an annoying Quest of Kindness if she wants to go to knight school. Bring on the ogres, dragons, witches, and creepy castles!



## Kids' Graphic Novels

***Dragon Kingdom of Wrenly*** series by Jordan Quinn

Young dragons Ruskin, Cinder, and Groth face danger and enchantment as they try to save the Kingdom of Wrenly.

***Camp Midnight***, series by Steven T. Seagle

Skye doesn't want to go to summer camp, even before she finds out that all the other campers are monsters.

## Young Adult Fiction

***The Getaway*** by Lamar Giles

Jay has a safe job at a famous resort, complete with food, water, and protection from the effects of climate change. Then the outside world collapses, wealthy clients come flooding in, employees start disappearing, and suddenly Jay and his crew are fighting for their lives.

***Coraline*** by Neil Gaiman

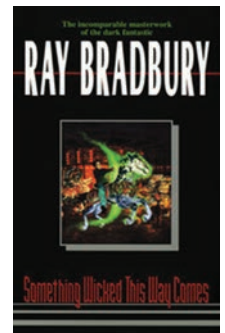
When Coraline moves to her new apartment with her parents, she goes exploring. Soon she finds a door leading to a parallel Universe to hers. There she meets Other Mother and Other Father. When she returns to her own world she discovers her parents missing. She decides to go back to the parallel universe to find them and finds also the strength which has resided inside herself all along.

## Young Adult Fiction

***Something Wicked This Way***

***Comes*** by Ray Bradbury

Jim Nightshade and William Halloway go to visit a traveling carnival which has come to town. However this is a carnival like no other, full of creepy characters including Mister Dark. Who, like the carnival itself, lives off of the the life force of the bodies they enslave. Welcome to the Carnival.



M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road • Shutesbury

[sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/](https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/)

Tuesday 3 pm to 7:30 pm • Wednesday 11 am to 1 pm;

Thursday 3 pm to 6 pm • Friday 3 pm to 6 pm

Saturday 10 am to 1 pm

Warwick Public Library

4 Hotel Road • Warwick

Monday 10 am to 4 pm • Tuesday 1 pm to 8 pm

Thursday 5 pm to 8 pm

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

## study may tell why fish proliferate in Swift River

continued from page 6

trout in four locations to monitor when the wild fish move into different sections of Swift River for spawning, feeding, and seasonal shelter.

A thousand wild trout per year will be tagged during population surveys that include shocking each fish with a mild electric current and measuring, tagging, and releasing them. The study included installation in Belchertown of three dual antennae by August of this year near Cady Lane, the Route 9 bridge, and upriver from the boat launch off Cold Spring Road. Collection of tracking data will begin this fall.

Swift River below Quabbin provides a unique resource. A true tailwater, its water flows year round from deep beneath Winsor Dam, Belchertown, in the fifty-degree Fahrenheit range. The cold water allows fish to feed and grow throughout the year. Whether those conditions alone account for the numbers and size of wild trout remains to be seen.



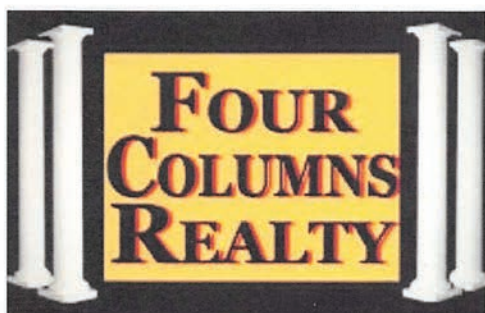
Brook trout, top, and brown trout populate Swift River in droves below Quabbin.

photos courtesy of Rick Taupier

The wild trout may be native to the river, descended from previously stocked brook trout from New York or Canada, or they may be a hybrid of native and stocked strains. Only future studies will clarify the issue through DNA analysis.

As climate change threatens many cold-water rivers and the fish they support, the Quabbin region enjoys the special resource of trout, just now being documented. Wild brook and brown trout as well as landlocked salmon spawn in Quabbin tributaries, but we know little of the health of those streams as spawning and nursery habitat. Signs posted on Swift River in Belchertown alert people to the presence of spawning brook trout and their eggs in fall and winter.

Rick Taupier owns Swift River Fly Fishing in New Salem and serves as president of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



LIZA MELO

CELL: 508-395-4028



AMANDA ROBERTS

CELL: 978-317-7370



SUSAN APTEKER

CELL: 413-768-1119



TRACIE WRIGHT

CELL: 978-413-6847

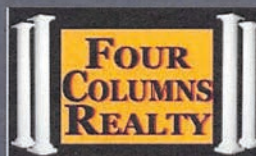
## LOOKING FOR A KNOWLEDGEABLE REAL ESTATE AGENT?

CALL US TODAY

Let us help you buy or sell your home. Schedule your appointment to get a complimentary market evaluation.

Office: 978-544-5100

Four Columns Realty  
43 New Athol Road  
Orange, MA 01364  
[www.fourcolumnsrealty.com](http://www.fourcolumnsrealty.com)





# area specialty food entrepreneurs offer wide selection

text and photos by Diane Kane

Starting from scratch, area food entrepreneurs offer a wide selection of specialty foods.

Erin Girouard, owner of Royalston's Rainbow Crown Bakery, designs, bakes, and decorates all of her cookies herself. "My grandmother and mother used to bake hundreds of cookies during the holiday season, and I always loved that tradition," she said. "When I began decorating sugar cookies, I watched videos of bakers for inspiration in designs and techniques."



Erin Girouard of Royalston's Rainbow Crown Bakery invents cookies in many shapes for many occasions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Girouard started decorating sugar cookies as a hobby. "It was relaxing during a difficult time," Girouard said. "Then it developed into a business by accident."

Girouard planned to sell handmade crocheted rainbow crowns at a festival run by a friend. "She called me at the last minute in a panic. Her only bakery vendor had to cancel. She knew I loved to bake and asked if I would add baked goods to my table. We came up with the brilliant idea to call my booth the Rainbow Crown Bakery!"

Girouard has lived in Royalston with her family for sixteen years. "We enjoy the privacy and nature and made lovely friends within our neighborhood!"

Girouard offers sugar cookies in several flavors, including traditional vanilla, dark chocolate, lemon, and her newest flavor, funfetti.

"I also do seasonal flavors like peppermint mocha and pumpkin spice. I designed cookie sets for kids' birthdays, weddings, baby showers, or just a random Tuesday!"

On her Etsy site, Girouard finds floral designs very popular, but she says her best seller may seem a little strange. "My pet sympathy rainbow bridge cookies are a wonderful thing to give to someone who has lost a beloved pet."

Contact Girouard at [ejgirouard@gmail.com](mailto:ejgirouard@gmail.com) or (401)749-2424



Joy of Beans, a small coffee shop in downtown West Brookfield, is "a journey from bean to cup," according to owner Joy Hinton, "and more importantly, it's history, geography, and science. The family farms' lineage fascinates me."

Hinton has made West Brookfield home for forty-eight years.

"What I like about West Brookfield most is its quaintness," Hinton reflected. "The coffee shop has reconnected many residents and brought in new people from neighboring towns."

Each day, the coffee shop offers something new to experience. "Enjoy a cup of the coffee of the day, perhaps from Guatemala, Peru, Honduras, or El Salvador, or try the favorite Four Horsemen Blend from Central America," Hinton said. "We offer pastries from local independent bakers and bakeries. Other options include gluten-free and vegan. Ice cream will soon be on the menu."

Hinton is grateful for all the help she receives. "This has been a family affair from the onset. My husband, Travis, runs our table at the farmers market in Brimfield, and I do the farmers market in West Brookfield with the help of our grandchildren David, Chase, Davia, Aubrey, and David Earl. In addition, McKenna Haney works in the coffee shop with me."

Hinton also appreciates the support she gets from customers. "I sometimes refer to it as the People's Coffee

continued on page 64



Chicken of the woods mushrooms grow on trees

# Mushrooms proliferate

text and photos by Sasha Ellsworth Dyer

Chickens and hens—what's all the clucking about?

Mushroom foragers find the Quabbin area very fruitful from April to November with some mushrooms present year round. Late summer and early fall make the ideal time for finding both the prized hen of the woods, *Grifola frondosa*, and chicken of the woods, *Laetiporus sulphureus*.

Chicken of the woods grows on trees, and hen of the woods often grows under them. Sometimes interchanged in conversation as if one and the same, the hen and the chicken constitute two different delicacies. While information here does not provide sufficient facts for the novice forager, both hen of the woods and chicken of the woods make good possibilities for beginners searching with a more experienced adviser.

Easily identifiable, neither mushroom has a deadly look alike. Even edible mushrooms, however, can cause negative reactions in some people. It is best to partner up with an expert or attend a local foraging class before

## Oakham Historical Museum and the Young Family Annex

Preserving and protecting the history of a rural New England town



Located in one of the town's oldest buildings which itself saw Revolutionary War conspiracies and served as the first Post Office

## Hundreds of Artifacts

Transportation - Period Clothing

Militaria - Town Industries

Agricultural

And much, much more!

