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 10, number 1 • May-August 2025
This issue features photos and art, nature, personalities, history,
event listings, and sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts.

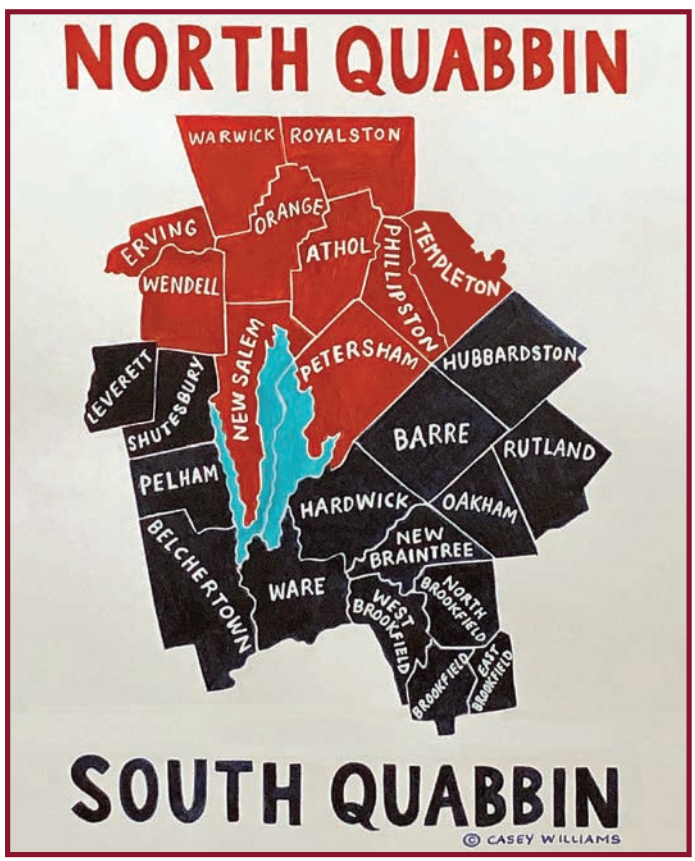
Autumn foliage shimmers along the shore of Quabbin Reservoir.

photo by Mitchell R. Grosky

ON THE FRONT COVER
Moose on the Autumn Trail
photo by Dale Monette

FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN BEGINNING ON PAGE 69

continued on next page



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

CONTENTS

continued from previous page

Crimson Acres riding center celebrates fifty years 26

authors present new works 32

Uniquely Quabbin poets 36

recipe: Food for Thought-fulness 44

capturing memories of Mexico 47

autumn sport schedules for region's high schools 48

Nature's Nuances 57

Uniquely Quabbin listings 69

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 . . .

On behalf of the Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Erving, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2025. The generous support from these councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

Grants, advertisers, and donations keep the magazine going. Donations are always appreciated and can be made by mailing a check to Debra Ellis, 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol, MA 01331; going to uniquelyquabbin.com and choosing the donate button; or scanning the QR code you will find in this magazine.

Thank you to our readers who so generously support us with their donations. Not only are your donations appreciated, but your kind, thoughtful, enthusiastic words of support fill us with pride and the desire to continue bringing you this wonderful magazine.

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

Happy Fall! The trees are turning, I hope, into beautiful shades of red, orange, and yellow. The air is crisp, and the days are getting shorter. I hope while looking through this new issue you are encouraged to find that foliage that looks like stained glass windows with the sun shining through the leaves or the crisp scent of fresh apples in the air entices you to go apple picking and get a jug of apple cider and cider donuts to bring home and enjoy as you continue looking through the magazine.

Be sure to check out the calendar of events. There is certain to be something there for you.

Enjoy!

Debra Ellis

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*

Oh, wow. It's such fun anticipating what writers, photographers, and artists will contribute to each issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*. Many, it's true, work according to assignments each time, but we never know how contributors will bring thoughtful imagination and careful work to fruition until we see what they produce.

And then there's the joyful task of placing stories, poems, photos, drawings, paintings, and more on pages and arranging them to complement each other to appealing effect.

We're grateful, as always, to advertisers and donors who make the magazine possible, and encouragement from readers keeps us going, that's for sure.

We always look forward to bringing a fresh issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. We hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gagliardi, publisher

Haley's

Uniquely Quabbin magazine

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
A state agency that funds your community's local cultural council

gratefully acknowledges the support of

Athol Cultural Council • Barre Cultural Council

Brookfield Cultural Council • Erving Cultural Council

Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council

Hubbardston Cultural Council • New Salem Cultural Council

North Brookfield Cultural Council • Oakham Cultural Council

Orange Cultural Council • Petersham Cultural Council

Phillipston Cultural Council • Royalston Cultural Council

Ware Cultural Council • Warwick Cultural Council

Wendell Cultural Council • West Brookfield Cultural Council

Uniquely Quabbin

September-December 2025 • Vol 10, #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

Uniquely Quabbin is printed by
The Republican of Springfield

Front cover photo by Dale Monette.
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 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

museums, region's historical societies provide space for quiet time

by Sally Howe

As daylight hours shorten and weather cools, I begin to think of updating my calendar with some indoor places to visit.

Sally Howe

One of the quiet places I enjoy is a museum. I have been going to museums, especially art museums, since I was a girl. We lived in cities, so visiting a museum was an easy thing to do. I loved to wander through the rooms and find a bench to sit on while looking at a painting. Even if I didn't know about the painter or the era, the colors, the clothing, the animals, and the drama all drew me in.

In my early twenties, I had a good Norwegian friend already an up-and-coming graphic artist. His skills, his eye quite intimidated me, and I wanted to know how to look at art as he did. He turned to me and shook his head. "Everyone absorbs art in a unique, valid way," he said. He taught me a valuable lesson: to rely on my own emotion, intellect, and curiosity.

I used to take my students every year to the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown. It has a wonderful collection of Impressionist art and examples of paintings over many centuries. Such variety allows a look at history through art.

One clever docent drew in the high school students by talking about the clothing in a painting—how would it feel to wear that? What representation of status can

continued on page 64

keeping flowers from a wedding

ikebana/ dried flowers by Linda Ruel Flynn

Botanical Collage

dried flowers

A botanical collage from a western Massachusetts wedding shows off the floral bounty of September. I created the botanical collage with pressed dahlias, roses, eucalyptus and clematis, all western Massachusetts grown.

In my botanical collage work, I am deeply inspired by Japanese art. From *wabi-sabi*, finding beauty in the imperfections, the flower with the insect chewed petals provides far more visual interest than perfect petals grown in hothouses. The front facing design of landscapes created with ink and brushes can create such depth. So, ultimately, can ikebana, the Japanese art of floral arranging.

Rooted in minimalism, balance, and harmony, ikebana allows for negative space creating an environment for botanicals to exist.

Though I create most of my work using wedding bouquets, which tend to be very dense and full of flowers, I look for places in the bouquet where a vine trails down and a stem reaches out. From that element, the botanical collage begins. When flowers and stems have space to lay out and move, they create the most unusual places to enter the artwork. They lead the way.

In the botanical collage, reaching and twisting stems of the clematis equal perfection. Spiky graphic lines on the bottom of the flowers combined with folded leaves on twisting stems comprise the most rewarding part of the collage. They create an unexpected, supportive moment as they circle the ever perfect dahlias and roses.

It's always such places of the unexpected in artwork that intrigue the most.

Designer Linda Ruel Flynn owns Flora-Ly, Artisan Flower Preservation studio in the Orange Innovation Center. Linda's long and varied experience in the visual arts has made Flora-Ly a vibrant and abundant business that creates for clients from coast to coast. Flora-Ly celebrates fifteen years of making floral art in the Quabbin region.

pointers and practices offered for hikers

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

Anticipating the presence of wildlife nearby, Pan Wilson of Orange takes fifteen minutes to listen and look at the side of a Quabbin region trail.

Those who want to see a diversity of wild animals on a walk in a field or along a wooded trail start by standing still once you arrive. They listen and look. They imagine themselves the wild animal they want to see. They remember that wild animals behave in ways that keep them safe and fed.

Diverse wild animals include insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and (yes) mammals. Hikers may discover many small creatures going about their own business in fallen leaves or sandy areas or near brooks or ponds.

Hikers should not take risks if they encounter large mammals like bears or moose or other strong creatures.

Hikers who want to see diverse wild creatures notice shadows cast by nearby plants and consider where wildlife might seek cool shade or warmth from the sun. Is there protection from predators in the surrounding plants or landscape? Do narrow pathways cross the trail? Flattened stems or holes in the ground may signify the presence of wildlife. Eaten leaves, leaves full of holes, or weed tops cut off may indicate nearby wildlife.

Moving air and sounds from wind in trees or grass may suggest nearby wildlife. Animals also pay attention to sounds hikers make and may leave or freeze to be safe and harder to see. Wind brings human scent to animals downwind.

A breeze carries the scent of a place and brings information about a habitat. Does the wind bring moisture and the smell of wet leaves or warm scent of grass and field flowers?

New scents let hikers know when they are at the edge of an opening into a field or pond. They should stop before breaking cover and exposing themselves to animals. When hikers walk into a breeze and move

A woodland path provides a beaver access from a Quabbin region pool to the forest, where it gathers branches for food.

wanting to see wild animals in the woods

quietly, they have a greater chance of seeing wild animals. When looking for wildlife, just standing still for fifteen minutes at a habitat edge increases the chance of seeing what a hiker wants to see. While people stay still, birds will start singing, and other animals will not be afraid to start moving.

The definition of wild animal may expand as hikers go on a nature walk. Moving through a forest or field slowly, going upwind, and noticing signs left by animals lets a person become part of that place, not just a visitor.

When looking at leaves that show signs of having been partially eaten, human observers may find interesting caterpillars feeding. The caterpillar may soon become a moth or butterfly. Or hikers may discover aphids cared for by ants.

Alert hikers may spot a variety of insects or their homes in the woods, including (clockwise from top left) a luna moth, a six-spotted tiger beetle, a wasp's nest, and a bronzed tiger beetle.

Looking at the trail ahead as a hiker slowly moves forward may reveal a tiger beetle fly ahead with each step taken. Tiger beetles rank as top predators of other

Tiny salamanders called red efts can elude hikers. They often appear in the woods after rain.

Sometimes, a bear may go on its way and not notice a person sitting still and downwind in the woods.

Experienced hikers always advise caution, of course, insects in the open habitats of trails, dry field ground, and along beaches.

Taking walks early in the morning or at dusk also increases the possibility that hikers will see wild animals, but a careful and thoughtful person can see wild animals at any time of the day or night. All wild animals seen on such a nature walk have interesting roles to fill where they live. Appreciating wildlife can make any hike, even in the backyard, more enjoyable.

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

region's apple harvests attract thousands

text and photos by John Burk

Crated apples await delivery to venues and eager consumers.

A favorite tradition of late summer and autumn, apple harvests attract thousands of visitors annually to orchards and family farms of the Quabbin region.

"Our orchard has been a part of this community for decades. Each generation of our family has added something new and wonderful, helping it grow and evolve while staying rooted in the values that make it a special place for so many," said Diana Sears of Brookfield Orchards in North Brookfield.

Climate, moist glacial soils, and the topography of central Massachusetts combine to form an ideal environment for cultivation of fruit. Mild days and cool nights enhance sweet flavors and coloration of apples.

Operated by five generations of the Nydam family since 1918, Brookfield Orchards grows 5,500 apple trees on two hundred acres in North Brookfield. Open year round, the country store offers food, gifts, and displays of historical equipment and memorabilia. Apple picking begins on Labor Day weekend.

Situated on a picturesque hilltop in West Brookfield with views to the Pioneer Valley, Ragged Hill Orchards produces apples, pears, peaches, blueberries, and other fruit. Visitors pick their own fruit or shop at the country store, open seasonally through early March.

A research and educational facility of the University of Massachusetts, Cold Spring Orchard serves as an outdoor laboratory for students and commercial growers. Established in 1962 on a former dairy farm in Belchertown, the fifty-acre site includes a retail store and sections open for apple picking on weekends.

In addition to more than fifty varieties of apples, Red Apple Farm cultivates blueberries, peaches, pumpkins, sunflowers, and other crops. Other attractions include a country store, festivals, hiking trails, and the Brew Barn, a restaurant and taproom with live music. A historic McIntosh tree still bears fruit after one hundred and thirteen years.

Planted in 1912 by brothers Clarence and Lester Pease, Pease Orchards offers a choice of contemporary and historic apple varieties. Located in Brooks Village of Templeton, the farm's Apple Shed sells produce, cider, pies, maple syrup, and other treats.

French Jesuits and the Pilgrims from England originally introduced apple trees to the region during the

of visitors to orchards and farms

Abundant apples dot trees with red at Belchertown's Cold Spring Orchard.

early 1600s, according to Russell Steven Powell's *Apples of New England*. From colonial times through the mid nineteenth century, most farms and households grew apples mainly for production of hard cider. In 1793, historian Peter Whitney described "large and excellent orchards" of Petersham in his book, *Worcester County: America's First Frontier.*

Leominster native John Chapman, popularly known as Johnny Appleseed, gained considerable fame when he planted orchards for settlers of the Midwest during the early nineteenth century.

New England's apple industry peaked in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when markets abounded in England and other countries. During the early 1900s, many large orchards established in central Massachusetts after introduction of McIntosh, the region's most widely produced apple.

continued on page 61

Local Art & Crafts Market Place

Stage on Main

Visual & Performing Arts Space

17 South Main Street, Orange MA 01364

A space for people to gather, enjoy the arts, and shop for art and hand crafted items in downtown Orange, MA.

1-413-272-8639
www.facebook.com/stageonmain

Stage on Main PRESENTS

Petit CONCERTS

FREE* CONCERT SERIES • *Sundays 2 pm

First Universalist Church of Orange
31 North Main Street, Orange MA

Sept. 21 - Tim Van Ness
Uplifting Contemporary Folk

Oct. 19 - Collaboration des Artistes
Gospel, Pop, and Ballads
Ken Johnson tenor, Candi Fetzer soprano,
Judy Johnson piano, and Chuck Berube bass

Nov. 2 - Richard Chase -
Multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter

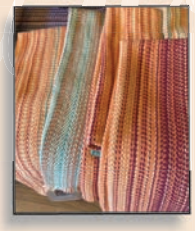
- Refreshments available
- Donations gladly accepted

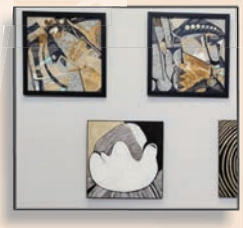
Stage on Main

MARKETPLACE

Stage on Main, Orange MA

- Over 50 Local Artisans
- Shop for art and hand crafted items
- Exhibits featuring local visual artist's work





Stage on Main ANNEX GALLERY

SHOWCASING LOCAL ARTISTS • FREE

Future shows and locations to be announced
www.facebook.com/stageonmain

ORP Orange Revitalization Partnership ORANGE MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Cultural Council

Stage on Main is sponsored/supported by:
The Orange Court LLC,
Orange Revitalization Partnership (O.R.P.),
Legacy Unlimited,
Orange/Mass Cultural Council

hügelkultur beds utilize garden debris

text and drawing by Amber Robidoux

Autumn offers the best time to construct hügel beds.

Hügelkulture, the German term for hill culture, refers to raised garden beds using wood logs as the base. Centuries old, the gardening technique utilizes yard debris like downed branches, leaves, grass clippings and compost to build up the surface area and produce nutrient rich soil.

Autumn offers the best time to construct hügel beds. As with composting, hügelkulture beds vitally require time to mature. Preparing a few months in advance, particularly in the fall, gives the garden time needed for beds to settle and be ready for planting in the spring. Hügelkulture amplifies garden surface area and will last for years.

The main difference between a traditional raised bed and a hügel bed lives in layers below the surface. Consisting of straw, manure, twigs, wood chips, and even biodegradable materials like paper and cardboard, layers improve soil quality as a smart solution for drought-prone areas and arid climates. Beds can reach up to six feet or higher, and their sloped sides give easy access to flowers and vegetables. The mounds plentifully contain nutrients and retain moisture, providing a sustainable, low-labor gardening method.

Made of wood, beds blend drainage and retention of rainwater. Essentially, wood acts as a sponge. Hügel beds retain a lot of water, making moisture from outside sources unnecessary. After the first year of organic matter absorbing water and moisture trapped in decomposing wood, time for growing plants lengthens. Additionally, the composting process of hügel gardening creates heat and also extends the gardening season.

As wood breaks down, it provides a natural supply of nutrients so that gardeners don't need additional fertilizer. Microbes in soil break down wood, and the decaying process creates air space. The mound becomes self-tilling and, thus, low maintenance. It offers a bonus method of cleaning up debris around the yard.

It's important to have a solid base to collect moisture while avoiding introducing rotting plant matter or logs on top that could contaminate plants. Add aged compost on top for extra nutrition.

Steep beds offer greater surface area for planting and make harvesting easier. Experienced gardeners know the wear and tear on the body from stooping and bending while tending their gardens. Hügelkulture gardening is easier on the body and makes gardening accessible for most individuals. Even gardeners confined to wheelchairs can tend to the beds when advance planning allows enough room to maneuver between mounds.

While the bigger the mound the more moisture it can retain, a big bed is not necessary. Urban locations provide good opportunities for such raised beds. Planting on the sides in addition to the top and bottom increases yields in a very small space.

Freelance writer Amber Robidoux lives in Orange.

many wild things apparently benefit

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

Pokeweed, a leggy large-leafed plant, grows at the edge of the woods in a field or a meadow. Purplish pokeweed berries mature in late summer and early fall. Pokeweed stems and leaves turn yellow-white. They leave a noticeable pile of stalks when they die back. Birds consume the dark purple berries.

Established plants emerge in spring from thickened underground roots that survived the winter's frost. The main stem of a mature plant can grow to a height of six or more feet, and its branches may spread in an arched form covering a dozen square feet or more. Pokeweeds are distinctive and hard to miss.

Hollow, brittle, reddish stems of pokeweed may grow as wide as two inches in diameter and crack if bent. Also red, pokeweed leaf stems feature alternately branching large leaves as long as three to twelve inches and half as wide. Pokeweed's small flowers lack showy petals, and they form along a drooping stem. Flowers emerge and mature slowly, progressing first from the base of the stem to its tip.

An important characteristic of pokeweed doesn't show. It contains toxic compounds. Chemicals in its roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit can irritate human skin when a person has sensitivity to those chemicals. And no one should ingest any part of the plant. In the past, some people have used pokeweed to purge their gut—not a very safe or comfortable plan.

How could such a poisonous plant end up growing at the edge of a field or lawn? Native to Massachusetts, pokeweed most likely got delivered here by birds that ate pokeweed berries. Chemicals in pokeweed berries do not bother many birds that rely on it as a rich source of food.

From eight to ten hard shelled seeds lie inside each berry. Birds digest the fruit but not the seeds. When the birds sit in nearby trees or on fences near pokeweed, their droppings containing seeds end up on the ground. New colonies of pokeweed may emerge from seeds with the right conditions. Pokeweed seeds can wait for many years for that perfect situation. The widening range and long-term survival of pokeweed seems assured.

from pokeweed

Deer, foxes, squirrels, other small mammals, and even bears have been known to eat pokeweed fruit and may assist in its distribution. Hummingbirds as well as insects come to pokeweed's small white or pink flowers for their nectar or pollen. Flower flies and sweat bees usually pollinate the flowers.

Caterpillars of sawflies, leaf-mining larvae of beetles, and flies also take advantage of the large pokeweed leaves. One unusual insect that eats pokeweed leaves is the large dark caterpillar of the giant leopard moth. Adult moths may arrive at a porch light at night if pokeweed grows nearby. It appears that many wild things benefit from the presence of pokeweed plants!

The caterpillar, left, of the giant leopard moth eats pokeweed leaves.

The scientific name of pokeweed is Phytolacca americana. The word phytolacca means red dye. That name fits, because pokeweed berry juice can make red dye or ink. As with many natural dyes, red colors are hard to maintain. Direct sun will fade pokeberry and other natural reds.

Pokeberry Dye Recipe

Crush skins of 4 cups of dark berries and mix them with 5 cups of water and 2 cups of vinegar.

Heat but do not boil the mixture, as boiling degrades the red color. Simmer for a few hours to concentrate the mixture.

Leave overnight to cool.

Strain the seeds and other plant matter while collecting liquid dye.

Online sites provide guidance for dying fabric.

Pokeweed juices provide ink for drawing. The recipe is simpler than for a dye and doesn't require as much time or as much liquid.

Concentrating the juice of pokeweed berries to make a dye should be done with care to avoid irritating a person's skin. Because of toxins in pokeweed, dye makers

continued on page 60

In autumn, pokeweed displays clusters of dark purple or blue-black berries and large, typically dark green leaves with pink veins. The plant's red stems can also become a "glowing" feature in fall.

QUABBIN CURRENTS:

Fifty Years as a Quabbin Historian, Beginning in 1975 with

by J. R. Greene

2025 is the fiftieth anniversary of publication of my first Quabbin book, *An Atlas of the Quabbin Valley Past & Present.* Since that title, I have produced fifteen other Quabbin-related history books along with four on Massachusetts railroads and four on Calvin Coolidge.

I got interested in the Quabbin Reservoir and the lost towns when I took a cartography course at UMass Amherst before people could produce maps with computers. I produced a series of maps showing the growth of my hometown of Athol since its founding in 1735. I published it in 1974, and it went through two printings.

While creating the maps, I noticed the coming and going of the railroad from Athol south towards Springfield between 1871 and 1935. Following it from Athol into New Salem and into the reservoir reservation inside Quabbin Gate 35, I hiked along much of the rail bed. I looked up three existing (and out of print) titles about the history of the reservoir and noticed that none had maps. I did research at Swift River Historical Society in New Salem and at libraries and produced my Quabbin atlas in the autumn 1975 with the help of printer Paul Adams of Transcript Press, Athol.

The atlas, a twenty-eight- page, large format pamphlet, features maps of the valley before and after the reservoir with maps of towns and villages taken for the project.

A map inside the atlas features an overlay of the reservoir on a map of the old valley. Boat fishermen, who used it to find deep spots in the reservoir, found that map particularly useful. The atlas sold more than ten thousand copies before I let it go out of print around 2005.

Clearly, people wanted to know more about Quabbin, and I began to work on a full-length history of the reservoir. Previous books say very little about the process of creating the reservoir, so I did a course paper in my senior year at UMass. about how it happened. Receiving a good grade for that, I spent the next four years doing further research and interviewing people who came from the valley or who had worked on the project. This resulted in another book, *The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir: The Death of the Swift River Valley*. That 1981 title has sold more than ten thousand copies. Many other writers about Quabbin have cited it over the years.

In 1983, I issued *The Day Four Quabbin Towns Died* focusing on events in the doomed valley on April 27, 1938, the day of the farewell ball in Enfield. Using recollections from people who attended that day plus newspaper accounts, I wrote of the last day before flooding the towns. It sold some ten thousand copies over the years. Les Campbell, noted Quabbin photographer,

told me that book helped inspire him to push for a fiftieth anniversary version of the ball at UMassAmherst in 1988.

Creating the books got me to join Swift River Valley Historical Society in 1975. I served on its board of directors for a few years in the early 1980s. I also joined Friends of Quabbin at its inception in 1984 as a support group for the Quabbin Visitors Center. I was elected to their board of directors in 1991 and became chair in 2000.

I represent Friends of Quabbin on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Council and have chaired that group for a few years. Since 1991, I have served on the advisory board of the Metropolitan Water Resource Authority representing the Quabbin and Ware River watersheds.

In publicizing the Quabbin story, I have presented some 650 narrated slide programs on the subject for libraries, historical societies, and other groups. I have also attended public hearings over the years about Quabbin-related issues.

Many college students have sought me for assistance in writing papers on Quabbin-related subjects. I consulted for the early Ken Burns film *The Old Quabbin Valley* and appear several times in the 2002 film *Under Quabbin,* aired on PBS stations. The Boston TV show *Chronicle* has had me as a guest several times, and I was featured in the recent Channel 10 Boston program, *The Scar.*

In 1985, I began a run of forty annual *Quabbin History Calendars* featuring views from the lost towns and villages. After issuing an atlas on villages destroyed for the Ware River diversion in the Barre area, a project related to the Quabbin, I also produced a small album of photos from those places in 1991. Each year since, the calendar has included at least one view from one of the villages. The Transcript Press printed the publications in the early years, succeeded by Performance Press of Winchendon, and then Highland Press of Athol.

Also, I have published two books of *Strange Tales From Old Quabbin* plus a sequel to *The Day Four Quabbin Towns Died* entitled *From Valley to Quabbin 1938-1946,* a biography of Enfield industrialist and spiritualist Henry W. Smith. I also produced a biography of pre-Quabbin artist and photographer B. V. Brooks.

My latest Quabbin title, *The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects,* issued in 2020, features ephemera items from the lost towns and villages. I have collected many such items over the years, often using old picture postcards to illustrate my books and calendars. As a collectibles dealer, I find it easier to acquire many such items. My trade has given me time to do research for the books and calendars. I hope to issue at least a couple more Quabbin-related titles in the coming years.

J.R. Greene, of Athol, is author of twenty-four books, sixteen of them relating to the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to build it.

turnpikes flourished from 1796 in early

map and photos by Chris Coyle

Two centuries ago, long before the advent of E-ZPass transponders, turnpikes flourished in southern New England, some in the Quabbin region.

The first act of incorporation for a turnpike passed in Massachusetts in 1796. Private companies built turnpike roads in exchange for the privilege of collecting a toll. At points along a turnpike, gates barred travelers until they paid a toll. In fact, the word turnpike comes from the gates, called pikes, that turned to allow passage after payment of the toll. Typically a person and horse paid four cents while a coach paid twenty-five cents.

The Massachusetts legislature approved the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike on March 1, 1799, sixteen years after the colonies officially gained independence from Britain. Fifth refers to its place in the order of incorporation of Massachusetts turnpikes.

The road went west from Leominster through Gardner, Templeton, and Gerry (since known as Phillipston) to the Athol Town Common, where it divided into two branches. One ran west along Millers River through Orange and ended at Greenfield. The other branch took a more northerly route through Warwick to Northfield.

Routing through Athol changed somewhat over the years. A tollbooth and major stagecoach stop stood near Athol's uptown common, the town's civic and transportation center until arrival of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad in 1847.

The Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike greatly improved travel and transport in northern Massachusetts. It became profitable enough that its owners could issue dividends during its early years. But like most turnpikes of the time, it eventually faced low revenues. The traveling

Massachusetts

public often avoided toll booths by switching onto shunpikes, side roads used to bypass toll gates.

In March 1833, shareholders voted to dissolve the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike corporation. One of the last remnants of the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike branch to Northfield passes through Cass Meadow in Athol, a conservation area owned by the Town of Athol.

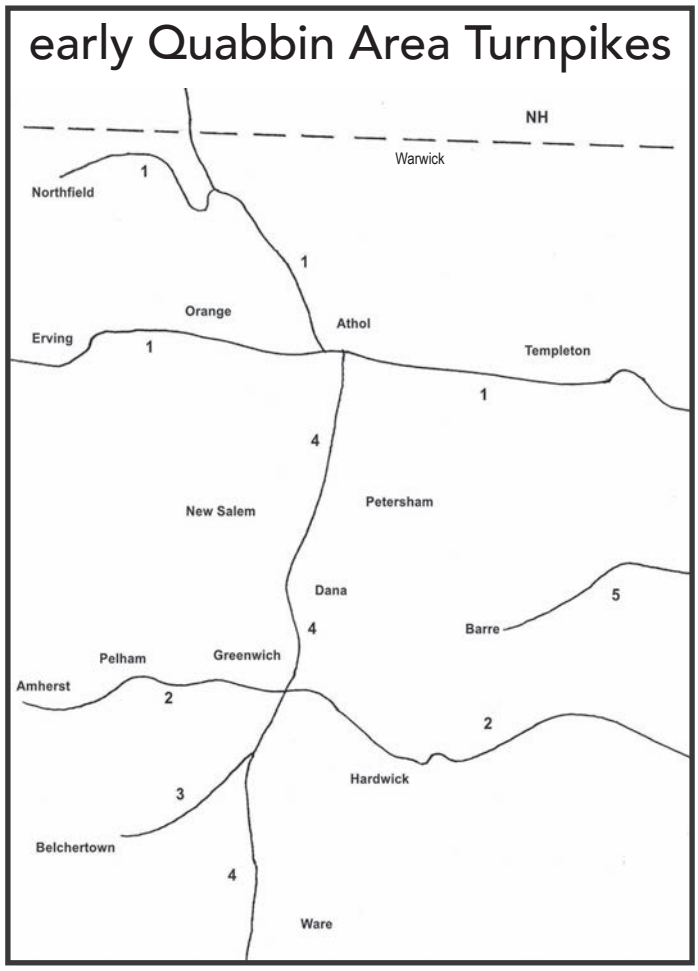
The Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike incorporated on June 22, 1799. It ran from Amherst forty-three miles to Shrewsbury and passed through the Quabbin area towns of Pelham, Greenwich, Hardwick, New Braintree, Oakham, and Rutland. The Pelham-Greenwich section lies beneath the Quabbin waters today. The Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike collected its final toll in 1829.

Established February 7, 1803, the Belchertown and Greenwich Turnpike, went north from Belchertown through Enfield to the South Parish of Greenwich. The route likely ran along what is now Old Enfield Road, once Route 21 before creation of the Quabbin Reservoir when the state route went all the way from the Indian Orchard section of Springfield north to Athol.

A complaint against the Belchertown and Greenwich Turnpike in August of 1824 stated that the road was too narrow and obstructed. A petition filed the following year asserted that the road had been abandoned by the corporation and badly needed repairs.

Petersham and Monson Turnpike, chartered on February 29, 1804, ran south from the Fifth

continued on page 63



The map of Quabbin area turnpikes refers to them by number.
1 - Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike
2 - Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike
3 - Belchertown and Greenwich Turnpike
4 - Petersham and Monson Turnpike
5 - Barre Turnpike

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

THANK YOU!

A trio of cows lines up alongside Hines Bridge Road in New Braintree.
photo by Gary McComas

Colonial Olivers Owned Land in Several Communities

by Charlotte Westhead

Colonial era historical records from Barre reveal several families had the surname Oliver.

Robert Oliver, Esquire, of Antigua and Dorchester owned land in colonial era Barre, and his family was prominent in Massachusetts government. Andrew Oliver collected the stamp tax from 1771 to 1772. Peter Oliver served as chief Justice of the colonial superior court. Thomas Oliver served as the last royal lieutenant governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, appointed by the king.

For generations, branches of the Robert Oliver family managed successful plantations in Antigua. In 1736, after three years of drought, the government of Antigua compensated plantation owners for losses. Robert Oliver then left overseers and slaves to tend his property in Antigua and brought his wife, Anne; son Thomas; twenty-seven slaves, and twelve horses back to Massachusetts. Some records assert that Robert had "a notorious son named Thomas."

In 1750, Robert, then of Dorchester, Massachusetts, speculated in land, including land in Royalston and Rutland. An example of Robert's investment is the purchase of 250 acres, Lot #XIX, in Rutland for fifty pounds from Jacob Royal of Rutland. That land would become Barre. Growing slowly, Barre enumerated a population of 734 in the census of 1765. Jacob Royal also had a plantation in Antigua and kept numerous slaves.

Robert Oliver died in 1762. In probate court, his will revealed the sale agreement for "an estate in Rutland" before Barre incorporated separately.