**1221 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham**

Currently open by appointment Call 508-882-3990

Work Mornings, 1st Thursday every month, 10am-12pm  
Business Meetings, 3rd Tuesday every month, 7pm



## The North Quabbin and Beyond

A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

Now Available at the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau in Athol, the Johnny Appleseed Visitors Center on Rt. 2 in Lancaster, Massachusetts, or directly from Mitchell Grosky by contacting the photographer at 978-249-9090, by facebook, or via email at [mrgrosky@msn.com](mailto:mrgrosky@msn.com)

A Hardcover Coffee Table Book of 80 pages  
Over 200 color photographs – 26 area towns and cities

Only \$32.95 plus tax (plus shipping, if required)



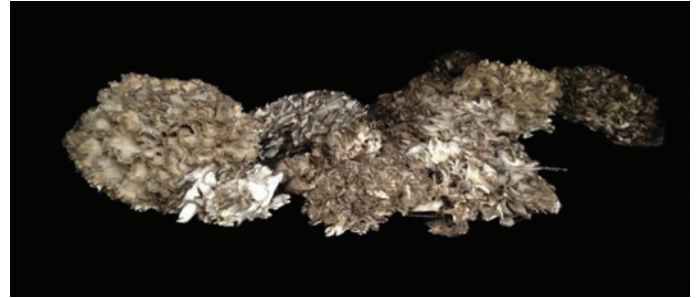
## in Quabbin region during early autumn

Information and photos here  
do not provide sufficient guidance  
for the novice forager.

Do not consume any found  
mushroom without first  
consulting an expert.

heading out alone to find mushrooms. After learning one or two species well, beginners can gradually add others to their identification comfort zone. Never consume wild mushrooms without certainty that they are safe to eat.

Hen of the woods is an expert in camouflage, often at the base of oak trees where one might look right at them and not notice. The hen looks like a round feathered bird as it grows from a main stem with many feathering, overlapping fronds. Varied colors ranges from gray to blackish brown with light cream-colored pores on the underside.



Hen of the woods mushrooms grow under trees.

Although, typically, mushroom preparation does not include washing, hen of the woods will need some cleaning, especially if found growing under an oak along a roadside. A clean, soft paint brush works well for dusting off debris in and around the fronds to avoid gritty surprises. Subject to use in all the ways of store-bought mushrooms, hen of the woods does all right when frozen or dehydrated for later use.

Opposite in appearance from hen of the woods, chicken of the woods grows along trees, stumps, and

continued on page 48


Cell Phone:  
978.387.6017  
Hours: 10 am-5 pm  
Wed-Sun

Dealer Shop  
Store Phone:  
978.652.5429



**Country Bumpkin' Antiques**

Kimberly Pirner owner  
36 Baldwinville Rd. Templeton, MA 01468  
countrybumpkinantiques@hotmail.com  
Like us on Facebook and Instagram



Brimfield Antique Show Shelton Field B17

# Whipps, inc.

## WATER CONTROL GATES

*Celebrating more than  
forty years of excellence  
in the industry.*

P. O. Box 1058 • 370 South Athol Road  
Athol, Massachusetts 01331 USA  
www.whipps.com  
Tel: 978-249-7924 Fax: 978-249-3072

# addressing fun challenges of creating

text and photos by Christine Noyes

Before I became a writer, I worked as a chef. When I was young, my cooking influences came from Julia Child, the queen of heavy cream; Graham Kerr, the wine-loving Galloping Gourmet; and my grandfather, maker of the world's best deep-fried chicken.

I learned my grandfather's secret fried chicken recipe when, at eleven, I began work as a dishwasher in his restaurant kitchen. But the recipe was only part of the reason his chicken was so good. Back then in the 1970s, restaurants commonly fried their food in beef tallow, which added immense flavor to the product. Just ask anyone who had the pleasure of enjoying the original (famous fast food chain name here) shoestring French fries.

As best I can recollect, the push to move away from beef fats and toward vegetable-based frying oils developed in the 1980s. Grandpa's chicken was still the best, just not the best that it could be. And not only did that disappoint me, but it also formed my less than enthusiastic opinions about healthier foods. And those opinions lingered.

As a cook, then chef, I always aimed at preparing the most flavorful and eye-appealing dishes I could—regardless of calories, sodium, or fat content. I wanted every customer to leave the dining room feeling gastronomically satisfied.

The years progressed, and many customers demanded healthy alternatives on menus. To me, that meant adding salads, fruits, and what I considered boring vegetable dishes. I had a tough time embracing



Blender-easy berry smoothie offers healthy pick-me-up.

the idea that healthy foods could be gastronomically pleasing.

Fast forward to present day. I'm in the early years of my sixth decade, and a need to lose weight and improve my general health have forced me to let go of my narrow-mindedness. You'll find Greek yogurt in my refrigerator instead of heavy cream, and "cheese" is something I say just before someone snaps my picture. (I added that last part for the laugh. I could never entirely give up cheese.)

What I've come to realize is that I don't have to eat boring foods to be healthy. I substitute olive oil for butter, yogurt for cream, and

hummus or feta dip in place of mayonnaise on my sandwich. And the results are still delicious.

It has become a fun challenge to create my favorite dishes using healthier ingredients. And I've found new favorites in the process—berry smoothies, yogurt cake, and chili-lime grilled shrimp. You may see that recipe in the future once I perfect it.

For years, I thought I would have to sacrifice my love of food to eat healthy. In reality, I sacrificed my health because I stubbornly refused to embrace alternatives.

Wow! I guess we do become wiser the older we get!



# new favorite dishes with healthier ingredients

## Berry Boost Smoothie

makes two 12-ounce servings  
approximately 214 calories per serving

Combine in a blender:  
1-1/2 cups ice  
1-1/2 cups Boathouse Farms Berry Superfood Boost  
juice(Immunity)  
1/2 sliced fresh banana  
1 cup Greek vanilla yogurt  
2 tablespoons PB Fit peanut butter powder  
Puree until smooth.

### Variations

Play with different fruit juice flavors.  
From 1/2 to a cup of any fresh or frozen fruit will do.  
Mix them!  
Use your favorite plain or flavored yogurt.  
Exchange real peanut butter for powder.



Smoothie depends on fruit juice, fresh fruit, and yogurt.



An accomplished chef, Christine Noyes has led life as a sales representative, entrepreneur, and writer and illustrator. She writes Bear Hug children's books and the Bradley Whitman mystery series, including her forthcoming *Pathside Predator*. Her romance novel *Winter Meets Summer* will be published soon.





Autumn light burnishes Petersham's Brown's Pond.  
photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere

(978) 830-0427



**ATHOL**  
PHARMACY

**290 Main Street Athol, MA 01331**

**Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm**  
**Saturday: 9am-3pm**  
**Sunday: 9am-1pm**

**Offering Free Prescription Delivery**  
**(7 Days a Week) to:**  
**Athol • Orange • Royalston**  
**Petersham • New Salem • Phillipston • Erving**  
**Wendell • Templeton • Warwick**

## *mushroom hunting connects foragers to outdoors*

**continued from page 45**

logs. The meaty, textured mushroom has vibrant orange and yellowish colors with pores, not gills, on its underside.

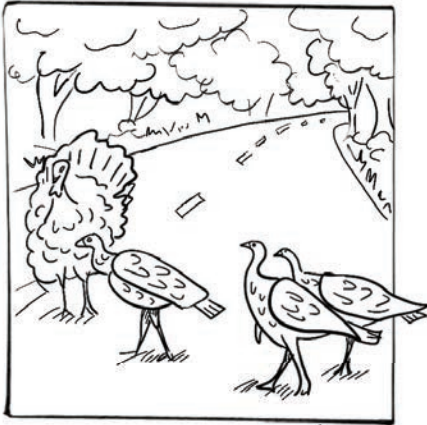
As with many mushrooms, the age of chicken matters. When young, they have a fresh, firm, and meaty texture. They dry and lighten to near white with age and then often fill with bugs.

The most important element of mushroom foraging connects seekers to nature as they explore woods, breathe earthy fall smells, and watch squirrels collecting their winter cache. Days spent alongside woodland sounds as daylight lessens can boost mood and may just make those long January nights seem tolerable.

Sasha Ellsworth Dyer of Barre coaches the Athol Area YMCA swim team.



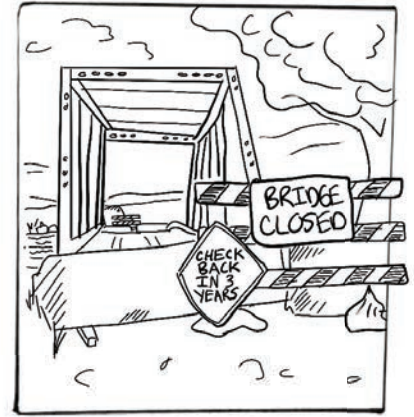
# SORRY I WAS LATE...



THERE WERE TURKEYS  
CROSSING THE ROAD

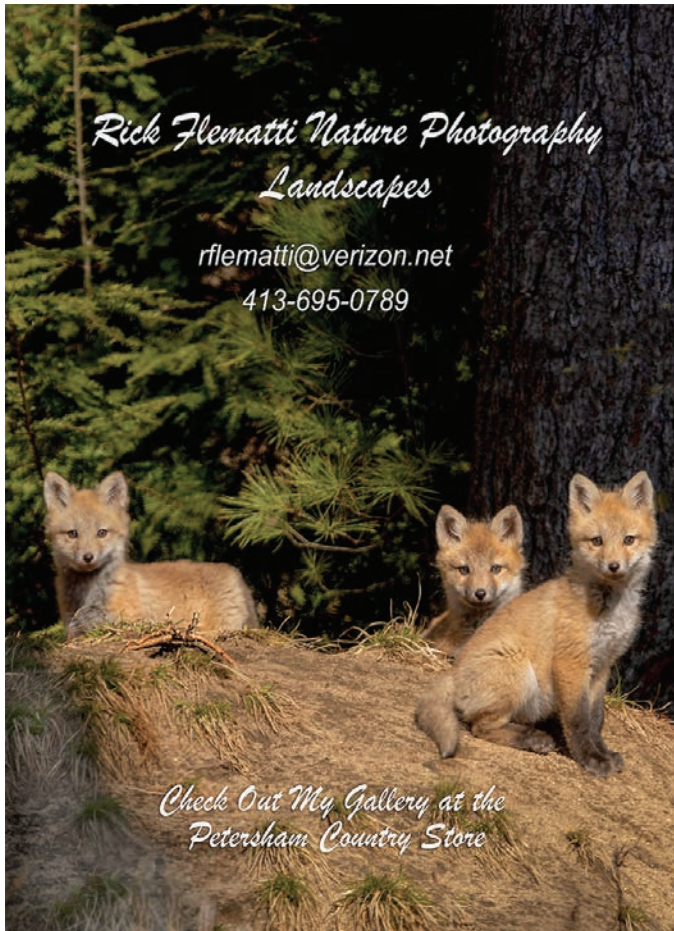


I GOT STUCK BEHIND  
A TRACTOR



THE BRIDGE WAS  
OUT AGAIN

cartoon © by Emily Boughton



*Rick Flematti Nature Photography  
Landscapes*

[rflematti@verizon.net](mailto:rflematti@verizon.net)

413-695-0789

*Check Out My Gallery at the  
Petersham Country Store*



**A COMMUNITY  
GROCERY STORE  
FOR THE NORTH QUABBIN REGION**



Fresh Produce  
Local Foods  
Coffee and Chai



Delicious take-out meals from  
the Kitchen Collaborative  
including vegan and gluten-free options

12 N Main St, Orange 978-544-6784

Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 9-5

[www.quabbinharvest.coop](http://www.quabbinharvest.coop)

Orange MA

# shop locally at



## Stage on Main



In downtown Orange, MA ®



stuffed animals  
many more items  
holiday shopping  
hand crafted



scarves  
soaps



jewelry



quilting



sculptures



local artists  
paintings

### MARKETPLACE at Stage on Main

- Over 30 Local Artisans • Shop for art and hand crafted items

### Stage on Main FREE Performance Space and Art Gallery

- A space for people to gather and enjoy the arts



17 South Main Street, Orange MA 01364

1-413-272-8639 • [www.facebook.com/stageonmain](http://www.facebook.com/stageonmain)

SOM is sponsored/supported by the Orange Court LLC,  
Orange Revitalization Partnership (O.R.P.),  
Legacy Unlimited and Orange/Mass Cultural Council.





# ELIZABETH CALLAHAN

## *Inspiration*

oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan



***Inspiration* • oil painting on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan**

Every once in a while, it makes a good challenge to work outside of a familiar wheelhouse beyond the comfort zone and push at self-imposed boundaries. The painting *Inspiration* provides a perfect example.

Never having painted flowers nor embraced the Impressionistic style even though I love it and admire great Impressionist artists, I decided “No time like the present.” Sitting on the floor of my instructor’s studio looking at art books for inspiration and enjoying background music, I nearly switched gears to a subject and style that did not induce stress or lack of confidence. Then I released my inhibitions in order to just paint. On that truly great evening, free from expectations, the paintbrush just flew across the canvas.

Without limiting expectations, I achieved something barely recognizable as my own. My encouraging teacher continued to find great music to keep me going. Others in the class knew me fairly well and encouraged my breaking new ground. Isn’t that what we all need—a loving cheering squad?

Never before had I completed a painting in one night, with *Inspiration* in the loose style I love but that, a lover of detail, I struggle to master.

The term impressionism comes from painters trying to create an impression of how the subject looked from their perspective rather than a photographic replica. Vibrant colors, visible brush strokes, thickly layered paint and, most important, emphasis of natural light characterize impressionism. Viewers can essentially see movement and texture within the painting, whereas in an objective style painting, brushstrokes become nearly imperceptible.

Impressionists also changed the way artists worked. Prior to the movement, artists typically painted landscapes from inside a studio, resulting in a picture-perfect but actually imaginary scene. Impressionists often took their work outside—into pleine air—to paint from real life. Because they worked outside, they had to apply paint quite rapidly, resulting in visible brushstrokes common in an impressionist painting.

Pioneer Home Staging Realtor Elizabeth Callahan creates art using pastels, oil paint, pen and ink, and watercolor. She lives in Rutland.



# Massachusetts citizens nominate legacy and champion trees



Autumn shows off near Quabbin with a variety of trees behind a time-honored stone wall.

continued from page 9

tree of each species in Massachusetts, including some champion and legacy trees in the Quabbin region. Athol has the champion red oak at 5886 Briggs Road. Hardwick has multiple champion European beech trees. New Salem hosts the champion black birch. A legacy black Tupelo is at 324 North Main, Quabbin Gate 3, in Petersham. Royalston has the champion domestic apple.

Experienced nature center director Sue Cloutier specializes in biodiversity and educational programs. She is inventorying living things on her New Salem property.



**NORTH QUABBIN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
North Quabbin Wildlife and Scenics  
Quabbin History and Wildlife Presentations  
**Dale Monette**  
978-846-9289  
[www.northquabbinphotography.com](http://www.northquabbinphotography.com)



Maple trees vary markedly in appearance from season to season.

Nominate a tree online at  
[mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program](http://mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program).



## seasonal wildflowers aid pollinators

continued from page 11

rich nectar and sugar and provide pollination. Fresh blossoms display white tips that signal food availability to bees. Bitter tasting roots and leaves discourage predation by herbivores.

Fringed gentian, *Gentiana crinita*, one of the last wildflowers to appear during the growing season, features attractive bright blue flowers with delicately frayed tips. Petals open in direct sunlight and close in shade and at night to protect from disturbance by crawling insects. Flowers bloom singularly or in clusters on plant stems.



Fringed and closed gentian bloom in a wet meadow.

Look for fringed gentians in wet meadows, stream and forest edges, and disturbed areas such as clearings for power lines. Unfortunately, development of habitats, forest regrowth, and picking have caused significant declines in recent decades.

Acclaimed nineteenth-century Massachusetts poet William Cullen Bryant composed a tribute, *To the Fringed Gentian*, that reads in part:

Thou blossom bright with autumn dew,  
And colored with the heaven's own blue,  
When woods are bare and birds are flown,  
And frosts and shortening days portend,  
The aged year is near its end.

Writer and photographer John Burk documents the Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds). He lives in Petersham.



Late autumn foliage bedecks a classic New England maple tree  
photo by Mary Lou Conca.

## Edward Jones®



**David J Mason, CFP®**  
Financial Advisor

164 Market Dr  
Athol, MA 01331  
978-780-0002

## ATHOL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Presents...

## The Year of Kindness



Pancake Breakfasts  
Last Saturday of every month

Adults - \$8.00  
Children Under 12 - \$3.00  
Plain and Blueberry Pancakes,  
French Toast, Sausage, Fruit,  
and Coffee

**Nationally-Renowned  
Anti-Bullying Speaker,  
Brian Williams**

addresses all  
Athol-Royalston Schools

**September 25 and 26**

Find out more informations:

accuccoffice@gmail.com  
978-249-6202

Sunday Worship

10:00AM  
1225 Chestnut Street  
Athol, MA

## *trolley lines served most*

continued from page 15

Success of the line was very short lived with a bankruptcy receiver appointed in early 1905. The company sold on September 30, 1905, and the Ware & Brookfield Street Railway took over in December, 1905. The line was ultimately abandoned on February 3, 1918 with the line's infrastructure removed the following summer.

The charter for a street railway to connect Athol and Orange went into effect in 1893. Regular trolley runs went between Orange and the Main Street bridge over Millers River, Athol, in June of 1894. Construction along Athol's Main Street delayed over controversy as to which side of the street to locate the tracks. Eventually, the tracks went down the middle of the street.

Trackage to uptown Athol remained incomplete until December of 1894 with completion of the new underpass on School Street. The Athol and Orange Street Railway then opened for its entire route from the Athol Fairgrounds at the present site of Athol High School west to Shelter Street in Orange.



Conductors, passengers, and trolley cars gather in the early 1900s at Athol Fairgrounds, present site of Athol High School.

photo from the collection of Christopher Coyle

The line's car barn was located on the corner of today's Brookside Road and Rogers Avenue. Brookside (amusement) Park on the south of Brookside Road included a nearby small waiting station. Proposals to build lines to Millers Falls and Petersham never materialized.

### **State Representative Susannah Whipps**

proudly serving

the towns of the

2nd Franklin District

District Office (978) 895-9606

paid political ad



## former railroad lines have new life as state rail trails



Templeton Street Railway consolidated with Phillipston Street Railway in 1903.

photo from the collection of Christopher Coyle

Phillipston Street Railway connected with the Athol–Orange system at Athol Fairgrounds. It began operation in 1900. The line consolidated with the Templeton Street Railway in 1903. Templeton Street Railway ran along present-day Route 2A through Templeton, East Templeton, and then to West Gardner.

With the age of the automobile, the streetcar era ended. The Town of Athol assumed ownership of the line but abandoned it in March of 1933 with tracks removed and equipment sold or scrapped. Bus service succeeded trolleys.

Athol Historical Society retains a short rail section of streetcar track that remained imbedded in Brookside Road immediately west of Piragis Boats & Motors where the street railway crossed from one side of the road to the other until its removal in the late 1960s. Unlike abandoned grades of so-called steam railroads, few vestiges of the trolley era remain. Templeton Street Railway Car #12, built in 1886, originally horse drawn but later electrified, survives as one of the oldest pieces of equipment at Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum features a ride on a vintage 1896 trolley car from May through October.

Rail enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass-Amherst research technician Christopher Coyle lives in Athol.

Please consider making a donation to  
*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.  
With your smartphone, use the QR  
code  
below to make a PayPal donation to  
*Uniquely Quabbin*.



THANK YOU!