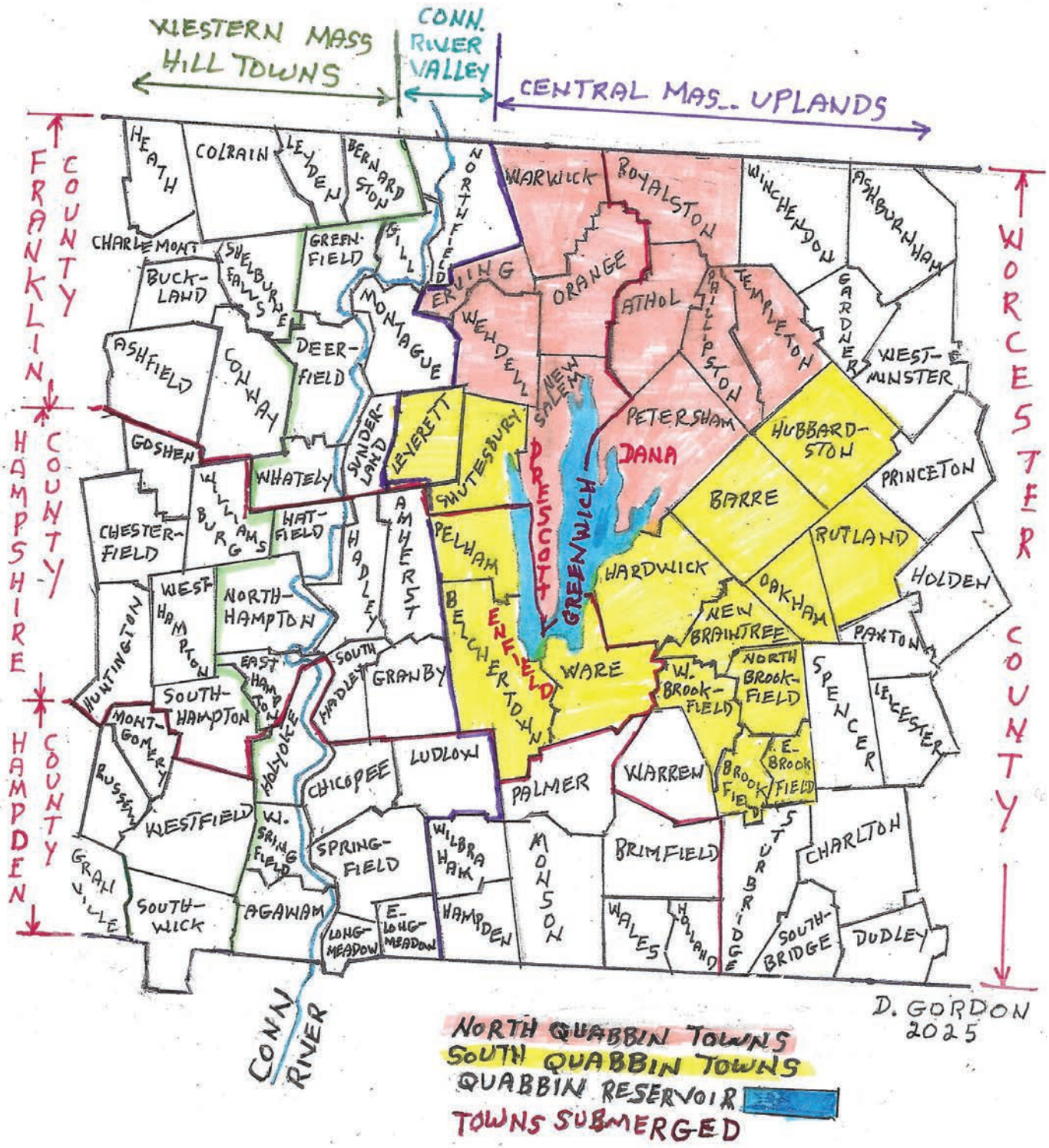
Other men surnamed Oliver also invested in what would become the Quabbin region. In 1764, Cromwell Oliver, a man of color according to colonial records, bought part of Great Farm XXVI from Nathaniel Jennison of Rutland/Barre.

In 1767, David Oliver, young lawyer and Harvard graduate, went to Hardwick where he became the lawyer for General Timothy Ruggles. David Oliver, probably not a man of color, invested in several pieces of land and a church pew next to General Ruggles in the Hardwick Congregational Church.

In 1771, Thomas Oliver of Cambridge, sold Jonathan Bullard "half of Lot #19" in Rutland, "obtained from my late father, Robert Oliver, Esquire" for fifty British pounds, according to Book of Deeds 65, Page 456. In 1774, Thomas Oliver sold the other half of Lot #19, the land "inherited from my father Robert Oliver."

Thomas Oliver and Hannah Northgate, both identified in Barre historical records as free-born Negroes, married in Barre on May 15, 1774. Marriage

continued on page 67



The color-coded composite map geographically depicts the North Quabbin and South Quabbin regions in relationship to each other and with Quabbin Reservoir. The map shows the geographical situation of the region in central Massachusetts, where it straddles the intersection of Worcester, Franklin, and Hampden counties. The map also illustrates the topographical locale of the Quabbin region in central Massachusetts. The region occupies the northwesterly portion of the central Massachusetts uplands and includes areas where the central uplands transitions into the Connecticut River Valley and other towns to the west.

conceptualizing a concept

locating the Quabbin region

map, text, and photo by David Gordon

The Quabbin Region embodies a concept, but where is it exactly?

A quick glance at the *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine regional map, usually located on the first page of each issue, along with a typical Massachusetts road map can give the casual observer a good conceptual sense of the location of the Quabbin Region. But do either really convey the sense of location of Quabbin Region on the landscape and how that landscape contributed to the history of the region?

Perhaps not.

Quabbin region geographically straddles the transition between central New England uplands and the Connecticut River Valley. Central New England uplands, the north-south oriented hilly area occupying central Massachusetts to the east of our conceptualized Quabbin Region adjoins the Connecticut River Valley traversing New England from north to south to the west of the Quabbin Region.

The Connecticut River watershed drains almost all of the Quabbin Region. Worcester County nearly equates to the portion of central New England uplands in Massachusetts. Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties nearly equate to the Connecticut River Valley and watershed in Massachusetts.

Upon closer examination, one notices an apparent overlap in the conceptualized description above. Part of the eastern portion of the Connecticut River watershed occurs in western Worcester County and part occupies eastern portions of Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties, the conceptualized location of the Quabbin Region.

During the colonial era the region's hilly terrain impeded travel by early settlers. Therefore, the Quabbin Region numbered among the last sections of Massachusetts Bay Colony settled by European colonists.

Settlement by colonists required transporting belongings such as tools and household goods into an area previously undeveloped by Europeans.

In hilly terrain such as that found in most of the Quabbin Region, Native American trails provided the only readily available access through the area. Trails followed contours of terrain and made use of natural features such as shallow river crossing points. Trails constituted narrow, single-file affairs. The Indigenous people originally had no pack animals nor wheeled vehicles that European use of trails would require. When traveling in groups, Indigenous people walked single file and, if need be, carried their belongings in packs.

European colonists settled the Connecticut River Valley earlier than most of the Quabbin Region, despite location of the valley further away from the coast. The river provided boat access, and relatively flat terrain in the valley made it easier to develop roads there suitable for pack animals, wheeled vehicles, and livestock.

continued on page 66

Swift River Valley Historical Society museum features dolls from Lost Towns

text and photos by Charlotte Westhead

Three antique cloth dolls in original clothing sit on a bench at the Swift River Valley Historical Society Museum. The family that donated one doll dates it to 1896. The museum does not have documentation of ages and owners of the other dolls, but they date to a similar time.

Homemade dolls and toys traditionally feature fabric and yarn. Often, after a major household project involving textiles, doll-making occurred with leftover bits. Leftovers provided the material for colorful, bold, and unique gifts. Unknown makers might also cut up outgrown children's clothes and use the result to make dolls and doll clothes.

With imagination and varying degrees of skill, makers deliberately and lovingly produced dolls to give to a special person or for a special occasion. Makers typically made dolls for a child to play with and dress, undress, and carry around.

At twenty-two inches long with a stuffed, perhaps oilcloth head, the doll on the left has wide-open eyes. The characteristics of her nose, blue eyes, and puckered mouth appear deliberately created. She has mitten-like hands with body, legs, feet, and arms stuffed with cotton batting.

Like many children, the doll has lost her shoes and socks with thick, almost shapeless feet. Lace-trimmed pantaloons reach to her knees. A blue and grey yoke decorates her simple brown-and-white dress. She has a fringe of brown hair made by a few inches of dress fringe held in place by a maroon bow.

The doll in the middle—Candy because of her long red-and-white-striped rompers—is twenty-seven inches tall, unusually large for a homemade doll. She is made of cotton batting.

Her hands set her apart from most other dolls. On each hand, she has four tiny fingers and a skillfully sewn thumb. Her left hand is visible around the left shoulder of the doll on her left. Her head may be made with stuffed oilcloth or a fabric treated with a preservative.

Stitches outline her eyes, eyebrows, nose, and mouth. Her black hair, severely pulled back and twisted into a bun, has been shellacked in place on the back of her head. She has feet similar to her companions' and like the others has lost both shoes and stockings. She wears red-and-white-striped cotton knee-length, long-sleeved rompers with a set-in yolk.

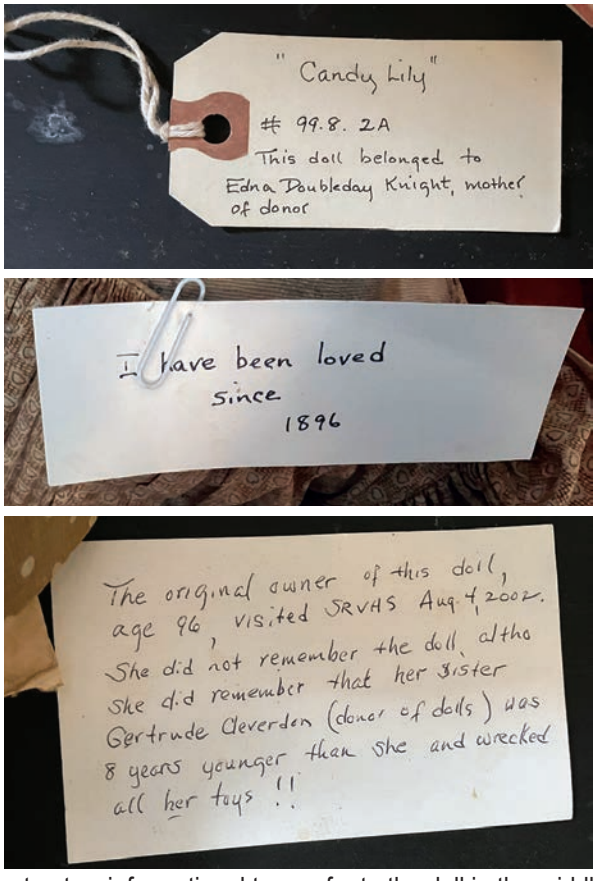
Also stuffed with cotton batting, the doll on the right is twenty-three inches long with rounded hands and feet. She has undefined features like many homemade cloth dolls of the era. She wears a light cotton summer dress with ruffled sleeves. Like dresses of the other two dolls, hers has a set-in bodice of a different color and pattern.

Like the heads of many babies, hers is large compared to her body. Her painted fine, blonde, wispy hair has a little pink bow near her forehead.

She has delicate painted eyes, eyelids, eyelashes, and eyebrows. Her eyes seem to look at something the viewer cannot see. She may have a patch or Band-Aid on her neck with floppy head. Is she a lovingly painted portrait doll?

Charlotte Westhead, retired registered nurse, spends time at Quabbin Region libraries poring through demographic records of the colonial era. She lives in Amherst.

Three nineteenth-century homemade cloth dolls relax on a bench at Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem. They likely originated in the Lost Towns.



The top two informational tags refer to the doll in the middle. The bottom card refers to the doll at the right.

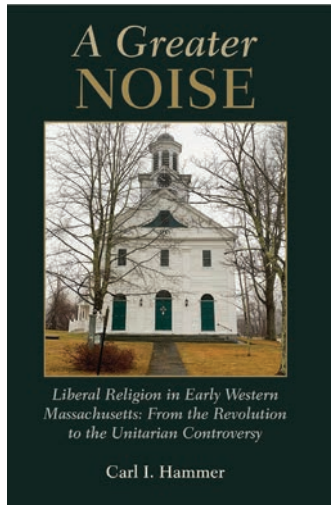
A Greater Noise traces early religion

by Carl I. Hammer

Most people regard early western Massachusetts as a stronghold of conservative, orthodox Calvinist Congregationalism where only the fervent evangelical New Light revivalism of Jonathan Edwards challenged the moderate Old Light legacy of Edwards's grandfather, Northampton's Solomon Stoddard.

From the mid-1700s, graduates of orthodox programs at Yale and then Williams and Amherst increasingly dominated pulpits. In contrast, liberal Congregationalism with its emphasis on free will and good works rather than predestination and human depravity characterized the commercial elite of eastern Massachusetts and Harvard, where Unitarianism did not emerge as a distinct form of Christianity until the turn of the nineteenth century.

However, even throughout the eighteenth century and despite vigorous orthodox opposition, many held liberal religious beliefs or Arminianism throughout the eighteenth century. Not only did Congregational clergy and laity in important Connecticut Valley towns such as Springfield endorse liberal beliefs and practice, but also, surprisingly, poorer rural hill towns which then played a leading role in the establishment of explicitly liberal institutions—Freemasonry, Unitarianism and Universalism.



A Greater Noise by Carl I. Hammer explores liberal religion in early western Massachusetts from the Revolution to the Unitarian controversy.

The Quabbin region was particularly rich in such churches and lodges. Remote Warwick is notable for the varieties of its religious groups including liberal, Unitarian, and orthodox Congregationalism and Baptists. The handsome Unitarian church still stands, though unused, while the Trinitarian Congregational church uses the house of the former Unitarian minister. Caleb Rich established an early Universalist congregation there and influenced the important religious leader Hosea Ballou who, while he lived in Hardwick, developed his theology in argumentative correspondence with the liberal minister of New Salem.

Many of the Congregational churches, particularly in the North Quabbin, became Unitarian in the early nineteenth century with some still Unitarian today as at Petersham. The church of the lost-to-Quabbin town Greenwich remained nominally orthodox but early in its history had to share its building with an important Unitarian minority which aimed at replacing the minister.

Ties between liberal Christians and Freemasonry—"the religion in which all men agree"—was particularly close in Greenwich, which hosted a fish feast in 1826 to denounce efforts by militantly orthodox Congregational clergy to sever church ties with liberal Christians. That small, poor town also had a chapter of Royal Arch Masonry that conferred advanced degrees on members who came from many neighboring towns.

continued on page 54

Accessed at the end of Shutesbury Road in New Salem, the trail from Quabbin Gate 22 to the reservoir covers a bit more than three miles over 272 feet of elevation.
photo by Rick Flematti

Crimson Acres Equestrian Center

by Dorothy A. Frye

In the heart of Orange nestled along Daniel Shays Highway stands a place where dreams have taken root, lives have been transformed, and the bond between humans and horses has flourished for half a century. Crimson Acres constitutes far more than a working equestrian center. It stands as a living testament to faith, family, and the belief that, with hard work and heart, anything is possible.

Sandy and Butch Whitmore celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Crimson Acres.
photo by Dot Frye

among other equestrian centers in the North Quabbin and South Quabbin regions

Athol • New England Equestrian Center
Brookfield • Aranelle Farm
Leverett • Craig Memorial
Petersham • Windswept Farms

Celebrating fifty years of Crimson Acres honors not only a milestone but a mission that began with the vision of Kenneth "Butch" Whitmore Jr. and Sandra Karras Whitmore. What started as a shared interest in animal science at UMass Stockbridge has grown into a sanctuary of learning, healing, and connection for generations of riders, families, and animals.

Butch grew up in the family poultry business in Orange. Sandy, who grew up on Cape Cod, developed a love for horses at a young age. Butch and Sandy met at college, fell in love, married in 1969, and became parents of five children. Employed after marriage as a poultry specialist at Whitmore Poultry in Orange, he traveled across New England. At the same time, Sandy focused on being a stay-at-home mom while dreaming of one day making a living by training horses.

In 1972, they embarked on their adventure of acquiring registered Appaloosa horses and competing on the Appy circuit. At the same time, they took care of their farm, offered foster care for children, acted as an emergency shelter for individuals and families, trained horses, and started providing riding lessons in the early 1980s. Prior to obtaining the family farm, the Whitmores acknowledged the presence of God in their lives, and with that foundation, they decided to name the farm Crimson Acres to honor the blood of Jesus Christ.

At the newly established Crimson Acres, Butch took on the responsibility of managing the chickens while Sandy handled trail rides, boarded horses, and offered riding lessons. As the business expanded, she launched riding camps and upheld her long-standing dedication to 4-H, the youth development organization. Between 1975 and 1985, Butch and Sandy laid the groundwork for a thriving enterprise.

In 1985, Sandy experienced a serious injury from a horse-related accident and nevertheless returned to work after just two months of recovery. She recognized she had reached a pivotal moment in her teaching approach. Previously, she got on the horse and said, "Let me show you," but she changed her focus to keeping the student on the horse and saying, "Let me teach you."

Sandy devoted herself to teaching and insuring the farm's success. Over the years, the Whitmores

continued on page 62

celebrates fiftieth anniversary

Four generations of Crimson Acres riders reunited for an “around the farm” ride. They are, from left, third generation Shawn LaCroix on Gracie; second generation Michelle LaCroix on San Chic; first generation Dave Frye; first generation Dot Frye on Tulsa; fourth generation Ryden Adams on Bambi, and third generation Hunter Frye on Simba.

photo courtesy of Crimson Acres

originally the Nipmuck Naquag, Rutland

by John Burk

A 2016 postcard shows Rutland's Main Street.

Originally a large Nipmuc territory called Naquag, or upper corner of many waters, Rutland situates at the geographic center of Massachusetts. Steep hills, glacial drumlins, diverse forests, and numerous ponds and wetlands comprise its 36.4 square mile landscape. Elevations range from 795 feet on Ware River to 1260 feet near the center of town.