### Athol • Orange Area Rotary Club

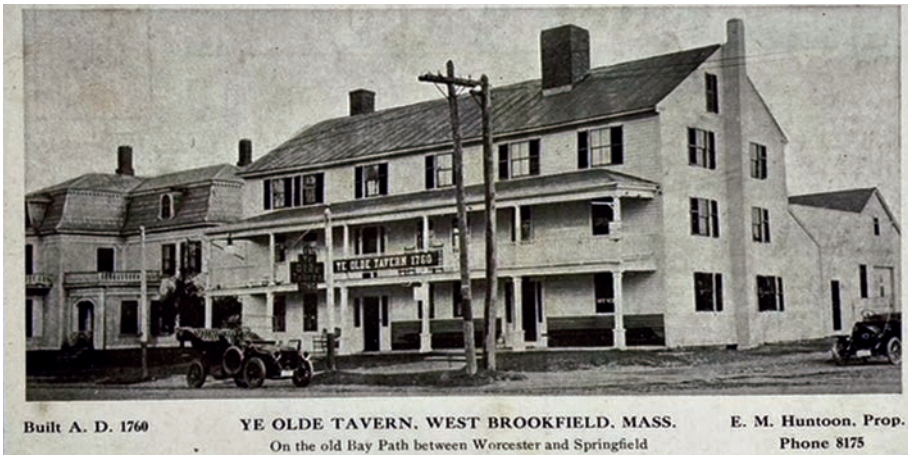
providing funding,  
services and resources  
for a variety of local,  
regional and  
international projects

Join us on Mondays for lunch!  
Los Agaves Restaurant | Athol | 12:15PM

— Service Above Self —

## West Brookfield resonant with industry, tourism, and history

continued from page 25



Ye Olde Tavern in West Brookfield featured drinks, food, and lodging.

from the collection of J. R. Greene

Wickaboag Lake became a popular tourist and recreation destination during the late nineteenth century.

Visitors and residents enjoyed steamboat excursions, scenic picnic groves, campsites, parks, and beaches. Developers built summer cottage colonies in the early and middle twentieth century.

The 1938 New England Hurricane washed out railroad tracks, roads, and bridges, damaged two churches, and blew down ornamental trees at Lake Wickaboag

and the town center. Flooding in August 1955 inundated homes along Quaboag River and Lake Wickaboag and disrupted railroad service for two months.

West Brookfield Center Historic District encompasses more than 250 properties and a spacious town common that hosts seasonal events such as the Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival. The 1859 town hall has also served as a post office, library, general store, and church. Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, constructed with funding from publisher Charles Merriam, publisher of *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, opened in 1880. Guests of Ye Olde Tavern, built in 1760 on the Old Bay Path colonial road, included George Washington, John Adams, and the Marquis de Lafayette. Other landmarks include several churches, the former Brookfield Classic Female Seminary, and Victorian homes.

Quaboag Historical Society Museum, preserves artifacts of West Brookfield and other Quaboag Plantation towns.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

## Telling the Bees

continued from page 36

The idea concerns the common belief that bees bring good luck and prosperity. They seem to be part of the family, so mourners drape their hives in black, expecting the bees to grieve as well.

Whittier's final stanza offers insight:

*And the song she  
was singing ever since  
In my ear sounds on:-*

*'Stay at home, pretty bees,  
fly not hence!*

*Mistress Mary is dead and gone!'*

In Celtic culture, some believe that the soul may appear like a bee. It's possible that superstitions made people worry about their bees being upset and swarming away over such a loss or that they imagined the hive contained many souls.

One might hesitate swatting a wandering bee. She's just looking for a flower where she can do her work. Or she could be someone you once knew on their way to heaven. Be careful—don't mistake her buzzing for something other than earthliness.

Whittier has had cities, mountains, and other places named for him. A successful poet and educator, he was born in Haverhill and lived for fifty-six years in Amesbury. Both of his Massachusetts homes are open to the public.

Writer and artist Brian Fournier wrote the book *About My Cat*.

**Please tell our advertisers**

**you saw them in**

**Uniquely Quabbin magazine.**

### Miller's Ladies CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 2pm

\* Gift Items \* Chinese Auction \* Baked Goods \*  
\* THEME BASKETS \* 50/50 Raffle \*  
\* Gift Certificate Raffle \* Crafts \* Welcome Raffle \*  
\* HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE \*  
\* QUILT RAFFLE \*

~ AWESOME SNACK BAR ! ~

Miller's Woods / Riverbend  
739 Daniel Shays Hwy. Athol



# cozy fireplaces warm up chilly autumn evenings

continued from page 4

twentieth-century Turkish family seated cross-legged around a low table covered with a heavy cloth extending over their laps. Under the table was a brazier of glowing coals.

But what about the history of chimneys? Smoke from indoor fires first vented out of a hole in the center of the roof, which only occasionally helped. In the European Middle Ages during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, people moved fire from the center of a room to an opening in a side wall. With the addition of second stories, they needed a better system for venting smoke. Thus, the birth of the chimney.

Chimneys used to be built of wood, mud, or clay. After the great fire of London in 1666, officials in England required them built of brick. Chimneys became smaller, and chimney sweeps kept dangerous creosote—a dark, tarlike substance that can cause chimney fires—at bay by scrubbing the interiors of chimneys.

The story goes that Benjamin Franklin saw those changes on a trip to London and returned to North America with new ideas. He came up with the idea of a combustion chamber to increase efficiency and reduce smoke. Hence the Franklin stove! Around that time, 1796, Count Rumford (born in Woburn, Massachusetts) designed a hearth taller than wide, smaller and shallower than older styles. More radiant heat resulted. However, by the mid 1800s, houses burned more coal than wood, and by the 1920s, oil-burning furnaces became the dominant heating option.

I love noticing different exterior chimneys. Some are mere towers of cinderblock and others incorporate beautiful, artistic designs in brick and stone. The one at our cottage is made of gathered stones. With some interior chimneys, only the very top pops out of the roof.

Today, a fireplace qualifies mostly as a luxury. Still, I have always had one. Nothing quite equals cozying up near the flames to take the edge off a chilly fall morning or just to settle in for an evening.

My father taught me to lay, light, and tend a fire. He showed me how to roll three newspaper logs and set three pieces of firewood on top just so to allow for proper draft. When I light the fire, I invite the warmth and anticipate its coziness, creating a relationship with the fire. Logs crumble and need adjusting. I have to add more wood. I must keep a careful watch for escaping embers.

Once, I entered a hotel room in Istanbul to find on the wall an electrically illuminated image of a large, crackling fire.



A fieldstone chimney adorns a Quabbin region home.

photo by Amber Howe-McCarty

It welcomed me and evoked a sense of home. When I turned it off, it became a mirror.

Just the image of a burning fire has a magical, comforting effect. Now, as the days shorten and get colder, let's gather around and share the warmth of an outdoor campfire or a fire in a stove or fireplace.

Actor, lover of language, retired teacher of French, and ardent traveler, Sally Howe resides in Orange.

## HALEY'S

antiques • collectibles

appraisals

book publishing • editing

more than 150 ISBN titles

Contact us with your book  
or editing project.

publisher of

Uniquely Quabbin magazine

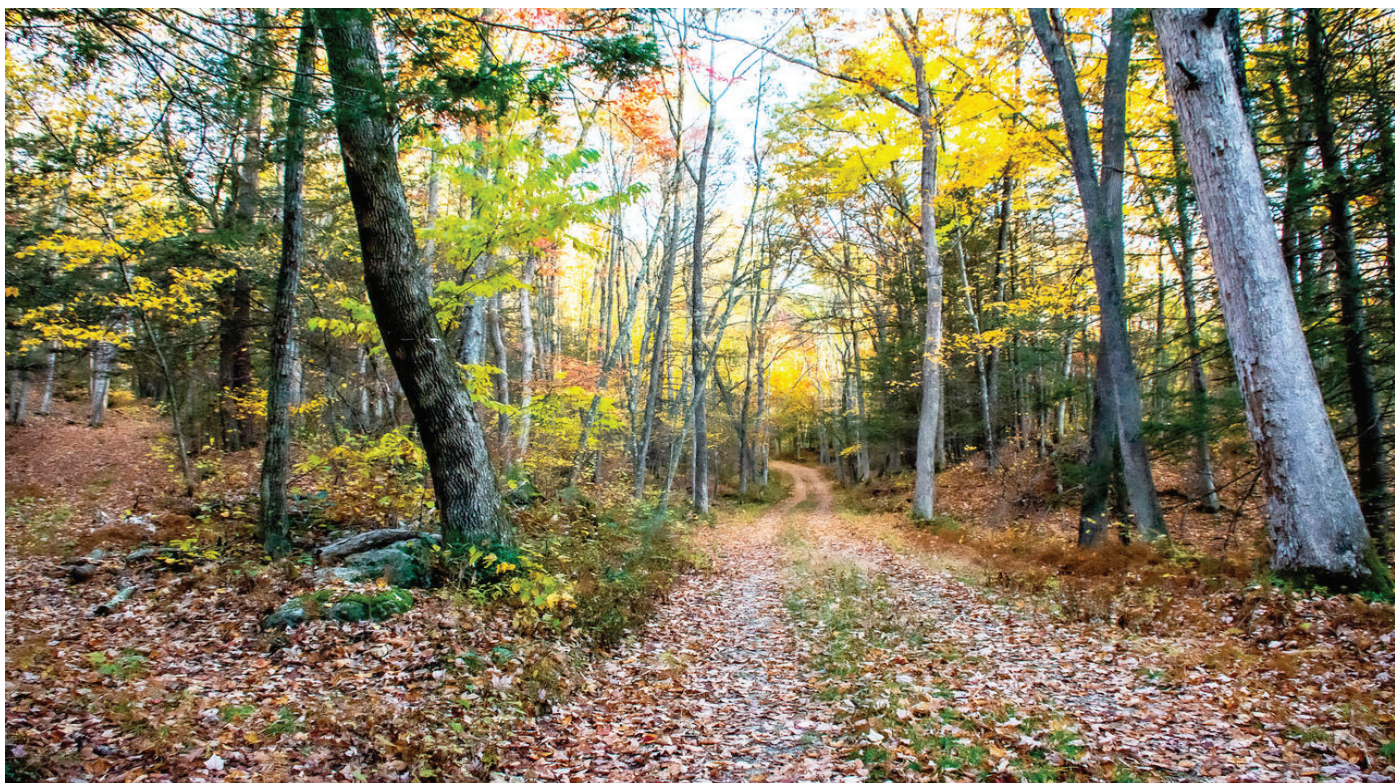


a mile west of Athol center on Rte 2A

Marcia Gagliardi

marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com • 978.249.9400





A Quabbin Reservation road invites meandering on a late autumn day.  
photo © by Dale Monette

## ***FREE Services for Adults!***

Learn to read better!



We give you free lessons.



Call us!

**LVOA**

**978-249-5381**

Learn to write better!



You get your very own tutor.



**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS**  
*of*  
**ORANGE/ATHOL**

**FREE reading services to Adults in the North Quabbin.**

**Inside the Athol Library. (We also offer free ESL lessons!)**

***Interested in becoming a tutor? → Email: [lvoa01331@gmail.com](mailto:lvoa01331@gmail.com)***



## *industry defined Athol from mid 1800s*

*continued from page 27*

Company, originally incorporated as Millers River Manufacturing Company in 1863, made blankets, cloths, and leather. Arthur Tyler Company, formed in 1876, produced sashes, blinds, doors, and window frames. N.D. Cass Company created a variety of wooden children's products, including toys, pianos, drums, and furniture, from 1898 to 1997. A fire destroyed the former Cass factory building on Canal Street in 2012.

Athol and Enfield Railroad, also known as the Rabbit Run, opened in 1873 as a southerly link to the Quabbin Valley and Springfield. Trolley lines provided connections to Orange, Phillipston, and other communities from 1894 to the 1930s. A portion of iconic Mohawk Trail Highway established through Athol during the mid 1920s.

Destructive floods and ice jams in March 1936 washed away dams, railroads, a historic covered bridge at Partridgeville, and a portion of Starrett's factory. The 1938 New England Hurricane caused more substantial flooding on Millers River and extensive forest damage.



*Automobiles and a trolley provided transport on Athol's Main Street in the early 1920s.*

*postcard from the collection of Benjamin Ellis*

Subsequent flood control projects have ameliorated flooding since the 1940s.

Athol Historical Society, located in a historic meetinghouse at 1307 Main Street, offers events and exhibits. See [atholhistoricalsociety.weebly.com](http://atholhistoricalsociety.weebly.com) for information.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

*It's never too early  
to start saving for  
College.*

**KESSLER**  
Investments, Inc.

*We are here to help.*

**978-249-2837**

Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Founders Financial Securities, LLC  
Member FINRA, SIPC and Registered Investment Advisor

## vital records may lead to gravestones

continued from page 19

Revolutionary War records indicate that Mingo Walker died at Fort Ticonderoga and Prince Walker served in battles along the Hudson, including at Peekskill and Valley Forge, New York.

When the Revolutionary War began in April, 1775, colonial officials urged able-bodied men between sixteen and sixty to join the militia or army. In December, 1775, the rephrased order stipulated all able-bodied men between sixteen and sixty except Negroes, so-called mulattos, and Indians to join.

Recruiters had some leeway. A servant or enslaved man might take the place of his owner or another man. Records show the owner received the bounty-enlistment bonus and the salary to compensate him for the loss of the individual—thus perpetuating enslavement in the revolutionary militias. Men of color who had enlisted before December, 1775, could continue to serve.

Charlotte Westhead, retired registered nurse, spends time at Quabbin Region libraries poring through demographic records of the colonial era. She contributed to the books *Sandisfield Then and Now* (2012) and *From Schul to Soil* (2018), a history of Jewish farmers. She lives in Amherst.

## Eastern Star sponsored Enfield ball

continued from page 37

the strains of ‘Auld Lang Syne’ broke through the thin skin of laughter that people looked thoughtful, and some of the women broke down and cried.” The account notes that “most of the dancers were in a resigned mood” over the fate of the valley.

“It isn’t so hard for the young ones,” Attendee Albert House of Enfield told a reporter. “But for us old fellows, it isn’t as good. The state has been fair about it in a way. But a farm and a home is more than money to us.”

“Their offer was fair enough for a forced sale,” observed Lester Parker, a Greenwich farmer, “They tell me that my young timber is worth nothing. It would take me ten years to get going on another farm.”

Enfield held its last town meeting on April 9, 1938, and the final farewell ball, sponsored by the fire department, took place eighteen days later. The town hall sold at an auction that September for \$550 for the bricks and beams. It was torn down and removed in early 1939 only a few months before flooding of the valley began.

J. R. Greene is the author of twenty-three books, sixteen of them relating to the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to create it. He is a lifelong resident of Athol.



- North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy recruits and supports unpaid advocates to be helpful friends to people who would benefit from guidance, companionship and/or advocacy.
- Through the relationships we support, NQCA helps the people in need, their advocates, and the entire community as neighborly caring increases.
- Coordinators invite ordinary citizens to reach out and include our neighbors that are in need – strengthening the community for us all.

**[www.nqcitizenadvocacy.org](http://www.nqcitizenadvocacy.org)**  
**[nqcitizenadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:nqcitizenadvocacy@gmail.com)**  
**office: 978-633-4593**  
**cell: 978-544-7794**

## James Franklin Gilman nineteenth century painter

An Artist Retrospective



On display at the

## Athol Historical Society

1307 Main Street, Athol, Massachusetts 01331

Saturday, September 23, 2023  
11:00 am to 3:00 pm





Barre Common, left, and Millers River, Orange, resonate with splendiferous autumn foliage.

photos © by Mitchell R. Grosky

## *commune members envisioned (and eventually achieved) self sufficiency*

continued from page 21

and Renaissance Excavating that exist today. The Brotherhood became a legal entity, Renaissance Community, Inc.

A back-to-the-land sentiment in the community led in 1975 to purchase of land in Gill. “We wanted to rejuvenate community,” said Debbie Edson and Sandy Jaquay-Wilson, also part of the commune almost from its inception. “We had a vision that would lead to self-sufficiency.”

Over time resistance to the insistent leadership of one of the founders, Michael Metelica of Leyden, resulted in the exit of most community members. In 1988, the few remaining members and Metelica reached an agreement, and the ousted leader never set foot on Renaissance property again. Metelica died in 2003 in Cairo, New York.

Originally, according to Edson and Jaquay-Wilson, the community focused on spirituality. With no set dogma, they said, members found connection through individual and collective meditation identifying with “universal consciousness.” Sometimes, medium Elwood Babbitt of Warwick conducted seances.

“We wanted to be a positive force in the world,” said Edson and Jaquay-Wilson. “Life was incredible. ‘Come live with us,’ we’d say. We wanted to be a positive event

in the world. We were a family. Like in any family, there were some mess-ups, but even today, family remains.”

Women of the commune produced a 2020 book, *More than Friends • Shaped by Flower Power: women’s stories from the Brotherhood of the Spirit Commune* edited by the late Patti Smith. The book is available at [mtfriends.org](http://mtfriends.org).

“The women of the Brotherhood hold a remarkable place in the recollections of late 1960s/early 1970s

American experience,” I write in the foreword to *More than Friends*. “They maintain the ideals we lived for in the early 1960s before the assassinations and riots in the cities and the Vietnam war.

“They dared to do what they could for humanity, to carry it through their lives, and live in the certainty that, even now, we can change the world,” the foreword concludes.

Photographs by Dan Brown, informal historian of the commune, reside in the Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries. Brown compiled *The Renaissance Community Yearbook* in 2010 for commune members.

Find the May 28, 2022 Warwick Free Public Library oral history session at [youtu.be/XLIhybMQGsw](https://youtu.be/XLIhybMQGsw)

Reporter Marcia Gagliardi lives in Athol.

### **Quabbin Region Communes and Intentional Communities**

- Adoni Shomo/Fullerites, 1861-1897, religious community, Petersham •
- Agape, 1982-present, religious community, Hardwick (Gilbertville) •
- Butterworth Farm, 1973-present, back to the land community, Royalston •
- House of Ammon, 1971-1978, Catholic Worker Community, Hubbardston •
- Sirius Community, 1974-present, Eco-village and Education Center, Shutesbury •

*list compiled by Carla Charter*

# Hardwick Fair and Garlic & Arts Festival

continued from page 23

close to the Garlic & Arts Festival site. They found the sense of community with their neighbors very important. In 2022 they both “joined the crew providing treats from the community oven to festival volunteers.” As a newer member of the organizing committee, Ruth Curry helps coordinate community organizations with Grey. Curry is excited to “learn new skills from my fellow committee members and participate in an event that brings recognition and wealth to local farmers and artists.”

A newcomer in Hardwick, Lisa Cohen moved from New York City seven years ago. She started going to Hardwick Fair committee meetings about a year later where she asked a lot of questions. She found that the fair really “exists in the hearts and minds” of the fair association board and organizing committee.

As an outsider, Cohen knew the quickest way to immerse herself in the community was to volunteer. A

year after her first involvement, she became secretary of the Hardwick Community Fair Association. “Everyone knew everything, and I knew nothing. But the previous secretary was very organized and very helpful. I could not have taken on the role of secretary without being mentored by the previous secretary, Audrey Mazeika.” Cohen now finds that she cannot only fulfill her task as secretary but also use her computer skills to help write an institutional history showing how things are done and make it available to others helping with the Fair.