Rutland's largest waterway, Ware River East Branch, lies within a large corridor of protected land. Significant tributaries include Long Meadow Brook, Stevens Brook, and Mill Brook. Blood Swamp, a large wetland on Stevens Brook, provides habitat for wood ducks, bald eagles, moose, and other wildlife. Contiguous Long Pond and Whitehall Pond offer recreational opportunities for anglers, paddlers, and swimmers.

A landmark of Naquag's historical boundary, Muschopauge Pond serves as Rutland's water supply. In the eastern part of town, several brooks drain to the Quinapoxet and Pine Hill reservoirs that provide water for the city of Worcester.

For water supply protection, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation of Recreation, DCR, owns 12,883 acres—43 percent of the land—in Rutland. Other conserved lands include Rutland State Park, Barre Falls Dam, and Savage Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Nipmuc groups from the Quaboag and Swift river valleys, present Lancaster, and other locations likely used

Rutland's Lazy Day Farm features a classic New England barn and silo.

photo by John Burk

sits at state's center

Naquag seasonally for hunting, fishing, and gathering. Other possible sites include Ware River and Long, Muschopague, Demond, and Turkey Hill ponds.

Massachusetts colonial proprietors purchased Naquag from the Nipmuc in 1686. Subsequent conflicts with Native Americans delayed settlement until 1713. Early settlers came from Brookfield, Boston, Concord, Lexington, and other towns of eastern and central Massachusetts.

After incorporation of Rutland in 1722, sections of the original township established as Princeton in 1759, Oakham in 1762, Paxton in 1765, Hubbardston in 1767, and Barre in 1774.

A military officer who settled in Rutland after the American Revolution, Rufus Putnam helped form the Ohio Company that spearheaded colonial settlement of the Midwest. Built by John Murray in 1750, Putnam's former home now houses a bed and breakfast.

Agriculture predominated in Rutland from colonial times through the early twentieth century. Some European settlers cultivated meadows originally created by Native Americans, according to Jonas Reed's *A History of Rutland*. Commodities included barley, oats, hay, potatoes, beef, dairy products, fruit, and vegetables. As occurred in Hubbardston, many Finnish immigrants revitalized farms during the early twentieth century.

Industrial development began in 1719 when gristmills and sawmills opened on Mill Brook. During the 1830s and 1840s, bootmaking and shoemaking ranked as Rutland's largest industries with several shoe shops and a tannery at the center. Manufacture of palm leaf hats also peaked during the 1830s and 1840s. Several businesses,

Whitehall Pond in three-hundred-acre Rutland State Park at 49 Whitehall Road hosts boaters and swimmers. The state park includes hiking trails and encourages picnickers.
photo by Jim Hennessey.

including sawmills, woodenware factories, blacksmiths, and a carriage shop, continued through the early twentieth century.

One of three small manufacturing villages that formed in the early 1800s, West Rutland was site of

continued on page 58

Sunrise intensifies North Brookfield's moody morning on Lake Lashaway.
photo by Gary McComas

HISTORIC CEMETERY GHOST WALK

Hardwick Common
Old Hardwick Cemetery
October 11, 2025 • 5:30 pm

rain date Sunday, October 12

Sacajawea—a visual haiku by Ami Fagin

In her teens, Sacagawea (1788-1812), a Lemhi Shoshone woman, guided the Lewis and Clark Expedition in charting the Louisiana Territory acquired from France by the United States in 1803 as the Louisiana Purchase.

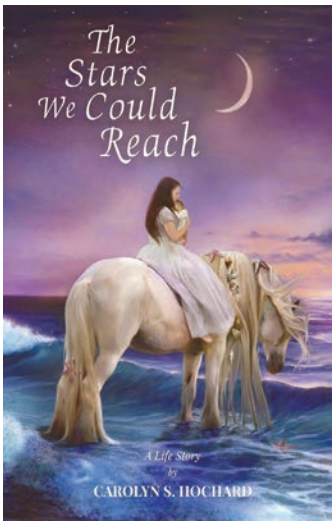
Along with the expedition, Sacagawea traveled on foot thousands of miles from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean, thus facilitating cultural contacts with Indigenous American people along the trail and contributing significantly to the expedition's knowledge of natural history of the travelled regions.

In the early twentieth century, the National American Woman Suffrage Association adopted Sacagawea as a symbol of women's worth and independence. In 2000, the US government issued a dollar coin in her name.

ami fagin
ketubahindesign.com
beyondgenocide.net
visualhaiku.graphics

authors examine surviving life-altering event,

by Diane Kane



Carolyn Hochard, registered nurse and equine enthusiast, introduces two young women, each of whom survived a life-altering event, through their love of horses in her debut novel, *The Stars We Could Reach.*
photo of Carolyn Hochard by John Hochard

A registered nurse and equine enthusiast, Carolyn Hochard recently became a published author.

"I grew up in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts on a little sheep and horse farm," Hochard said. "I've lived in central Massachusetts for the past twenty years."

Her love for writing started at a young age, and she briefly considered pursuing a degree in English.

"Recognizing that I was probably not going to be able to afford a car and an apartment with a degree in English, I ended up in nursing," Hochard admitted. "Still, I always knew I would write a book. I just didn't know when, or what it would be about."

A chance connection with a young woman she befriended inspired *The Stars We Could Reach*, Carolyn S. Hochard's debut novel. The connection left a profound impact

"My novel introduces two women, each of whom survived a major life-altering event," Hochard said. "They meet through their love of horses, and as their friendship unfolds, they offer the gift of healing to one another. But their story soon takes an unexpected turn."

The title comes from lyrics to a seventies folk song that Hochard finds especially meaningful and fitting for her novel.

"The song 'Seasons in the Sun' is about a young man saying goodbye to the loved ones in his life as he faces his early death," Hochard explained. "The lines, "We had joy, we had fun / we had seasons in the sun / but the stars we could reach / were just starfish on the beach," speak to me about magic in the ordinary—if only we look for it."

As a healthcare professional, Hochard drew on her experience for many of the novel's aspects, which require an intimate knowledge of health-related settings. But as a new writer, what surprised Hochard most was the process of publishing.

"The writing and publishing industry can be daunting and complicated. I cannot stress the importance of networking with other writers who can share the triumphs and pitfalls of becoming published."

Hochard was working as the public health nurse for the Town of Orange when she heard about a writer's workshop led by the talented author Tyler Hauth at the now-closed Book Forge.

and present poetry, prose, visual floral delight

"So much of what I learned from that workshop I applied to this novel. And I made some very important friendships there as well," Hochard said. "I also attended the Mystery Writers' Workshop at the Wheeler Mansion in Orange in May hosted by Sisters in Crime and local author J.A. McIntosh. I can't express enough the importance of face-to-face connection in writing."

With ideas for two other novels and a couple of children's books floating around in her head, *The Stars We Could Reach* is just the beginning of Hochard's writing journey.

The Stars We Could Reach by Carolyn S. Hochard is available online and at bookstores and libraries.

CarolynHochardAuthor.square.site or email csh3741@comcast.net

Already an accomplished writer and author of *The Little Pine Tree, Legend of the Rainbow, Cutting a Bond with the Long Trail*, and others, Clare Green of Warwick has more to offer. Her newest book, *Whisper Me Flowers—Meditations with the Flowers*, presents a poetry, prose, and visual floral delight she has been working on for many years.

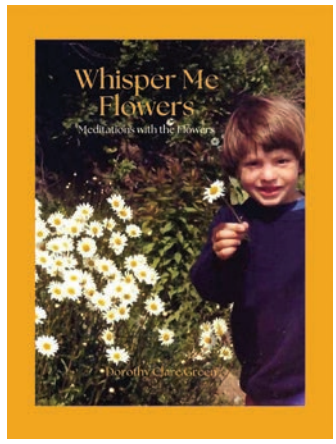
"This book is a collection of flower verses related to attuning and appreciating the beauty of flowers. I sat in stillness with the flower to create a verse," Green said. "Flowers just humbly exist and grow in nature. They resonate in our hearts and allow us to smile. Flowers are subtle, like a whispering."

Green grew up in Wilton, Connecticut, with fields and woods as her playground, often accompanied by her family's collie dog or friends.

"We created our own magic and play within the woods. A close neighbor, Brenda Putnam, was a renowned sculptor who shared her deep reverence for the natural world with us kids," Green reminisced. "I now live in Warwick, where I am still surrounded and nourished by the natural beauty of the Quabbin region. I am most grateful."

The original intent of Green's book was to create a gift for a special circle of friends she met in 1994.

"I wrote a flower poem for each friend. I called the booklet *Flowers Speak*. Thirty-one years in the making, I'd say!" said Green. "I take inspiration from being in nature. Listening. Breathing. Being. Yes, and from a



Clare Green, author of books about nature and more for adults and children as well as the column "Nature's Nuances" for *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, presents her new book, *Whisper Me Flowers—Meditations with the Flowers,* presenting poetry, prose, and visual floral delights. The cover features her son Ned as a toddler. Green compiled Ned's journals in *Cutting a Bond with the Long Trail,* second printing in 2023.

continued on page 53

Pumpkin Stand, Wendell
watercolor on paper by Christine Texeira

poem by Len Mazarowski

The Pasture Gate

an ode to retirement

For forty long years from inside these strong fences of wood
for forty long years, my freedom has been withstood.

The pasture gate has never once been found unlocked—
checked every day/week/month/year I clocked.

My gait is slower, but 'round inside the fence I still go
through heat and rain and wind and cold and snow.

The grizzled fence keeper makes sure I stay inside.
I don't hate anymore, but it somehow morphed to pride—

proud that my time and my plodding 'round and 'round
has given my small family time to gain some small ground.

I know many others who made good and left the farm,
but there have been some that have also come to harm.

I sometimes see my offspring far off on a distant hill.
I wish to see them more, but the fence blocks me still.
In my dreams, I see the new young ones running on that hill.
I wish to go to them, but the fence is always here to break my will.

My spouse of many years is confined near the dusty barnyard,
but the fence keeper is always vigilant and shows her no regard.

A long tether keeps her there in check.
The more she pulls, the more it chafes her neck.

I bellow to the hills, which echoes far down the valley to the sea,
for I can take no longer the fence that keeps me from being free.

I trod along the same circle I must trod over and over.
I take my allotted hay and dream about our clover.

I have a plan which will free us from this plight.
With nature's elements working day and night

as the gate lock's metal slowly degrades to rust,
I will break clean through it with one last mighty thrust,
and we will walk freely along the ocean beach and sand
in freedom's sunshine once more and once more hand-in-hand.

Our struggles over and our penance paid in full,
no more water trough but of wine we drink our fill.

Len Mazarowski retired as senior hydrologist of National Weather Service/River Forecast Centers, USA. Raised in Queens, New York City, he graduated from City College of New York and has lived in several areas of the country. He enjoys the natural environment that he occasionally uses as a theme for a poem.

Submit poems for *Uniquely Quabbin* to marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com

Uniquely Quabbin poets

poem by Frederick Steinway

Galleries of Silence

looking quietly without seeing
first proto-words are a spotted eft beneath its
leaf a calendar of moons carved along a tine
lights that gather over distant waters as
though to fertilize an idea

silvery drifts linger in outer atmospheres
existence is a light moving forward leaving
traces time is a pool that surrounds us our
future extends out on all sides

when earth that has lain in open adoration
of summer's light
releases dry scents of attrition and change
autumn mist extends into shorter days as a
dust or bloom that forms on blue grapes and
everywhere a scent of wild apples ripening

how to repay society for wrongs done to it?
a life of unaccountable spirit-activity
comforts of psychometry precognition
reminders looking quietly without seeing

Shepherdess waits at the gate *penitentes* arrive
from here we can see the whitecaps
the way is clear the long path down to the sea

a conch's knuckled whorl
the way wanders over plateau where ancient
rivers dissect
to those hallways of stone collapsed upon
each other

as its inner core rolls over in the long sleep
Earth blossoms and unfolds its grand
magnetic lines
as times of finding and of purification
enter galleries of silence

Acupuncturist and poet Frederick Steinway lives in North Amherst.

poem by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri

Around the Bend

Life is not a straight road.
It's full of twists and turns
Roadblocks
Detours
Bends in the road
Unexpected cross streets
Rear-enders
Fender benders
Head-on collisions
Red lights
Stop signs
Green arrows.

Where does it end?
A head-on collision
An unseen cliff . . .
A sharp turn . . .

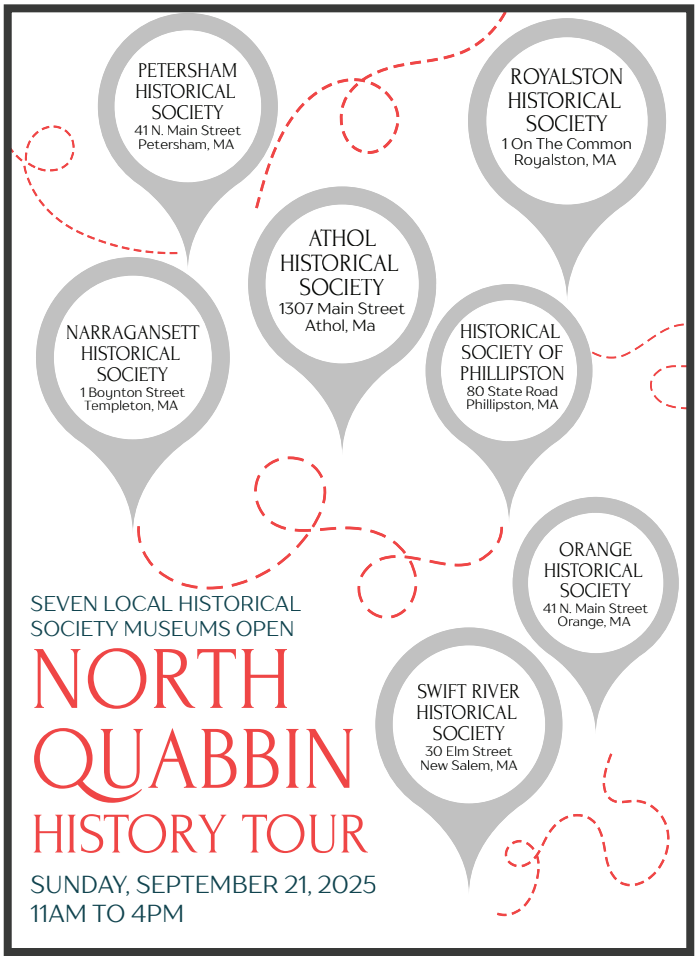
Maybe just
running out of gas . . .

Longtime former resident of New Salem, retired middle school teacher Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri enjoys reading and writing poetry. She serves as copy editor for *Uniquely Quabbin* .

It's Jack-o'-Lantern Time

by Gary A. Fellows

Jack-o'-Lantern
watercolor on paper by Brian Fournier



What time is it? You're asking me?
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
It's early fall, and that to me
means *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
The hours are less for daily sun.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
And that to me means lots of fun
at *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
I'm carving this year three or four.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
Or if I'm lucky, even more
for *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
I plan to carve the perfect grin.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
I'll place a candle deep within.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
When Halloween at last is here
at *Jack-o'-Lantern time,*
their lit-up faces bring such cheer!
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
Yes, Halloween will soon arrive.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
The Jack-o'-Lanterns seem alive
at *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
I hope with each to share true joy.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
With every passing girl and boy
at *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
If you should come along this way
at *Jack-o'-Lantern time,*
perhaps you'll stop awhile and stay.
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
Friendships just seem stronger when
It's *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*
It's why I'm glad it's back again:
Dear *Jack-o'-Lantern time!*

Poet Gary A. Fellows grew up in New Salem. His parents, Fern Wesson of Orange and Warren Fellows of Warwick, met at New Salem Academy. Though he has lived in several other states as well as overseas, he said, his heart remains in New Salem.

restaurants Asia Gourmet, Teresa's maintain popularity while creating ethnic menus

text and photos by Chris Coyle

Uniquely Quabbin included reviews of two popular restaurants in 2020 at the height of the Covid era. Both establishments survived those difficult times and continue serving the public.

Asia Gourmet in Athol offers a wide menu of Asian dishes

Asia Gourmet opened in March 2020 at North Quabbin Commons on Market Drive in Athol. A destination itself, Asia Gourmet might be the site of a meal to top off a shopping trip. The restaurant offers a wide menu with delectable Asian dishes including a variety of sushi rolls and Thai fare.

Pupu platters provide a great way to sample many available specialties, include beef teriyaki, boneless spareribs, chicken wings, fried shrimp, chicken fingers, egg rolls, and crab Rangoon. Sushi offerings include the appropriately named Athol roll consisting of tuna, salmon, yellowtail, cucumber, and flying fish roe wrapped in marble seaweed.