Some just grow up with each of the fairs and festivals. Butler, Fair president, grew up in Hardwick and wants to see it keep going. In looking back, Butler said, “I have been involved since I was a kid. While I was in school with the son of the late Merle Bingham, it was a natural thing to be involved in the wiring. I really like being outside without people knowing I was participating.

continued on next page

## *hobby, accidental writers thrive*

continued from page 39

area because of the multitude of outdoor activities it provides. But it is the people and small community atmosphere that makes this area so special.”

Tragedy struck in 2018 while they traveled on a commercial airline flight to Las Vegas for a work/pleasure trip.

“Al passed away during the flight. Needless to say, it was a very traumatic period for me. Not long after when I was unable to sleep, words began to pop into my head. In the following days, I wrote random stories about our life together. It became a form of therapy. With encouragement from my family, I decided to publish my story.”

At the same time, Noyes wrote and illustrated rhyming children’s stories with a bear in the likeness of her husband, Al.

“The Big Al Bear Hug Book series for children is meant to teach compassion, empathy, sharing, and love of nature. When I see a child reading a Big Al book, it’s as if Al is sitting with them. It doesn’t get more rewarding than that.” Noyes was hooked on writing and hasn’t stopped since.

“Fiction has become my favorite thing to write because I get to make stuff up!”

Noyes wrote a crime series, so far with three books—*The Picture of Pretense*, *Shadow in the Sandpit*, and *Meet Your Maker*. All three feature fictional Bradley Whitman, a wheelchair-bound hero. Noyes is currently in the editing phase of her first romantic comedy, *Winter Meets Summer*, due out before this year’s end, and plans at least three more Whitman novels, including *Pathside Predator*, soon to be released.

Of all the books Noyes has written, she admits her memoir, *Close Enough to Perfect*, was the most difficult to write.

“After many drafts, it became clear that I needed to dig deep and expose vulnerabilities and deep private thoughts in hopes of helping others. The many people who contacted me after they read the book rewarded my efforts, saying that my story has helped them deal with their own grief.”

Find Christine Noyes online at [ChristineNoyesAuthor.com](http://ChristineNoyesAuthor.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/BearHugBooks](https://www.facebook.com/BearHugBooks), and at social media sites bearing the author’s name as well as at local booksellers and online vendors.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



# rely on volunteers and create community



Brilee Sanderson and her father, Eric, compete in the Hardwick Fair crosscut saw with Bill Ward announcing.  
photo by Neil Halin

The great thing about the wiring was you would show up before anyone started to set up. When I came home from college, I got back to helping with wiring.”

To Butler, “the Hardwick Fair is the community’s fair and a slice of New England that still exists.” The Hardwick Farmers Guild is a new organization bringing local farms together that hosted a dinner at the close of the 2023 Fair.

For the North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival, the organizing committee welcomed several younger folks recently. Habib pointed out that being on the Garlic & Arts Festival organizing committee “gives young people an opportunity to learn team building and leadership.”

Coming out of the COVID pandemic, a difficult time for communities, Butler reflected that fairs and festivals “are a good format to help people heal by coming back together in a community celebration and seeing that we are more alike than different, and people with different points of view realize that we are all human.”

For both celebrations, continuing work of volunteer organizing committees helps build community and



Organizing the first Garlic & Arts Festival were, front, Alyssa Rulf Fountain, and, from left, back, Ricky Baruc, Jim Fountain, Lydia Gray, and Deb Habib with baby Levi Baruch.

photo courtesy of Garlic & Arts Festival

sustain engagement with local regions that rely on the hard work of many citizens.

Writer and Quabbin Harvest Coop volunteer Pat Larson has served on the Orange Energy Committee and many other volunteer community groups.



# specialty food shops offer unique choices

continued from page 43



Joy Hinton of Joy of Beans, West Brookfield, purveys coffees in many incarnations.

Shop, a small shop where we think big!" she said.

Joy of Beans, 12 East Main Street, West Brookfield, is open Fridays and Saturdays from 8 am to 4 pm and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm.

Contact Hinton at thejoyofbeans.com or facebook.com/Thejoyofbeans.



Michelle Johnson of Butter Me Good Bakery in Phillipston started her business from scratch. "About fifteen years ago, I took a cake decorating class with a friend," Johnson said. "But I only made cakes for family and close friends."

Then something caught her eye. "I saw pictures of decorated sugar cookies online and decided to take an online class. It made me realize I could do this as a business."

Johnson bakes alone, but she does get a lot of volunteers. "Luckily, there is no shortage of friends/family who are more than willing to try my new recipes," said Johnson.

She got input from internet friends for naming the business. "It

was a tough choice, so I finally put it to a vote on Facebook. Butter Me Good Bakery won by a considerable amount, finally settling the debate," Johnson said.

Her grandmother, Jackie Flanders, was Johnson's inspiration. "I can remember baking biscuits, cookies, and fudge with my grandmother and, of course, her famous bread all from scratch," Johnson said. "This principle sticks with me today: nothing from a box can beat homemade."

"My husband and I built a new house in Phillipston in 2018," Johnson said.

"The area has all the upsides of small-town living." She opened her bakery in their home in March. "I make decorated sugar cookies, cupcakes, cakes, and drop cookies, all in various flavors," she said.

Johnson maintains a fulltime job outside of the bakery and bakes by appointment. Contact her at m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090532231964 or ButterMeGoodBakery@gmail.com



Giacomo's Gourmet Foods, 32 Main Street, Hubbardston, began as a part-time endeavor. "While attending culinary school, my husband, Jim Del Garbino, developed over ten granola flavors and launched Giacomo's Gourmet Granola in 2009," said co-owner

Laurie Del Garbino.

"Giacomo is Italian for James and what his family calls him. We began selling at farmers markets throughout the state while still working full-time at other jobs"

In 2015, they made the leap as they created Giacomo's Gourmet Foods as a full-time business when they found the perfect spot in Hubbardston. "It's twenty-five minutes from our home on the Worcester-Holden line, but we often joke that we practically live in Hubbardston," Laurie said.

They soon realized that customers were looking for more food options. "We brainstormed to expand our offerings significantly to include grab 'n' go meals, soups, salads, sandwiches, condiments, sauces, and more."

Laurie's mother instilled the love of baking, and she carries on the tradition. "The recipes I use at Giacomo's are from my mom, my sister Malissa, or ones I created."

Giacomo's offers honey, coffee, spices, candles, soaps, breads, and handcrafted items. Giacomo's, 32 West Main Street, Hubbardston, is open from 11 am to 6 pm Wednesdays through Fridays and from 10 am to 3 pm Saturdays and Sundays.

Contact the del Garbinos at Facebook.com/jimdelgarbino/

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



Giacomo's Gourmet Foods, Hubbardston, offers Bolognese sauce and meatballs among many specialties.



Butter Me Good Bakery in Phillipston features time-honored family favorites.



# NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green

## Harvesting Memories

Are not the seasons analogous to our human condition?

Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter: Birth and youth, growth and abundance, harvesting and memories, letting go and transforming.

Yes, “turn, turn, turn,” as a Peter, Paul, and Mary song reminds us. Although our natural and chronological age may represent one phase of our eternal journey, we may experience the autumn of our life at any moment as we pause, reflect, and take inventory of our experiences.

Fall is akin to the harvesting of years, of memories. So I asked Ginny Fellows, 93 of Warwick, to share her reflections from when she was a young girl living in a nearby hill town.

“What do you remember that you had to do to prepare for the winter?” I asked.

“Wood,” she replied. “Help to pile all the wood. Our whole family worked on it. We only had wood heat downstairs back then. It was cold upstairs when we went to bed, and there was no source of heat. I’d wrap myself into my sheepskin but always something was sticking out, a foot or an arm. I’d wriggle and curl up again into that sheepskin as best I could.

“The other thing I mostly remember, she continued, “is all the canning my mother did—over a hundred jars. We really relied on them to get us through. As a youngster, I tried my hand at canning and entered my jars into the Greenfield Fair, but they came back empty. That puzzled me until I was told that the contents turned bad. Well, I tried in future years and eventually won some ribbons.

“I also attended a 4-H Club as a child,” she told me, “and later, as an adult, became a 4-H leader with sixteen kids participating from the town of Warwick. We



Ginny Fellows, 93, shares reflections and harvests memories

learned to can, sew, knit, and more. I still have the canning jars.”

4-H is a US-based network of youth organizations whose mission is “engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development.” The four Hs are head, heart, hand, and health, with leaders encouraging members to honor each productively.

“We had a really big garden with lots of beans,” Ginny said. “We helped to process food for my Mom and tend to the garden. Most of my siblings and I had to weed the field corn by hand at least once or twice a season. That corn was planted for the livestock, and it was on a rolling hill. We had to go up the hill and down, and it was hot.”

“What did you do for some fun?” I asked her.

“In the winter, after chores were done, we’d play a game of cards.”

Ginny told me she was fourth eldest in a family of ten kids and first to graduate from high school. She met the love of her life at a square dance at Warwick Town Hall. They married in 1950 and enjoyed seventy years of marriage. “We had a good life.”

Like Ginny’s sheepskin, memory brings warmth and comfort to heart even though it may not wrap fully around remembrance. Still, memory harvests reflection like canned autumn grapes that delight the senses come winter.

May you share your memories via a conversation, an old-fashioned letter to a friend, or a moment of creative storytelling as you reap the beauty and abundance of autumn.

*Ripened season of fall  
harvesting bright memories,  
embrace tender years.*

Clare Green, author and educator, lives in Warwick and welcomes folks to her Woodland Labyrinth and Fairy Cottage.  
claregreenbooks.com

# knowing diagnosis helps live with syndrome

continued from page 29

“Everyone with Tourette Syndrome, TS, blurts out obscenities,”

“People with TS can control their movements and sounds if they really want to.”

“People with TS are not as intelligent as others.”

My mother, my closest ally, did a lot of research and shared what she discovered. She found that, in fact, only about ten percent of people with Tourette have outbursts of inappropriate words, and I am not one of them. We learned that physical and vocal tics are involuntary and uncontrollable—for me it feels like trying to hold back a sneeze. We found out that TS has absolutely nothing to do with intelligence, although it is common for people with TS to have other disorders like ADHD or obsessive-compulsive disorder, OCD, that can make school challenging. I am the same person I was before the diagnosis, which helps explain *why* I am the way I am. Having the diagnosis finally allows my allies and me to plan strategies.

The night my mom told me that Tourette Syndrome could be the cause of everything I had faced, I melted into a puddle of tears. It was hard to believe one disease could relate to my different problems, but people with Tourette commonly experience each of my symptoms—not only ADHD and OCD but also anxiety, impulsivity, executive functioning struggles, behavioral issues, uncontrollable rage, difficulty making friends, depression, and even migraines often accompany Tourette.

*Tourette Syndrome is part of a spectrum of hereditary, childhood-onset, neurodevelopmental conditions affecting both children and adults and causing them to make sudden, uncontrollable movements and/or sounds that can be emotionally, physically, and socially debilitating.*

—Tourette Association of America



## 1794 Meetinghouse

PO Box 8 / 26 S Main St / New Salem, MA 01355  
A Beautiful Historic Hall with Wonderful Acoustics

SEPTEMBER 2023

### Quabbin Valley Pro Musica

*new members are welcome; fall rehearsals start in Sept.*  
[info@1794meetinghouse.org](mailto:info@1794meetinghouse.org)

### David Wilcox

*singer/songwriter — 7:30PM Friday, September 15*

### Elan Sicroff

*classical piano — 4:00PM Sunday, September 17*

### The Green Sisters

*old-time & more — 7:30PM Friday, September 22*

### Keith Murphy & Becky Tracy

*French Canadian folk — 7:30PM Saturday, September 23*

Times, ticket prices & details are on our website

[WWW.1794MEETINGHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.1794MEETINGHOUSE.ORG)

26 South Main St, New Salem MA 01355

For the first time in forever, my tears that night were not tears of sadness, frustration, or fear but of relief, understanding, and hope. I always knew I was different. The diagnosis allowed me to realize the power of being different.

My enemy has a name and a face, and my allies and I can use our experience to defeat him. After all, I have survived so far, so I know I can withstand anything the video game of life throws at me.

Joey Haverty, 13, lives with his parents, brother, and dog in Natick, where his household drinks water from Quabbin Reservoir. He likes to curl up with a good book, especially if it involves dragons. He loves to sail in summer, ski in winter, and all year 'round, play video games.

## free love troubled colonials

continued from page 17

reference to it in his memoirs. Blake concluded his later account, “Thus the peace and happiness of four or five families were completely destroyed, and society received an almost irreparable wound.”

Carl Hammer's latest book on early western Massachusetts, *Quarrelsome Quabbin: The First Century of Greenwich and Enfield, Massachusetts*, will be published by Levellers Press, Amherst.



## artists and crafters open studios for Backwoods Tour October 14 and 15

continued from page 30

my furniture is produced by hand using the finest joinery techniques such as mortise and tenon and dovetail,” Palmer said. “These time-honored techniques ensure that the piece will last for generations. A natural oil finish glows with the warmth of a valued heirloom while enhancing the beauty of the wood.”



stained glass by  
Robert Hill  
Barre

Robert Hill creates stained glass objects at 174 School Street North in Barre. “I started my stained glass adventure in May 2016, and many people showed interest,” Hill said. “So in July 2017, I started my business. My work ranges from small sun catchers to large panels, and I’ve created three-dimensional

pieces. In 2022 I started a new adventure in stained glass called Cold Working with Dichroic Glass.” Hill’s email is stainedglassbyroberthill@gmail.com. He’s on Facebook at stainedglassbyroberthill

Brookfield Paperworks at 23 High Street, North Brookfield, features the work of Elisabeth Hyder. She uses traditional decorative paste papers to create a new, unique form. Her boxes, journals, cards, framed art, and collages are “art you can use,” she said. She shows her work at Worcester Art and Frame, 10 East Main Street, West Brookfield.



decorative paper from Brookfield Paperworks  
North Brookfield

Dena Hengst creates fine arts and has lived in Oakham for thirty-five years. “I was an art teacher for the Quabbin Regional School District for many years before retiring in 2016,” Hengst said. “Now that I am fortunate enough to be in control of my own schedule, I paint almost every day. I love living in Oakham, surrounded by woods and



Dena Hengst of Oakham creates fine arts.

nature. The environment feeds my soul and keeps me grounded. I need to create things almost as much as I need to breathe.” Her website is Denahengst.com

David Thompson works in his studio at 125 Bernard Whitney Road, New Braintree. Thompson creates

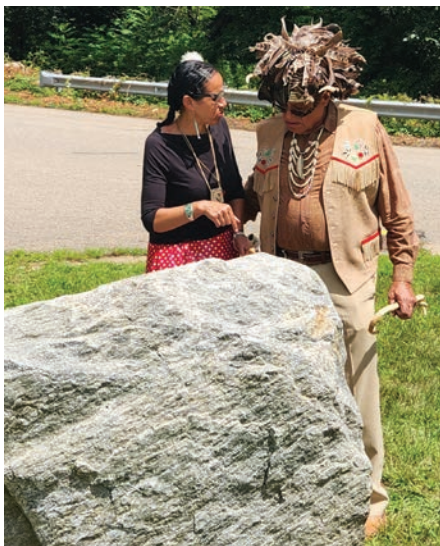
hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind spoons, bowls, kitchenware, and unique interior and exterior furniture, including tables, Adirondack chairs, and more.

Writer Diane Kane  
lives in Phillipston



wooden spoons by David Thompson  
New Braintree

**Backroadsstudiotour.org**  
has more information and maps for the  
**Back Roads Studio Tour**  
from 10 am to 5 pm  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**October 14 and 15**



A boulder at the junction of Mount Pleasant Street and North Orange Road, Athol, honors the Nipmucs, a community of Indigenous People who lived near the river they called the Papacontuckquash, known today as Millers River. Charles R. "Rocky" Stone initiated the commemoration. "They lived here in harmony for centuries with nature and the land," he said. Love Richardson, left, represents the Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc, and Chief Peter Silva, the Traditional Hassanamisco Band. On the day of commemoration, attendees walked to the riverbank to bless a spirit plate of food for the ancestors and then buried it.

photos by Meghan Stone

## region's varsity football schedules

games begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted • continued on next page

### *Amherst-Pelham High School*

Home

September 29 • Wahconah Regional High School

October 20 • Agawam High School

Amherst-Pelham High School

Away

September 22 • Holyoke High School

October 6 • East Longmeadow High School

October 13 • Northampton High School

October 27 • West Springfield High School

### *Athol High School*

Home

September 29 • Franklin County Tech. School

October 13 • Palmer High School

October 27 • Greenfield High School

November 23 • Mahar Regional School • 10 am

Away

October 6 • Ware Junior/Senior High School

October 20 • Mahar Regional High School

November 3 and November 9 time and place TBA

### *Belchertown High School*

Home

September 29 • Hoosac Valley Middle/High School

October 6 • Lee Middle/High School

October 13 • Easthampton High School

November 23 • Pathfinder Reg. Voc/Tech School 9 am

Away

October 20 • High School of Commerce • 5:30 pm

October 27 • Frontier Regional School

Franklin County Technical School

### *Mahar Regional School*

Home

September 22 • Northampton High School

October 6 • Greenfield High School

October 20 • Athol High School

October 27 • Franklin County Tech School

Away

September 29 • Palmer High School

October 13 • Ware Jr./Sr. High School

November 23 • Athol High School • 10 am

### *Montachusett Regional Voc Tech High School*

Home

October 6 • Sutton High School • 6 pm

October 20 • Worcester Technical High School • 6 pm

October 27 • Assabet Valley Regional Voc. Tech. High School • 6 pm

Away

September 30 • Baypath Regional Voc. Tech. High School • 2 pm

October 13 • Abbey Kelley High School

November 22 • Nashoba Regional High School • 6 pm

### *Narragansett Regional High School*

Home

September 22 • David Prouty High School

October 13 • Ayer Shirley Regional High School

October 21 • Quabbin Regional High School

Away

September 29 • Littleton High School

October 6 • Baypath Regional Voc Tech High School

October 27 • Gardner High School

schedules compiled by Carla Charter





Cars line up near Hardwick Common decked in the oranges and ambers of autumn.

photo © by Rick Flematti

## region's varsity football schedules

continued on previous page • games begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