Recently, I became hooked on the Bento Box. Miso soup and a delicious salad with Asia Gourmet's distinctive dressing precede the main course. Then arrives the actual Bento Box consisting of California roll, white rice. and shrimp shumai along with one's choice of six proteins—chicken teriyaki, beef teriyaki, salmon teriyaki, shrimp teriyaki, beef negimaki, or shrimp tempura.

Bento Box

The next visit might include dining on General Gau's chicken, a house specialty. The seafood bird's nest offers another possibility. The elegant dish includes lobster, jumbo shrimp, beef, sea scallops and crabmeat stir-fried with celery, carrots, asparagus, cashew nuts and water chestnuts in a brown sauce.

A friendly and efficient wait staff service Asia Gourmet's always well-prepared food. Staff keeps the attractive restaurant interior very clean.

The restaurant is open daily with a lunch menu until 3 p.m. Takeout provides for those wishing to enjoy a meal at home minus food prep.

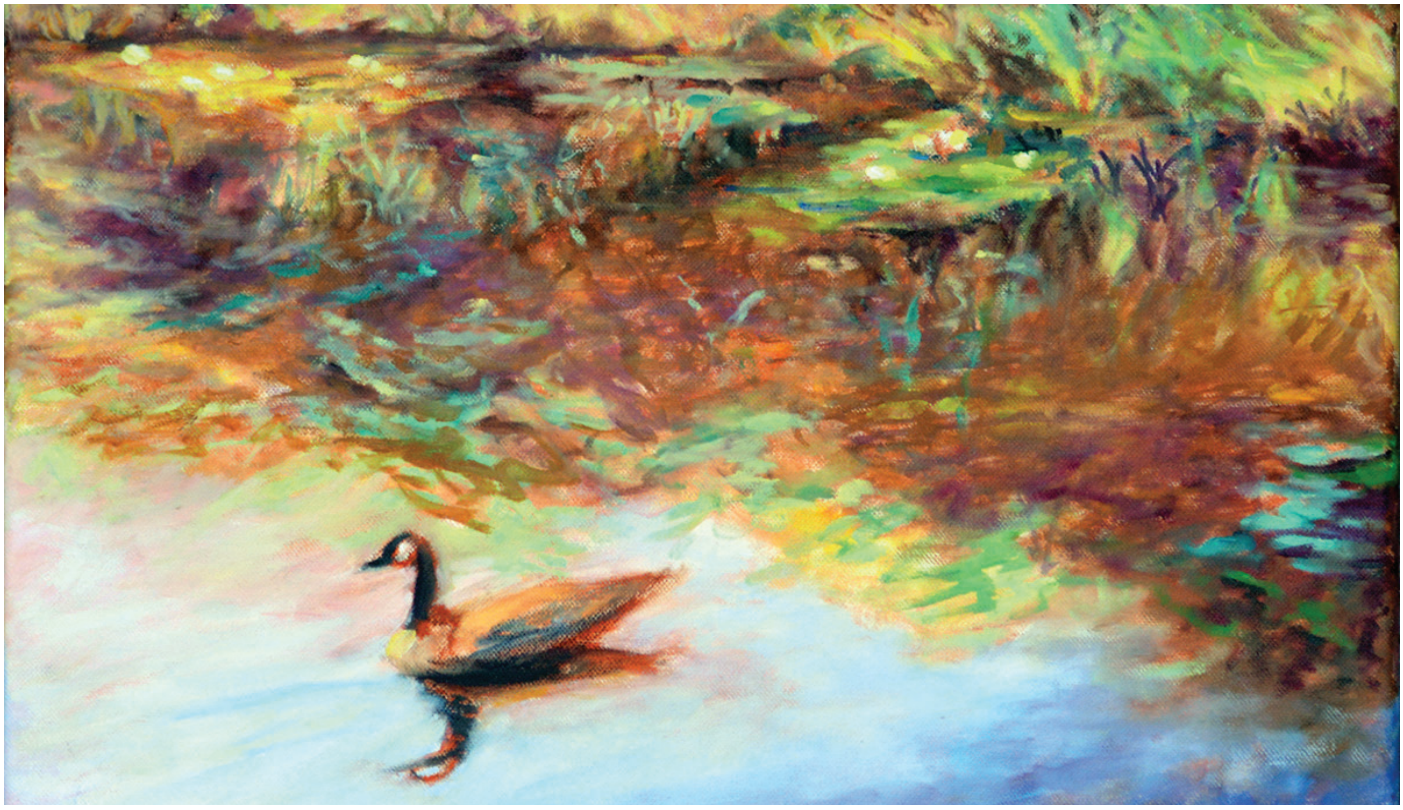
Those dining in will find the restaurant divided into three sections—a bar along one side with high tables and two sections of booths for large parties.

The website asiagourmetathol.com provides detailed information. Asia Gourmet hosts live music from time to time. The Facebook page gives listings.

Teresa's Restaurant in Ware opened in 1980, a decade after the Ferrentino family arrived from Italy with their

continued on page 46

Quabbin Region Farm
oil on canvas by Gillian Haven



Goose in Pond in Pelham
oil on canvas by Gillian Haven

Autumn begins at Leverett Pond.
photo © by Frederick Steinway

Ye Old New England Rusty Truck
watercolor on paper by Brian Fournier

nothing is better than bringing a thoughtful gift of

text and photos by Christine Noyes

What better food for thought-fulness than maple walnut cinnamon rolls?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT—fulness

During a recent conversation after the death of my aunt, my sister asked, "What single act do you remember someone doing after Dad's death that made things easier for us?"

It took only seconds for me to respond. "Food," I said, and she nodded in agreement.

Whether it's the loss of family, friend, or community member, it's customary to nourish our communal connections after the death of a loved one—a simple act that speaks volumes. To deliver a casserole, cinnamon rolls, or meat platter not only relieves the grieving party from the overwhelming task of cooking but also says "We love you. We grieve with you." and "We understand how difficult this is for you."

We've all been there. Life is full of endings.

But life is also full of beginnings. After the recent birth of my sister's first grandchild, she and her daughter had a conversation.

"What can I do to make things easier for you?" my sister asked.

"Food," her daughter answered. "I can't begin to think about cooking."

It struck me as fitting that the solution to ease emotional, physical, and psychological needs after giving birth would equate to those after experiencing a dear someone's death— the cycle of life itself.

Of course, we also use food to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. But the gesture emerges ever more poignant at the end and beginning of life.

No set rules govern what kind of fare is best for these occasions. Whether you recreate an old family recipe or deliver take-out from a well-loved local restaurant, the message is clear: "We are here for you."

Consider sharing precious moments of laughter and tears with a favorite from my recipe box of love.

food to express caring to family and friends

MAPLE WALNUT CINNAMON ROLLS

makes 2 dozen—3 round cake pans needed

YEAST INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 tablespoons quick rise yeast
1/2 tablespoon sugar
1/2 cup warm water (think baby bath)

DOUGH INGREDIENTS

4 3/4 cups flour
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups warm water
1/4 cup vegetable oil

FILLING INGREDIENTS

1 stick (4 ounces) cold butter, 1/4-inch cubes
2 1/2 cups light brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar
3/4 cup chopped walnuts
1 teaspoon maple extract
1/3 cup real maple syrup plus extra for brushing dough
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

ICING INGREDIENTS

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 tablespoon butter, softened
1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
2 teaspoons maple extract
1 tablespoon heavy cream

Brush them, roll them, cut them, and place them in the pan.

INSTRUCTIONS

Yeast Mix

Add yeast and sugar to warm water, stir until sugar is dissolved, set aside.

Dough

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, and salt. Add yeast mixture, warm water, and vegetable oil. Combine until fully incorporated. Cover with a cloth and let rise for one hour.

While dough rises, make filling and icing.

Filling

In a medium-sized bowl, combine butter, brown sugar, sugar, walnuts, maple extract, maple syrup, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Keep cold until use.

Icing

Combine cream cheese, butter, confectioners' sugar, maple extract, and cream. Mix until smooth.

Keep cool until use.

After dough has risen, knead it to knock it down. Split dough into two equal portions. On a floured surface, roll one portion of the dough into a rectangle shape approximately 1/4-inch thick. Dough should be approximately 20 inches by 16 inches. If desired, brush with a thin amount of real maple syrup.

Crumble the filling and, keeping it an inch away from the edges, evenly distribute half onto the dough. Along the long side, roll the dough into a log. Cut slices each 1 1/2-inch wide. Arrange seven slices, cut side down, around the edges of a greased cake pan with one slice in the middle. Leave space between them. Cover and allow to rise again for one hour.

Repeat the process with the second half of ingredients.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Remove and allow to cool.

Spread icing over each bun and sprinkle with additional chopped walnuts.

Accomplished chef Christine Noyes has led life as a sales representative, entrepreneur, writer and illustrator of the Bradley Whitman series of mysteries and of the romance novel, *Winter Meets Summer*. Rumor has it that she's at work on a screenplay.

Teresa's restaurant cooks Italian

continued from page 39

dream to someday own and operate their own restaurant. Located on Route 32 a short distance south of the town, it is easy to find and a short distance from Walmart and other stores.

Teresa's in Ware offers an extensive selection of Italian cuisine.

Teresa's prides itself in serving the highest quality food to customers with everything on the menu prepared fresh daily in their kitchen. Preparers use fresh tomatoes along with olive oil imported from Italy.

The large menu consists of many pasta dishes with a choice of linguini, spaghetti, ziti, or gluten-free pasta. Forno, or baked foods, along with house specials such as Teresa's Special consisting of veal and eggplant, penne vodka, fettuccini Alfredo, or zuppa de pesce—scallops, shrimp, lobster, calamari and clams, over linguini—can surely satisfy the hungry palate.

Eggplant Parmesan with penne pasta

Salads, chicken, fish, beef, and veal dishes round out the extensive menu. Sides that include meatballs, sausages, mushrooms, and vegetables can be added to other meals on the menu.

And let's not forget dessert: cannoli, cheesecake, tiramisu, and specials top off a meal at Teresa's.

Teresa's also offers pizza and grinders at lunch and for takeout. Children's portions are available for young folks with smaller appetites.

I recently dined on an Italian classic, eggplant parmesan prepared to perfection. Fresh salad and tasty dinner rolls preceded the main course. Next visit, I may choose haddock Florentine.

The restaurant offers a pleasing ambiance with two adjoining dining rooms, a bar, and a banquet hall that seats two hundred when scheduled for special occasions such as weddings, parties, showers or reunions.

The Ferrentino family takes pride in serving great food in a comfortable atmosphere. Check out their website for detailed information: teresasrestaurantware.com

Railroad enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass research technician, Chris Coyle lives in Athol. He recently launched his memoir *We Lived in the Woods* about family summers in a Maine cabin.

capturing memories

oil on wood
by Elizabeth Callahan

My daughter requested a painting of her favorite place in Cancun, Mexico, her preferred vacation spot. It holds a special memory for her and her husband. I felt the challenge of capturing the emotion of the location for someone very special.

I found none of the landscape familiar or similar to my customary New England paintings. It required closely observing

- structural differences of buildings and thatch roofs as opposed to our asphalt
- how palm trees bend to a strong wind instead of oaks or maples or even pines
- the difference in light as it reflects on and off turquoise waters. Even the color palette was quite new but also exciting.

Nothing about the subject allowed for painting "what I know" instead of "what I see." Ironically, I think that added to artistic process.

The "canvas" is a plywood panel, a surface becoming a favorite of mine. I have done "capturing memories" as my second painting in oil on wood, and I find it enjoyable.

I first covered the wood with clear gesso to allow the surface to shine through in different areas but also seal up the absorbent surface a bit.

I will need to find another subject for the next panel.

Elizabeth Callahan creates art using pastels, oil, pen and ink and watercolor. She lives in Rutland.

Autumn Sports Schedules for Athol High, Mahar Regional,

Athol High School • Boys Varsity Football

Fri Sep 26 7p.m.	Narragansett	Away
Fri Oct 3 7p.m.	Mahar	Away
Fri Oct 10 TBA	Palmer	Home
Fri Oct 17 7p.m.	Ware	Away
Fri Oct 24 6p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Home
Thu Oct 30 6 p.m.	Greenfield	Home
Fri Nov 7 TBA	TBA	Home
Fri Nov 14 TBA	TBA	TBA
Thu Nov 27 10 am	Mahar	Home

Athol High School • Boys Varsity Soccer

Tue Sep 23 4 p.m.	Pioneer Regional	Away
Fri Sep 26 7 p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Away
Tue Sep 30 4 p.m.	Hopkins Academy	Away
Thu Oct 2 4:30 p.m.	Pioneer Christian	Away
Fri Oct 3 6 p.m.	Greenfield	Home
Fri Oct 10 6 p.m.	Turners Falls	Away
Tue Oct 14 6 p.m.	Pioneer Regional	Home
Wed Oct 15 7 p.m.	Mahar	Away
Thu Oct 23 TBA	TBA	Home
Mon Oct 27 TBA	TBA	TBA
Thu Oct 30 TBA	TBA	Home

Athol High School • Girls Varsity Soccer

Mon Sep 22 6 p.m.	Greenfield	Home
Wed Sep 24 6 p.m.	Springfield Charter	Home
Fri Sep 26 4 p.m.	Holyoke	Away
Mon Sep 29 6 p.m.	St. Mary's Westfield	Home
Thu Oct 2 6 p.m.	Mahar	Home
Mon Oct 6 7 p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Away
Thu Oct 9 6 p.m.	Smith Academy	Home
Mon Oct 13 4 p.m.	Pathfinder	Away
Thu Oct 16 6 p.m.	Pioneer Regional	Away
Thu Oct 23 TBA	TBA	TBA
Mon Oct 27 TBA	TBA	Home
Thu Oct 30 TBA	TBA	TBA

Mahar Regional School • Boys Varsity Football

Fri Sep 26 7 p.m.	Quaboag	Away
Fri Oct 3 7 p.m.	Athol	Home
Fri Oct 10 7 p.m.	Ware	Away
Fri Oct 17 7 p.m.	Greenfield	Home
Thu Oct 23 6 p.m.	Palmer	Legion Field
Fri Oct 31 7 p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Home
Fri Nov 7 TBA	TBA	Home
Fri Nov 14 TBA	TBA	Home
Thu Nov 27 10 am	Athol	Away

Mahar Regional School • Boys Varsity Soccer

Tue Sep 23 4 p.m.	Springfield Charter	Away
Thu Sep 25 6:30 p.m.	Westfield Tech	Home
Fri Sep 26 4:30	Wahconah	Home
Wed Oct 1 4 p.m.	St. Mary's Westfield	Away
Mon Oct 6 6:30 p.m.	Gardner	Away
Tue Oct 7 4:30 p.m.	Monson	Home
Friday Oct 10 4 p.m.	Smith Academy	Away
Wed Oct 15 7 p.m.	Athol	Home
Wed Oct 17 4 p.m.	Granby	Away
Thu Oct 23 TBA	TBA	Home
Mon Oct 27 TBA	TBA	Home
Thu Oct 30 TBA	TBA	Home

Mahar Regional School • Girls Varsity Soccer

Tue Sep 23 5 p.m.	Athol	Away
Thu Sep 25 4 p.m.	Ware	Home
Mon Sep 29 4 p.m.	Smith Academy	Home
Thu Oct 2 6 p.m.	Athol	Away
Fri Oct 3 3:30 p.m.	Narragansett	Away
Mon Oct 6 4 p.m.	St. Mary's Westfield	Home
Tue Oct 7 7 p.m.	Pathfinder	Home
Thu Oct 9 4 p.m.	Pioneer	Home
Thu Oct 16 7 p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Away
Thu Oct 23 TBA	TBA	Home
Thu Oct 27 TBA	TBA	Home
Thu Oct 30 TBA	TBA	Home

Mahar Regional School • Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Tue Sep 23 4 p.m.	Smith Academy	Away
Fri Sep 26 7 p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Home
Wed Oct 1 4 p.m.	Palmer	Away
Fri Oct 3 4 p.m.	Mohawk	Away
Mon Oct 6 4 p.m.	West Springfield	Home
Wed Oct 8 4 p.m.	Smith Academy	Home
Thu Oct 9 6 p.m.	Turners Falls	Away
Tue Oct 14 3:30 p.m.	Hampshire Regional	Away
Mon Oct 20 4 p.m.	Franklin County Tech	Away
Thu Oct 23 TBA	TBA	Home
Sat Oct 25 TBA	TBA	Home

Quabbin Regional School • Boys Varsity Football

Sat Sep 27 6:30 p.m.	Leicester	Away
Fri Oct 3 7 p.m.	West Boylston	Away
Fri Oct 10 6 p.m.	Oxford	Home
Sat Oct 18 7 p.m.	Narragansett	Away
Fri Oct 24 6 p.m.	Tyngsborough	Home
Thu Oct 30 6 p.m.	Groton-Dunstable	Home
Fri Nov 7 6 p.m.	TBA	Home
Fri Nov 14 6 p.m.	TBA	Home
Wed Nov 26 6 p.m.	Gardner	Home

Quabbin Regional School • Boys Varsity Soccer

Thu Sep 25 4 p.m.	Clinton	Away
Tue Sep 30 4 p.m.	Ayer Shirley	Away
Thu Oct 2 4 p.m.	Tahanto Regional	Home
Tue Oct 7 3:30 p.m.	West Boylston	Away
Thu Oct 9 4 p.m.	South High	Home
Mon Oct 13 4 p.m.	Bay Path	Away
Thu Oct 16 7 p.m.	Gardner	Away
Tue Oct 21 3:45 p.m.	Clinton	Home
Thu Oct 23 6 p.m.	Ayer Shirley	Home
Tue Oct 28 4 p.m.	Montachusett	Away

Quabbin Regional School • Girls Varsity Soccer

Tue Sep 23 4 p.m.	North Middlesex	Home
Thu Sep 25 3:45 p.m.	Clinton	Home
Tue Sep 30 3:45 p.m.	Ayer Shirley	Home
Thu Oct 2 6:30 p.m.	Fitchburg	Crocker Field
Tue Oct 7 3:30 p.m.	West Boylston	Home
Tue Oct 14 3:30 p.m.	Narragansett	Home
Thu Oct 16 5 p.m.	Gardner	Away
Tue Oct 21 6 p.m.	Clinton	Away
Thu Oct 23 4 p.m.	Ayer Shirley	Away
Tue Oct 28 6 p.m.	Montachusett	Home
Thu Oct 30 6 p.m.	Leominster	Leominster Doyle Field

Quabbin Regional, Tantasqua Regional, Wachusett Regional

Quabbin Regional School • Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Mon Sep 22 4 p.m.	Groton-Dunstable	Away
Thu Sep 25 4 p.m.	Sutton	Home
Mon Sep 29 4 p.m.	North Middlesex	Home
Wed Oct 1 4 p.m.	Frontier	Home
Fri Oct 3 3:30 p.m.	Notre Dame	Away
Mon Oct 6 4 p.m.	Westborough	Home
Wed Oct 8 7 p.m.	Oakmont	Away
Fri Oct 10 3:30 p.m.	Maynard	Away
Tue Oct 14 3:30 p.m.	Narragansett	Away
Mon Oct 20 3:45 p.m.	Clinton	Home
Wed Oct 22 6 p.m.	Leominster	Home
Frei Oct 24 4 p.m.	Marlborough	Home

Tantasqua Regional School • Boys Varsity Football

Fri Sep 26 7 p.m.	Grafton	Home
Fri Oct 3 6p.m.	Nashoba	Away
Fri Oct 10 7 p.m.	Northbridge	Home
Fri Oct 17 6 p.m.	South High	Away
Fri Oct 24 7 p.m.	Auburn	Home
Fri Oct 31 6 p.m.	Doherty	Away
Thu Nov 27 10 am	Shepherd Hill	Home

Tantasqua Regional School • Boys Varsity Soccer

Mon Sep 22 6:30 p.m.	South High	Away
Wed Sep 24 3:30 p.m.	Doherty	Worcester-Foley Stadium
Mon Sep 29 3:30 p.m.	Sutton	Away
Wed Oct 1 4 p.m.	Blackstone	Away
Fri Oct 3 6 p.m.	South High	Home
Mon Oct 6 4 p.m.	Nashoba	Home
Fri Oct 10 3:30 p.m.	Auburn	Away
Wed Oct 15 4 p.m.	Nipmuc	Home
Fri Oct 17 3:30 p.m.	Grafton	Away
Wed Oct 22 4 p.m.	North High	Home
Fri Oct 24 4 p.m.	Marlborough	Whitcomb Middle School
Tue Oct 28 6 p.m.	Northbridge	Home

Tantasqua Regional School • Girls Varsity Soccer

Tue Sep 23 4 p.m.	Marlborough	Home
Fri Sep 26 3:30 p.m.	Sutton	Away
Mon Sep 29 4 p.m.	Nipmuc	Home
Wed Oct 1 3:30 p.m.	Sutton	Home
Fri Oct 3 4 p.m.	Douglas	Home
Mon Oct 6 6 p.m.	Notre Dame	Home
Wed Oct 8 6 p.m.	Belchertown	Away
Wed Oct 15 7 p.m.	Quaboag	Away
Sat Oct 18 11 am	Auburn	Away
Mon Oct 20 3:30 p.m.	Shepherd Hill	Home
Wed Oct 22 6:30 p.m.	South High	Away
Mon Oct 27 4 p.m.	Clinton	Home
Wed Oct 29 4 p.m.	Blackstone	Home

Tantasqua Regional School • Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Tue Sep 23 4 p.m.	St. Bernard's	Away
Thu Sep 25 4 p.m.	St. Paul Diocesan	Home
Tue Sep 30 4 p.m.	Blackstone	Home
Thu Oct 2 4 p.m.	Montachusett	Fitchburg/Game On Field 6
Tue Oct 7 6 p.m.	Northbridge	Home
Thu Oct 9 4 p.m.	St. Bernard's	Home
Tue Oct 14 3:30 p.m.	St. Paul Diocesan	Away
Wed Oct 15 4 p.m.	Shepherd Hill	Away
Fri Oct 17 5 p.m.	Auburn	Away
Mon Oct 20 4 p.m.	Grafton	Away
Tue Oct 21 6 p.m.	Leicester	Home
Fri Oct 24 3:30 p.m.	Notre Dame	Away

Wachusett Regional High School • Boys Varsity Football

Fri Sep 26 6:30 p.m.	Minnechaug	Away
Fri Oct 3 7 p.m.	Leominster	Home
Fri Oct 10 7 p.m.	Milton	Home
Fri Oct 17 6:30 p.m.	Westborough	Away
Fri Oct 24 7 p.m.	Grafton	Home
Fri Oct 31 7 p.m.	Algonquin	Home
Thu Nov 27 10 am	Shrewsbury	Home

Wachusett Regional High School • Boys Varsity Soccer

Thu Sep 25 6 p.m.	Grafton	Home
Tue Sep 30 6 p.m.	Shrewsbury	Away
Thu Oct 2 6 p.m.	Leominster	Leominster Doyle Field
Sat Oct 4 11 am	Westford Academy	Home
Tue Oct 7 6 p.m.	Algonquin	Home
Thu Oct 9 6 p.m.	Westborough	Home
Sat Oct 11 10:30 am	Longmeadow	Away
Tues Oct 14 4:30 p.m.	Grafton	Away
Thu Oct 16 6 p.m.	Marlborough	Home
Mon Oct 20 3:30 p.m.	South High	Home
Thu Oct 23 3:30 p.m.	Doherty	Worcester-Foley Stadium
Tue Oct 28 4 p.m.	Nashoba	Away

Wachusett Regional High School • Girls Varsity Soccer

Thu Sep 25 4:30 p.m.	Grafton	Away
Tue Sep 30 6 p.m.	Shrewsbury	Home
Thu Oct 2 6 p.m.	Nashoba	Home
Tue Oct 7 6 p.m.	Algonquin	Away
Thu Oct 9 4 p.m.	Westborough	Away
Sat Oct 11 12 p.m.	Haverhill	Away
Tue Oct 14 6 p.m.	Grafton	Home
Sat Oct 18 11 am	Lincoln-Sudbury	Away
Sat Oct 25 10 am	Franklin	Away
Mon Oct 27 6 p.m.	Littleton	Home

Wachusett Regional High School • Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Fri Sep 26 5 p.m.	East Longmeadow	Home
Mon Sep 29 6:30 p.m.	Algonquin	Home
Wed Oct 1 5:30 p.m.	Nashoba	Away
Tue Oct 7 3:45 p.m.	King Philip	Away
Wed Oct 8 6:15 p.m.	Shrewsbury	Away
Fri Oct 10 6:30 p.m.	Central Catholic HS	Away
Mon Oct 13 11 am	Longmeadow	Home
Wed Oct 15 6:30 p.m.	Leominster	Home
Fri Oct 17 4:30 p.m.	Bishop Feehan HS	Away
Mon Oct 20 6:30 p.m.	Minnechaug	Away
Wed Oct 22 6:30 p.m.	Chelmsford	Home

Information compiled by Chris Coyle.

Black Bear Crossing the Road

a poem by Wally Swist

It startled us by stopping
on the gravel beside the road,
sunlight bristling on its coat,
understanding we must have
startled it by it having startled us.

It lingered a full moment,
giving us the opportunity to
assess
that despite the luster of its fur,
it was underweight, most likely
due to the drought

browning the undergrowth,
but the cub's cautious hesitation
was part of its innate grace,
intuiting the time
that it was apt to plunge forward
again, all four paws in rhythm
of a quick stride, a gait
that it appeared to float upon,
effortless, but determined,
perhaps making up for lost time,

knowingly entering the woods
on the other side of the road,
perhaps picking up the scent
of its mother or its brethren,
passing desiccated berries

it once gorged on before the rains
stopped falling, loping past
dried hobblebush and chokecherry,
a dark streak in the dappled
sunlight, crunching over leaf litter,
snapping fallen branches in pursuit
of finding the way to one den
or another, parched, as we became,
in observing it taking flight, as it had
observed us in our catching sight of it.

Wally Swist recently launched *Aperture,* published by Kelsay Books. His *Hug Po and the Dimensions of Love*, published by Southern Illinois University Press, was co-winner of the 2011 Crab Orchard Open Poetry Competition. His *A Bird Who Seems to Know Me* won the 2018 Ex Ophidia Poetry Prize. He lives in South Hadley.

Bear cubs climb a tree near a New Salem dirt road.

photo by Dale Monette from his book *I See You*

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation owns approximately twenty-three thousand acres of the watershed of Ware River, which provides water for Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs. The watershed includes portions of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, Templeton, and Westminster.

photo by John Burk

love of nature inspires author's many books

continued from page 33

wonderful and supportive writer's group, Writers from the Heart, with extra time and support from local poet and author Sharon Harmon, whom I am thankful for. "

With so many books in her collection of writing, she is always working on more. "*Stories from Behind the Scenes*, is a compilation of spiritual experiences from my life, having been clairvoyant since birth," Green said.

"Also, I'm working on another children's book, *Gentle as a Deer*. I have two lectures available to view at the Warwick Library YouTube site."

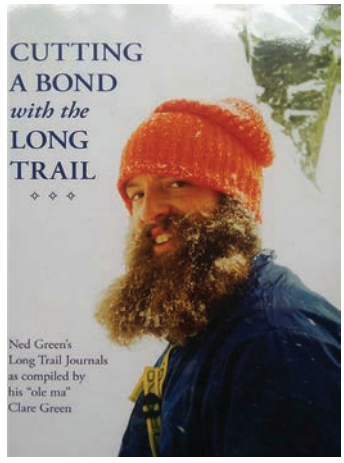
Clare writes the "Nature Nuances" column regularly for *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

"Folks are welcome to visit my fairy cottage and woodland labyrinth in Warwick."

Whisper Me Flowers—Meditations with the Flowers, is available online and at small stores in the area.

claregreenbooks.com or email dclara_2000@yahoo.com

Author Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.



Clare Green's previous books include, for children, *Hearts & Hands on Herbs* and *The Little Pine Tree* as well as *Cutting a Bond with the Long Trail,* Ned Green's compiled journals.

Masonic lodges spread around Quabbin landscape

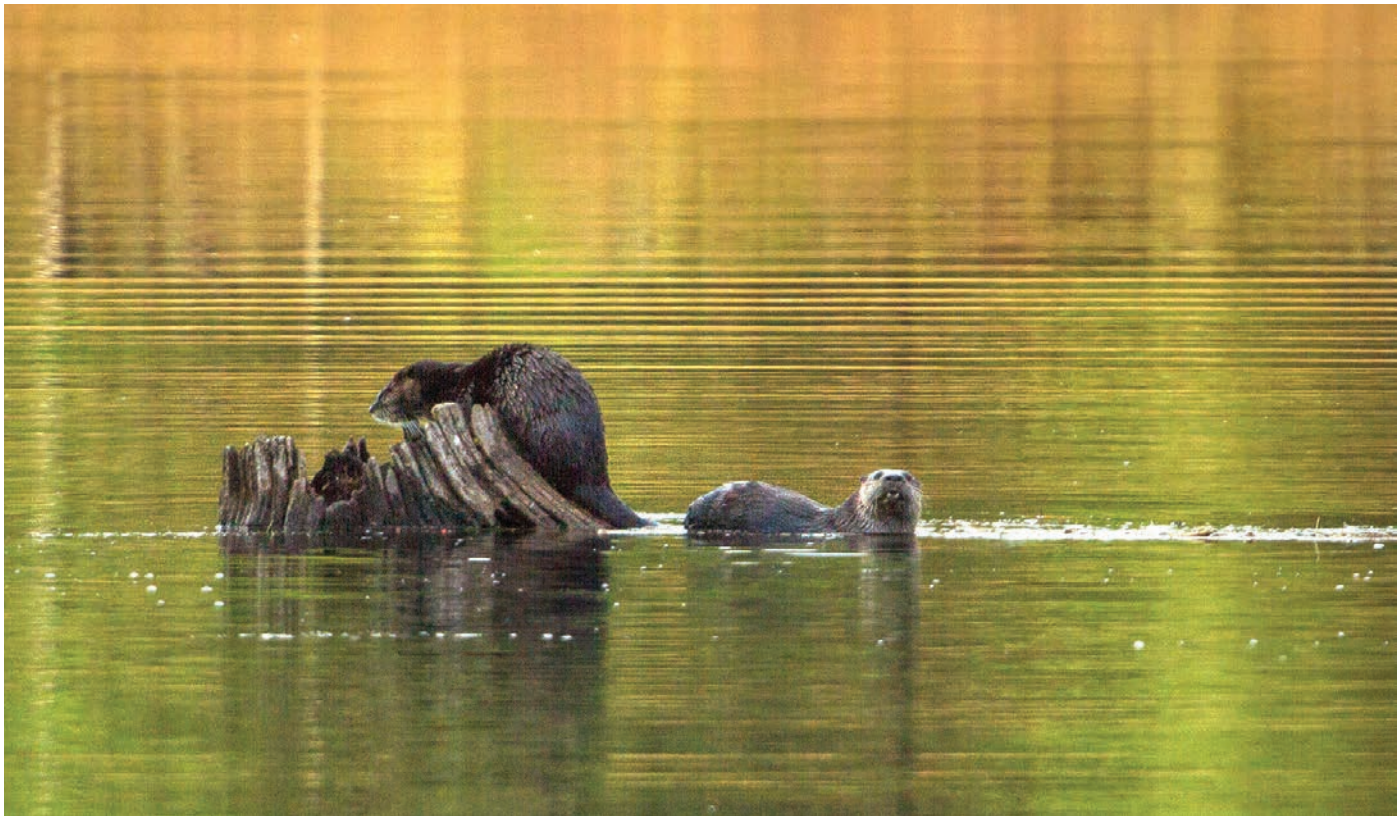
continued from page 24

Greenwich Royal Arch Masons often came from the very active lodge in neighboring Hardwick, which conferred the three lower degrees. Other Masonic lodges in Northfield, Athol, New Salem, Belchertown, Ware, Orange, Enfield, and Petersham spread around the Quabbin landscape and prospered until the entire brotherhood suffered a severe reverse in a national scandal after 1826.

A Greater Noise: Liberal Religion in Early Western Massachusetts from the Revolution to the Unitarian Controversy constitutes the first study to examine the varieties of liberal religion in early western Massachusetts and set them within their religious and social contexts.The book is available at Leveller's Press or from online vendors.

Carl Hammer holds a bachelor of arts degree from Amherst College and a doctorate from the University of Toronto. He is a regular contributor on Quabbin history to *Uniquely Quabbin*.

Resplendent autumn foliage surrounds Barre's Harding Allen estate, built in the 1920s.
photo by Mitchell R. Grosky



Two otters scope out a project in at the north end of Quabbin Reservoir..
photo by Rick Flematti

NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green

Harvest • Collect • Reap
Homemade gifts kindle bright love!
Warm spiced cookies, yum!

As fall beckons us to dress in warmer layers, our thoughts may turn toward the approaching holidays. We may shop for gifts and crafts at a local shop such as, Stage on Main in Orange or Petersham Country Store or Workshop 13 in Ware or Swift River Crafts in Belchertown to find the perfect gift or card to acknowledge a loved one.

Creating and sharing gifts offer a way of caring and appreciating those in your circle of life. Make a card and write a sentiment, while including a certificate to a local store or restaurant in the Quabbin Region. Bake.