### *David Prouty High School*

Home

October 6 • Bartlett High School

October 13 • Murdock High School 6:30 pm

Away

September 22 • Narragansett Regional High School

September 29 • Millis High School 6:30 pm

October 20 • Quaboag Regional Middle High School

October 27 • Southbridge Middle High School

November 3 and November 9 time and place TBA

### *Quabbin Regional High School*

Home

October 6 • Ayer Shirley Regional High School

October 13 • Oxford High School

October 27 • Littleton High School

November 3 and November 9 time and place TBA

November 23 • Gardner High School 10 am

Away

October 21 • Narragansett Regional High School

### *Quaboag Regional High School*

Home

October 6 • Oxford High School

Oct 13 • Southbridge Middle High School

October 20 • David Prouty High School

November 22 • Ware Jr./Sr. High School 6 pm

Away

September 29 • North High School

October 22 • Bartlett High School

### *Tantasqua Regional High School*

Home

October 13 • Uxbridge High School

October 20 • Grafton High School

November 23 • Shepherd Hill Regional High School • 10 am

Away

September 29 • Doherty Memorial High School • 6:30 pm

October 6 • South High Community School • 6 pm

October 27 • Nashoba Regional High School

November 23 • Shepherd Hill Regional High School • 10 am

### *Wachusett Regional High School*

Home

October 6 • Salem (N.H.) High School

October 13 • Leominster High School

October 20 • Algonquin Regional High School

Away

September 22 • Minnechaug Regional High School

September 29 • Natick High School • 6 pm

October 13 • Drury High School • 6 pm

October 27 • Walpole High School • 5:45 pm

### *Ware Junior-Senior High School*

Home

October 6 • Athol High School

October 13 • Mahar Regional High School

October 28 • Palmer High School 1 pm

Away

September 23 • Drury High School 1 pm

September 29 • Greenfield High School

October 20 • Franklin County Technical School

November 22 • Quaboag Regional Middle/High School • 6 pm

Find schedules for other sports, including Girls Field Hockey along with Junior Varsity, Middle School, and Unified schedules, at [arbitrivelive.com](http://arbitrivelive.com)

# Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

## September 23, Saturday

James F. Gilman Art Show  
12 pm - 4 pm  
Athol Historical Society  
1307 Main Street  
Athol

## Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy

7:30 pm  
1794 Meetinghouse  
26 South Main Street  
New Salem  
Brattleboro-based duo Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy are dynamic performers of traditional music from Newfoundland, Quebec, Ireland, France, and beyond on fiddle, guitar, piano.  
1794meetinghouse.org

## September 24, Sunday

Golf Tournament in memory of Jeff Young  
Quail Hollow Golf Club Oakham  
oakhamhistory.net

## September 26, Tuesday

Spooner Well Talk  
Merrick Public Library  
2 Lincoln Street  
Brookfield

## September 27, Wednesday

Rural Mysteries with Sisters in Crime  
6 pm - 8 pm  
Four Mystery Authors  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Four mystery authors will discuss what a rural mystery is followed by making a mystery as a group using suggestions from the audience.  
athollibrary.org

## September 28, Thursday

Walking to Wachusett  
6 pm - 7 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
An author visit with Robert Young, author of *Walking to Wachusett* a re-enactment of Henry David Thoreau's *A Walk to Wachusett*.  
athollibrary.org

## September 29, Friday

7 pm  
50s Dance  
Brookfield Rod and Gun Club  
56 Webber Road  
Brookfield  
Celebrating Brookfield's 350th anniversary.

## September 30 and October 1

Saturday and Sunday  
North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival  
10 am - 5 pm  
Forsters Farm  
60 Chestnut Hill  
Orange  
Art, farm-fresh products, garlic cuisine, performances, family activities, and much more!  
Garlicandarts.org

## October 3, Tuesday

North Quabbin Tree Climbers  
Genealogy Group  
6 pm - 7:45 pm  
Athol Public Library  
560 Main Street  
Athol  
At meetings on first Tuesday of each month, Tree Climbers will take turns sharing information about projects and help one another with genealogy quests.  
athollibrary.org

## October 5, Thursday

Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*  
6 pm - 7 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
The headless horseman rides again as JT Turner portrays Washington Irving in period costume telling his most famous tale, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.  
athollibrary.org

## October 14, Saturday

Second Annual Comic Book Fest  
10 am - 3 pm  
Athol Town Hall  
584 Main Street  
Athol  
Meet local comic book creators and artists, shop at vendor stalls, and enjoy free activities for the whole family. Find out more about participating artists and vendors on the Facebook event listing.  
athollibrary.org

3rd Annual First Alarm  
9am - 9pm  
Hardwick Vineyard and Winery  
3305 Greenwich Road  
Hardwick  
Hardwick Firemen's Association  
Third Annual First Alarm!  
Food trucks, music, bonfire, burnout competition, car show and more!

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton



# Uniquely Quabbin listings

*continued from previous page*

Scott Higgins Comedy All-Stars  
7 pm  
Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
All-star comedians assemble for a  
night of stand-up.  
[thecenterateaglehill.org](http://thecenterateaglehill.org)

## *October 18, Wednesday*

Plants in the Civil War  
6 pm - 7 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
A look at plants and their uses during  
the American Civil War.  
[athollibrary.org](http://athollibrary.org)

## *October 19, Thursday*

Forty Whacks—  
The Lizzie Borden Case  
Presented by Chris Daley  
7 pm  
Athol Historical Society  
1307 Main Street  
Athol

## *October 21, Saturday*

Dinner Dance  
Quail Hollow Golf Course  
1822 Turnpike Road  
Oakham  
Dinner, dancing, and door prizes!  
Fifty dollars per person  
[oakhamhistory.net](http://oakhamhistory.net)

## *October 23, Monday*

Kimchi Making Party  
6 to 7pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Cristina Garcia, Farm School chef, will  
lead attendees through steps to make  
homemade kimchi. Attendees will  
work together to chop and prep, and  
everyone will go home with a jar of the  
Korean traditional fermenting food.  
Registration required.  
[athollibrary.org](http://athollibrary.org)

## *October 31, Tuesday*

Trunk or Treat Open House  
Barre Historical Society  
18 Common Street  
Barre  
An opportunity to see the inside of  
the society building and collect a treat  
while Trick or Treating!

## *November 2, Thursday*

Leading Ladies of Hollywood's Golden  
Age: Katherine and Audrey  
6 pm - 7 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Katharine Hepburn and Audrey  
Hepburn remain two of cinema's  
beloved female twentieth-century  
stars. A look at the lives and careers  
of two actresses who contributed to  
cinema and the world.  
[athollibrary.org](http://athollibrary.org)

The Creation of the Quabbin Reservoir  
6:30 pm  
Barre Town Hall  
40 West Street  
Barre  
Author J.R. Greene will provide a  
historical slide program on the Boston  
water supply and the lost towns.  
[barremahistoricalsociety.org](http://barremahistoricalsociety.org)

## *November 3, Friday*

Buckets 'n' Boards  
7 pm  
Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
A family-friendly celebration of  
rhythm with a hilarious twist!  
[thecenterateaglehill.org](http://thecenterateaglehill.org)

## *November 11, Saturday*

Holiday Bazaar  
9 am - 2 pm  
Athol Congregational Church  
1225 Chestnut Street  
Athol  
Shop for gifts including jewelry, theme  
baskets, crafts, wreaths, tasty treats,  
and more.

44th Annual Narragansett Craft Fair  
9 am - 3 pm  
Narragansett Middle School  
460 Baldwinville Road  
Baldwinville  
Featuring a variety of quality craft  
items including floral arrangements,  
pottery, gift baskets, pet products,  
jewelry, wooden items, candles,  
soaps, and hand-sewn and knitted  
articles.

## *November 18 and 19 Saturday-Sunday*

Thanksgiving Harvest Festival  
10 am - 4 pm  
Red Apple Farm  
Highland Avenue  
Phillipston  
The festival features delicious food,  
the Brew Barn, face painting, pony  
rides and hayrides, blacksmith  
demonstrations, local live music, PYO  
ornamental corn, guided nature hikes,  
and more!  
[redapplefarm.com](http://redapplefarm.com)

Please submit listings for the  
next issue before  
December 1, 2023  
to  
[UQCalendar@gmail.com](mailto:UQCalendar@gmail.com)

## Uniquely Quabbin listings

*continued from page 71*

**November 4 -December 2**

**Saturdays and Sundays**

**Country Roads Christmas**

**North Quabbin regions**

A month-long event from the first weekend in November through the first weekend in December. with shopping at stores for one-of-a-kind gifts.  
countryroadschristmas.com

**November 19, Sunday**

**Thanksgiving Farmers Market**

**12 pm - 3 pm**

**Willamsville Chapel**

**4 Burnshirt Road**

**Hubbardston**

Farm fresh produce and baked goods, pies, bread, meats, cheeses, jams and jellies. Sponsored by  
Hubbardston Historical Society

**November 15, Wednesday**

**Indigenous Music in North America**

**6:30 pm - 8 pm**

**Rutland Library**

**280 Main Street**

**Rutland**

**Featuring Craig Harris**

**November 25, Saturday**

**Warwick Holiday Fair**

**10 am to 3 pm**

**Warwick Community School**

**Winchester Road**

**Warwick**

**lunch, raffles, and a visit from Santa**

**December 1, Friday**

**Merrimack Bell Ringers**

**7:30 pm**

**Rutland Congregational Church**

**246 Main Street**

**Rutland**

**December 2 and 3**

**Saturday and Sunday**

**Festival of Trees**

**4 to 8 pm Saturday**

**1 to 4 pm Sunday**

**Rutland Library**

**280 Main Street**

**Rutland**

**December 8 through 10**

**Friday through Sunday**

**The Laramie Project**

**Friday and Saturday at 7 pm**

**Sunday at 2 pm**

**Center at Eagle Hill**

**242 Old Petersham Road**

**Hardwick**

An exploration of humanity twenty-five years after the death of Matthew Shepard.

[thecenterateaglehill.org](http://thecenterateaglehill.org)



Autumn surrounds 1794 Meetinghouse and  
Central Congregational Church of New Salem.

photo © by David Brothers

### CORRECTION

The exhibition of paintings by  
James Franklin Gilman  
at Athol Historical Society  
will be open from 11 am to 3 pm  
Saturday, September 23, 2023  
and not

at the times listed in the ad  
on the magazine  
inside back cover  
facing this page.

*Uniquely Quabbin*  
regrets the error.