Here is a delicious recipe for Spiced Molasses Cookies gifted to me more than twenty years ago. Folks love to eat the cookies warm, but watch out. They disappear quickly! Or they can be packaged to mail for the holidays. They have become a favorite.

Store for up to six months. I like to use three glass quart jars to store the mix. Label the three jars. It's so handy to have it already prepped.

SPICED MOLASSES COOKIES

yields 3 dozen cookies

INGREDIENTS

6 cups flour
3 cups sugar
1 tablespoon baking soda
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 tablespoon ground ginger
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 1/2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground allspice
If gluten intolerant, use a blend of other flours, such as rice flour and almond flour.
3/4 cups softened butter
1 egg
1/4 cup molasses
more sugar to taste
You can mix dry ingredients and place in three separate quart jars.
Label each of the jars Spiced Molasses Cookie Mix.

INSTRUCTIONS

When ready to bake cookies, cream butter, egg, and molasses. Mix well.
Add 1 quart dry ingredients/cookie mix.
Beat until smooth.Roll into 1-inch balls. Roll balls in sugar.
Bake at 375 for 9 to 11 minutes.
Yields 3 dozen cookies.

Enjoy with your favorite beverage!

Happy baking and preparing for the change of seasons. A spicy aroma—a taste of heaven—fills the home as the cookies bake.

Molasses has health benefits, and there's also the famed and fascinating disastrous Boston Molasses Flood which occurred on January 15, 1919.

Clare Green of Warwick, educator and amateur naturalist, welcomes folks of all ages to visit the Woodland Labyrinth and Fairy Cottage. claregreenbooks.com

Rutland's past includes industry, a hospital treating TB, and

continued from page 29

gristmills, sawmills, shingle mills, and satinet fabric mills as well as basket shops and textile factories from the 1870s to 1920s. Other institutions there included a school, general store, and railroad station.

At North Rutland, Ware River East Branch provided power for a complex of mills, including shoddy mills to recycle woolen rags and satinet factories that opened during the 1890s. Businesses of the Rutland neighborhood of New Boston included a fulling mill, a clothier, a mill forging trip hammers for blacksmiths, a wagon maker, and a shop that made lathes for chairmakers.

Completed in 1887, Central Massachusetts Railroad included depots at Rutland center, West Rutland, and Muschopaug. The railroad provided access to markets for farmers and prompted growth of tourism in Rutland. Washouts caused by the 1938 New England Hurricane permanently ended rail service.

Two large hotels opened during the 1880s in the center of Rutland. Situated at the present site of Community Hall, Muschopague House provided accommodations for more than a hundred guests from 1883 to 1929.

Clean air and high elevations prompted the establishment of numerous health care institutions in Rutland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1898, the nation's first state-owned sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis established on Muschopauge Hill. Veteran's Administration Hospital, subsequently Rutland Heights State Hospital, opened on an eighty-acre campus in 1923.

Comprised of a 150-acre working farm, a hospital for patients with tuberculosis, and staff residences and a state prison camp operated near West Rutland from 1903 to 1934. The farm produced milk, potatoes, and poultry. Ruins and old foundations stand as evidence of use of the site now within DCR water supply land.

The state took over the watershed of Ware River—including West Rutland, North Rutland, and the

a state prison

prison camp—during the 1920s and 1930s. Loss of industries, farms, and railroads prompted transition of Rutland to a residential community after the 1940s.

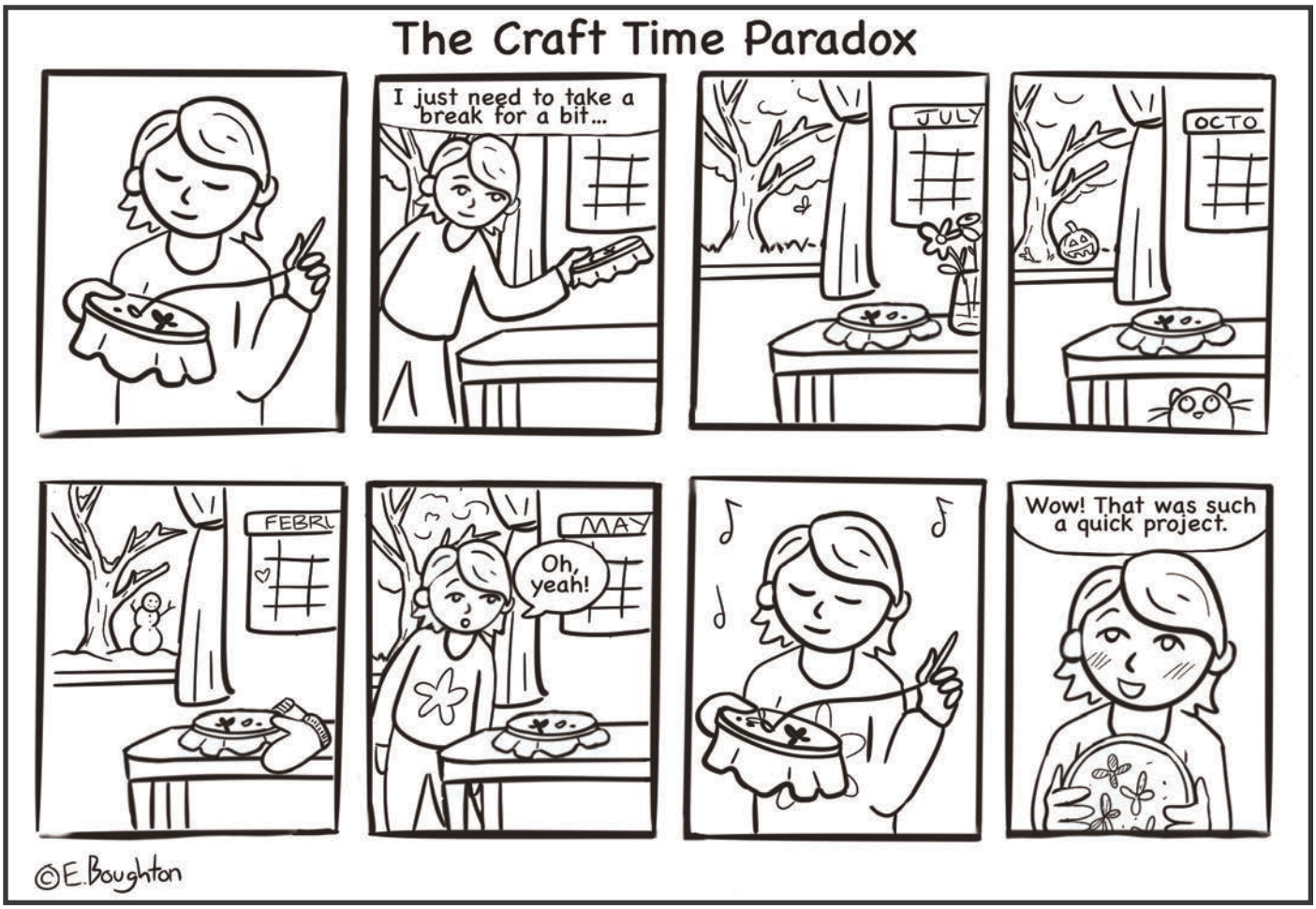
Rutland Historical Society at Wood House at 232 Main Street houses collections of artwork, artifacts, furniture, and other memorabilia.

Find information at rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org.

For assistance with locating photos, thanks to Elizabeth Callahan and Tomeca Murphy, executive assistant, Office of Rutland Town Administrator and Select Board.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

Autumn splendor brings travelers to Rutland's hostelries.
photo by John Burk



though potentially toxic, pokeweed provides juice for dye or ink

continued from page 13

should use discarded pots or bowls that will not be used in food preparation.

Dye making requires a long process depending on how much fabric to dye.

Pokeweed, is it friend or foe? Perhaps it depends on who you are and what you like. Certainly, there is a role for pokeweed plants in their natural habitat. They provide food for other organisms and add variety to landscapes. If deciding to engage with pokeweed, however, proceed with caution due to its toxic capability. As provider of juice for dye or ink, pokeweed offers a source of red staining for artistic projects.

There is nothing quite like a pokeweed plant!

Pokeweed Ink Recipe

Use two cups of berries and just a teaspoon of vinegar or isopropyl alcohol.

Crush the berries in a bowl not used for food.

Strain the berries and juice through a fine strainer or a pantyhose-like fabric. Use a funnel to direct the juice into a storage bottle that has a cap.

Mix the vinegar or isopropyl alcohol into the ink to retard mold, and the ink is ready to use.

Cap the ink container so the ink will not dry out and store in a dark place between uses.

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

prolific orchards boast many varieties of apples

continued from page 9

An apple tree glows with autumn fruit, left. A Red Apple Farm McIntosh tree dates to 1912, the year of the orchard's founding.

Declines in global markets and competition from other regions caused orchards to diversify and sell commodities on site. To attract customers, many farms offer enticements such as apple picking, country stores, and festivals.

Orchards entail careful stewardship throughout the year to ensure consistent production of healthy fruit. "Managing an orchard requires an ecosystem approach for sustainable long-term growth," said Al Rose, owner of Red Apple Farm in Phillipston.

In winter and early spring, growers prune dormant trees to promote new growth, maintain structure, and remove damaged wood. Workers of Red Apple Farm tend roughly five thousand trees annually, according to Rose.

For replication of apple varieties, growers and nurseries graft cuttings of desired cultivars to the bark of saplings, sometimes called rootstock. Trees grown naturally from seeds differ genetically from parent trees.

A popular variety of the nineteenth century, Hubbardston Nonesuch apples originated in Hubbardston during the early 1800s. With a medley of sweet flavors ideal for fresh eating, cooking, and production of cider, it attained high demand from markets in Boston and the Northeast.

Other notable varieties developed in Massachusetts include Roxbury Russett, cited as America's first apple cultivar, and Baldwin, the nation's most widely produced apple from the mid nineteenth century to the early 1900s.

The first phase of the growing season occurs in early May when blossoms unfurl. By transferring pollen between flowers, bees fertilize apple seeds during that crucial time. Many apple producers collaborate with beekeepers who place hives of honeybees in orchards. Bees reduce activity during rainy or overcast weather, resulting in smaller crops of fruit in years such as 2025.

To optimize production of large fruit and reduce stress on branches, trees drop surplus immature apples in June. When necessary, growers expedite the process by hand or with chemicals.

For control of pests and diseases, most orchards implement sustainable practices called integrated pest management. With scientific guidance, growers use light sprays and biological controls that minimally impact the environment. "The healthier apple tree leaves are to resist damage by insects, fungi, and pests, the better," said Rose. "Through photosynthesis they function as little solar panels, providing energy to the tree."

Harvest season begins in late July or early August, peaks in October, and continues through November. Popular contemporary varieties such as McIntosh, Empire, Cortland, and McCoun ripen in September.

Apple producers cope with continual threats of frosts, hailstorms, and other destructive weather events. A deep freeze in 1934 wiped out most Baldwin apples in the Northeast. The 1938 New England Hurricane devastated orchards throughout the region. Damage from the hurricane put Brookfield Orchards in debt for twenty-five years. In 2023, two frosts destroyed crops of fruit in central and western Massachusetts.

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

Horses
watercolor on paper by Donna Eaton

riders get together for fiftieth anniversary of Crimson Acres

continued from page 26

incorporated programs including Boy Scout riding camps, Giddy Up Gang, Farm Animal Exploration, Hop to It, Horsing Around, and Adult Horsing Around as well as Black Stallion Literacy in local schools.

Crimson Acres also supports drill teams, vaulting, farm days, after-school, and civic programs. The drill teams gained significant popularity and compete at a national level.

The Whitmores sponsor an annual Christmas pageant, a Christian-themed performance written and choreographed by the owners and their children and performed on horseback by riders at the farm. The introduction of a blind adult rider served as catalyst for eventual establishment of therapeutic riding with the non-profit organization Dare to Dream, founded in 1996.

In 2010, riders from Crimson Acres made history by becoming the first New England equestrian school riding in western discipline to compete in the Interscholastic Equine Association both regionally and nationally.

Sandy has taught hundreds of riders ranging in age from three to ninety. Alongside their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Butch and Sandy also value their large farm family. Many third-generation riders participate at Crimson Acres, and three years ago, a fourth-generation rider began his lessons.

Fifty years ago, Crimson Acres represented a dream rooted in faith, nurtured by family, and brought to life through a commitment. The dream stands strong, having touched thousands of lives through the simple, yet powerful, connection between people and horses.

From the first Appaloosa to the latest generation of young riders, from quiet trail rides to national competitions, from summer camps to therapeutic breakthroughs—Crimson Acres has never stopped growing, evolving, and giving.

As they celebrate their fifty-year journey, the Whitmores look to the future with the same spirit that started it all: love for land, passion for animals, dedication to community, and faith in something greater than themselves. Because at Crimson Acres, the work continues, the dream lives on, and it's still—*all right here.*

Find more information at Crimsonacres.org

Dorothy A. Frye of Orange serves as museum administrator of Swift River Valley Historical Society.

before E-ZPass, turnpikes flourished throughout the region

continued from page 17

Massachusetts Turnpike in Athol into Petersham through Dana and onto Greenwich Village. There, it crossed the Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike. It met the Belchertown and Greenwich Turnpike at Greenwich South Parish. From there, it continued south to a connection with a Connecticut turnpike in Stafford, forty-one miles from Athol.

Incorporated in 1822, Barre Turnpike, the last state turnpike of the era, began at the Barre meetinghouse and ran east a scant eleven miles through Hubbardston. It terminated at Goodnow's Inn in Princeton, present-day location of Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary.

On September 3, 1831, Barre Turnpike proprietors notified the Worcester County commissioners that they had voted to abandon the road. It is unclear why Barre Turnpike was constructed so late in the turnpike era. By 1825, few publicly funded county roads were being built, a signal that the end of privately financed highways neared. In 2025, Route 62 runs along some of former Barre Turnpike while other parts of the former toll road sleep quietly in the woods of central Massachusetts.

Most Massachusetts turnpike corporations had stopped collecting tolls or dissolved by 1850. Some former turnpikes remain today as public thoroughfares and even numbered highways in places, whereas others are long since abandoned. A few provide quiet hiking trails. When traveling former turnpikes years after the last toll, one cannot help but remember the lives of people traveling back then.

Railroad enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass research technician, Chris Coyle lives in Athol. He recently launched his memoir *We Lived in the Woods* about family summers in a Maine cabin.

late 18th- and early 19th-century turnpikes
of the region included
Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike, • Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike
Belchertown and Greenwich Turnpike
Petersham and Monson Turnpike • Barre Turnpike

Kent A. Hager, former Athol police officer knowledgeable about roads, provided assistance with turnpike information.

The Belchertown-Greenwich turnpike remains as a woodland road.

The Athol History Trail commemorates the old toll gate near the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets.

The late graphic artist Mary Pat Spaulding of Athol created a pen-and-ink rendition of the same toll gate.

museums, historical societies (never mind

continued from page 4

Athol
Historical Society

Barre
Historical Society

Belchertown
Historical Society

you see? Those questions gave an entrée into a painting that wasn't about form, perspective, and technique.

Many European museums have become so crowded that it is hard to gain entry. However, one needn't go far to have a first-class museum experience. The New Salem Museum and Academy of Fine Art, 37 South Main Street, New Salem, is one such place. It specializes in contemporary realist art in a beautiful building. Visitors can top off time there with cider, doughnuts, and a stunning view of the Quabbin Reservoir at New Salem Orchards, Preserves, and Heritage Cider at 67 South Main Street, just up the road.

Then, of course, the region hosts many local historical museums. Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem offers a view of the towns lost to flooding to create Quabbin Reservoir. It has an operating model of the old railroad, the Rabbit Run.

Towns also maintain historical societies to preserve their past. In the *Uniquely Quabbin* readership area, Athol, Barre, Belchertown, Erving, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Leverett, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Rutland, Shutesbury, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield (Quaboag) have historical societies. Not all open in the cold winter months but welcome visitors in other seasons. Many area libraries devote sections to history of a town.

Sometimes, I think my basement is a museum! Lining shelves are memorabilia from my children's high school years as well as essays written and even notebooks from when I was in college. Stacked in a box from our old piano bench, I find sheet music dating back to the mid and early twentieth century! Some songs originated in World War I and II eras.

My family has even kept a silk wedding dress from the mid nineteenth century and what looks like a pilgrim-style coat that may be even older. I have yet more boxes to go through. Who knows what is in there?

Erving
Historical Society

Hardwick
Historical Society

Hubbardston
Historical Society

Leverett
Historical Society

New Braintree
Historical Society

North Brookfield
Historical Society

Oakham
Historical Society

your basement) preserve the past!!!

I love going to museums, and now I am becoming a museum! My friends and I laugh about typewriters and carbon paper, Rolodex files for contact information, and having to wear skirts to public school.

I guess we are all some human form of a museum. One dictionary definition of the word reads

> a building where a large number of interesting and valuable objects, such as works of art or historical items, are kept, studied, and displayed to the public.

I think we can apply that to our everyday experiences, our lives, and our sharing. We have parts of ourselves yet to discover and parts that comprise valuable memories. We share them with others through conversation and time together.

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

Orange
Historical Society

Quaboag
Historical Society

Swift River Valley
Historical Society

Pelham
Historical Society

Royalston
Historical Society

Templeton
Historical Society

Petersham
Historical Society

Rutland
Historical Society

Ware
Historical Society

Phillipston
Historical Society

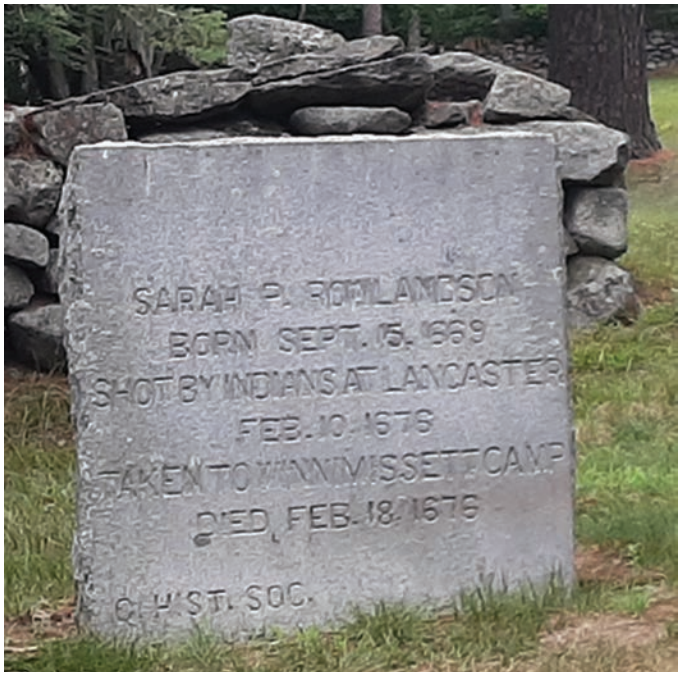
Shutesbury
Historical Society

Warwick
Historical Society

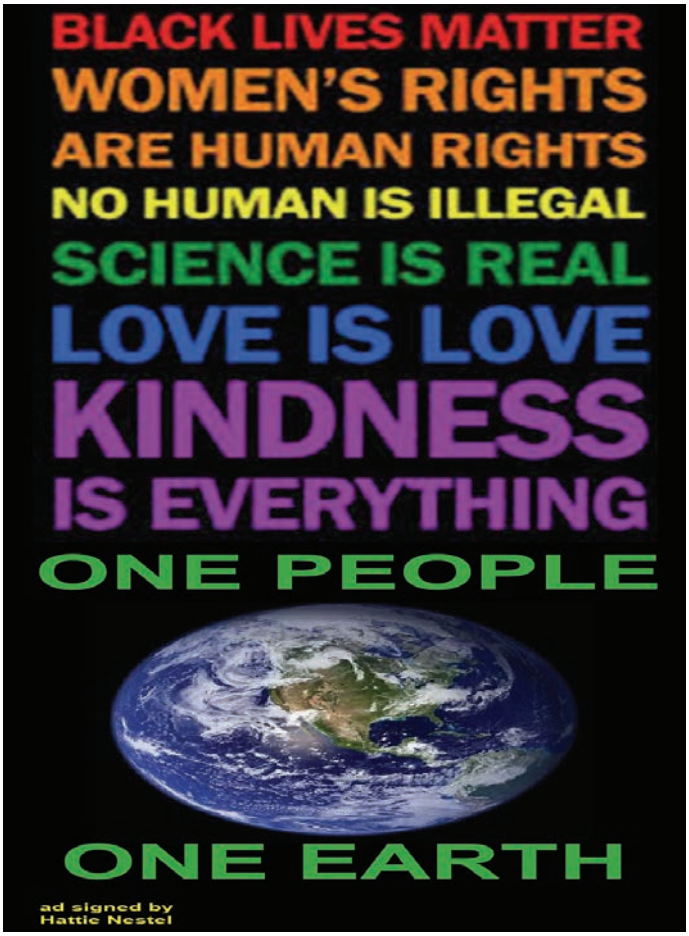
Wendell Library
Historical Society

maps show less hilly topography in extreme south of Quabbin region

continued from page 21



New Braintree Historical Society maintains a commemorative marker observing the 1676 death of Sarah Rowlandson, daughter of Mary Rowlandson during King Philip's War.



The extreme southern end of the Quabbin Region, site of the Brookfield towns, offered the one exception in the Quabbin Region to the topographical obstacle presented by hills. Of a comparatively more gentle nature than the rest of the Quabbin region, the Brookfield terrain accommodated a Native American trail pressed into service by colonial settlers traveling overland from the east. Mapmakers and travelers refer to the route as the Old Bay Path or sometimes simply as the Bay Path.

Unfortunately, a distinctly different trail with a similar name, the Old Connecticut Path followed a similar route in close proximity to the Bay Path, occasionally leading to confusion.

Each has its own name. Sometimes, people refer to Old Bay Path as Old Connecticut Path and vice-versa. During the colonial era, only the Old Bay Path entered what we now know as the Quabbin Region. Old Connecticut Path passed to the south of the Quabbin Region.

The Old Bay Path entered the Quabbin Region from the east into the present-day town of New Braintree at the site of a Native American village then known as Winimusset, sometimes called Wenimesset or Menimesit. During King Philip's War, Native American captors of Mary Rowlandson entered the Quabbin region along the trail on February 13, 1675 following their destruction of the then frontier town of Lancaster on February 10.

At Winimusset, Old Bay Path turned south to the then recently established colonial settlement of Quaboag Plantation. Founded in 1660, Quaboag Plantation included the present-day towns of Brookfield, North Brookfield, East Brookfield, and West Brookfield. At Quaboag Plantation, the Old Bay Path turned west and continued in a westerly direction eventually to cross the Connecticut River in the vicinity of Springfield.

Upon leaving Winimusset, Mary Rowlandson's captors departed from Old Bay Path and took her north rather than south.

David Gordon is a retired engineer. He grew up on a dairy farm in North Orange. His avocation involves researching local and regional history. He has served as a volunteer researcher at several local historical societies, including in Fitchburg where he resides with his wife, Carolyn, and cat, Hunter.

records show transactions among colonial Barre, Rutland, Hardwick landowners

continued from page 19

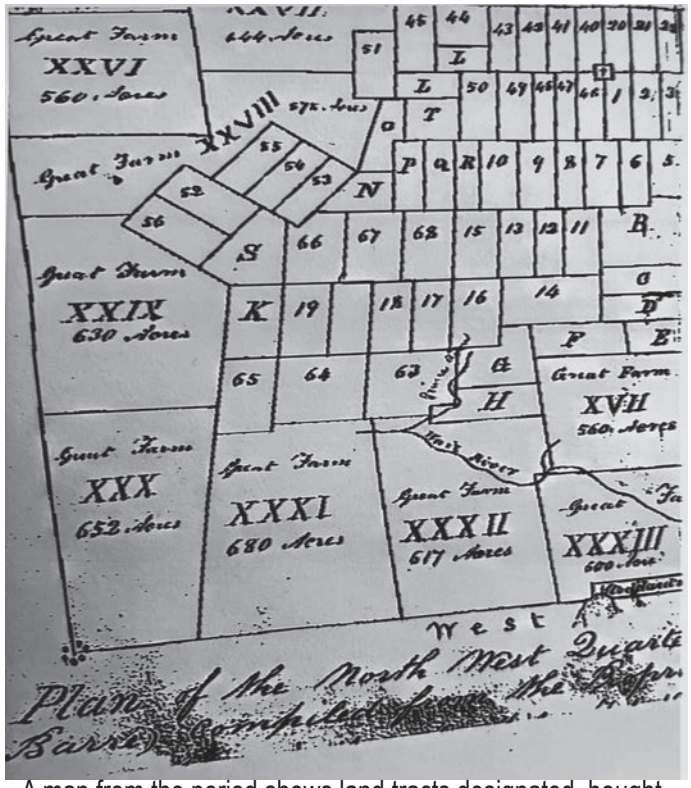
records very rarely use the descriptive words "free-born Negroes."

Thomas Oliver began to sell off the land. In 1778, he sold twelve acres to Scipio Peters, a man of color. In 1803, Peters sold the same tract of land to Earl Flagg. Later in that year, Thomas sold three acres on the Princeton line, part of land known as 6-Inch Road, to David Oliver, likely not the David Oliver who served as General Ruggles's lawyer in Hardwick.

In 1780, Thomas Oliver sold thirty acres to Richard Thompson, identified in the records as a man of color. Thompson and family lived at Great Farm #XXIII on the east side of the road from the Barre Meetinghouse to Petersham. In 1809, Richard Thompson sold the land to Dr. Asa Walker.

Thomas, Cromwell, and David Oliver of Barre served in the revolutionary army. Thomas served twice: once in 1778 and again in 1781. Cromwell served three months in 1778 and a year in 1781. David joined in April 1775 and served eleven days with Captain Benjamin Nye and Colonel Nathan Sparhawk. He served another three months in 1777.

Charlotte Westhead, retired registered nurse, spends time at Quabbin Region libraries poring through demographic records of the colonial era. She lives in Amherst.



A map from the period shows land tracts designated, bought, and sold by colonial landowners.
map courtesy of Barre Historical Society

Friday through Monday, October 10 through 13

Friends of Quabbin will host Quabbin Days

text and photo by Ed Comeau

Autumn fishermen cast their lines in Belchertown.

Friends of Quabbin have invited residents and visitors to discover the beauty, history, and importance of the Quabbin Reservoir during Quabbin Days over the holiday weekend of October 10 through 13. Quabbin Days celebrates the region's role as both a critical drinking water supply for Boston and environs and one of New England's most scenic outdoor destinations.

Taking place in the Quabbin Region comprising the dozen towns in Quabbin Watershed, Quabbin Days represents a community-driven initiative designed to raise awareness about the Quabbin as primary water source for some three million Massachusetts residents. The reservoir resides in a breathtaking landscape that offers world-class hiking, fishing, birdwatching, and photography.

Quabbin Days exists to encourage people to connect with the reservoir and surroundings as a resource and place of natural beauty and cultural history by exploring the Quabbin Trail connecting Quabbin Region towns.

Quabbin Days takes place during the peak of fall foliage season and encourages Quabbin Region towns, businesses, and organizations to host events, walks, tours, and open houses to spotlight area attractions. Anyone can contribute an event, and visitors can plan their own adventures through QuabbinDays.org, which offers a growing calendar of events and interactive map of the region.

Quabbin Reservoir stands as one of the largest public water supplies in the United States. Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, MWRA, the reservoir and surrounding lands form a protected ecosystem that supports wildlife and clean water while offering miles of trails and stunning vistas.

Non-profit Friends of the Quabbin promotes the natural, cultural, and historical significance of the Quabbin Region. Through advocacy, education, and community partnerships, the organization works to protect the watershed and share its stories with future generations.

Photographer Ed Comeau of Belchertown chairs the Quabbin Days project on behalf of Friends of Quabbin.

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

September 20, Saturday

NEECA Hunter Pace
9 a.m.
New England Equestrian Center of Athol
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
NEECA will be hosting its FOURTH annual Hunter Pace up at the park this year. Like all NEECA events, the focus is on you and your horse having a fun time in a supportive environment.
neeca.org

Crawdaddio
7 p.m.
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Every night is Mardi Gras when Crawdaddio is in town!
thecenterateaglehill.org

Myrtle Street Klezmer
7:30 p.m.
1794 Meetinghouse
26 S Main Street
New Salem
An ecstatic exploration into the past, present, and future of klezmer music – the traditional celebratory music of the Ashkenazi Jews.
1794meetinghouse.org

September 21, Sunday

Motorpalooza
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Templeton Common
Boynton Road
Templeton
Bring your ride or check out some cool ones. Anything with an engine can show. Music by Boothill Express. Weather permitting. See Facebook for updated information. Hosted by the Narragansett Historical Society.

Book Signing:
The Life of Samuel H. Walker
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
Rutland
David M. Sullivan, local editor/author and recipient of the Brigadier General O. P. Smith Award, will sign his book.
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

September 27, Saturday

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Forster Farm
60 Chestnut Hill
Orange
Art, farm fresh products, garlic cuisine, performances, family activities, and much more!
Garlicandarts.org

September 27, Saturday continued

Millers River Challenge
Pro Race 11 a.m.
Recreation and Youth Race 1 p.m.
25 East River Street
Orange
Canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddle board race hosted by Orange Lions for all ages and abilities. First fifty registered receive a free t-shirt.

September 28, Sunday

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Open House
Oakham Historical Museum
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
oakhamhistory.net

September 29, Monday

Who Really Wrote Shakespeare?
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Athol Public Library
Virtual Event
One man's search for the "real" author of works attributed to William Shakespeare and how the search played a role in Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor!
athol.librarycalendar.com

October 2, Thursday

Sourdough Starter Workshop
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Learn how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter from an expert sourdough baker and food blogger at SourdoughBrandon.com.
athollibrary.org

continued on next page

events compiled by Emily Boughton

Please submit listings for the next issue

before November 20, 2025

to UQCalendar@gmail.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from previous page

October 4, Saturday

Ramblin' Roads Country Fest
2:30 p.m.
Deja Brew
57 Lockes Village Road
Wendell
A brand-new, family-friendly country music festival is headed to Wendell, and you're gonna want to be there. With live music, country vibes, local vendors, good eats, and cozy fall fun.

October 4 and 5
Saturday and Sunday

Backroads Studio Tour
1 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Multiple locations in the towns of Petersham, Barre, Gilbertville, New Braintree, North Brookfield and Spencer
Arts and crafts will include paintings, leather works, jewelry, pottery, ornaments, baskets, wood carvings, furniture, hooked rugs, textiles, and paperworks.
www.backroadsstudiotour.org

October 11, Saturday

Ghost Walk
5:30 p.m.
Cemetery adjacent to Hardwick Historical Society
42 Common Street
Hardwick
Rain date October 12.

October 12, Sunday

Bob Harris Jr. Memorial Harvest Car Show
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Orange Airport
Orange
Car show, food trucks, craft fair and swap meet.
See Facebook event for more information.

October 14, Tuesday

Rutland's Cemetery History
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

October 18, Saturday

Comic Book Fest
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Athol Town Hall
584 Main Street
Athol
Athol Public Library and Hero Shack Press team up to host the fourth annual Comic Book Fest. Athol Town Hall and library transformed into a comic book lover's dream. With comics, drawing demonstrations, a draw off, vendors, cosplay contest, games, crafts, and more,
Free admittance for all ages.
athollibrary.org

The Imaginaries
7 p.m.
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Pop Americana sound from the open plains of Oklahoma.
thecenterateaglehill.org

Colonial era ghosts come alive at 5:30 Saturday, October 11 (rain date: Sunday, October 12), during Hardwick Ghost Walk

Hardwick Ghost Walk brings the past to life

Hardwick Ghost Walk, scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to dusk Saturday, October 11 (rain date Sunday, October 12) invites visitors to the old cemetery in the center of town. There, ghosts will tell stories of actual settlers who lived in Hardwick during colonial and Revolutionary War years of tremendous change, according to Hardwick Historical Society, sponsor of the event.

"Those changes affected personal lives, the community, and the world around them," according to the society, which sponsored a day of gravestone cleaning in June to prepare for the ghost walk. "We know a great deal about each ghost."

On the night of the ghost walk, those portraying ghosts will share knowledge of how a real person buried in the graveyard experienced life, sometimes contentious religion, and the revolution.

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from previous page

October 21, Tuesday
New Lights in the Dawnland
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
"New Lights in the Dawnland," an audiodocumentary recorded and produced by Michael Kline. The documentary includes five individually recorded voices recounting thirteen thousand years of Indigenous history of Northfield and surrounding areas in Massachusetts and Vermont.
athollibrary.org

October 24, 25, and 26
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
October 31 and November 1
Friday and Saturday
Barre Players presents *Prima Verde Inn*
October 24 and October 25
Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
October 26, Sunday at 2 p.m.
October 31, Friday at 9 p.m.
November 1, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
64 Common Street
Barre
A new interactive horror-comedy.
barreplayerstheatre.com

October 25, Saturday
Craft Fair
Central Tree Middle School
99 Rutland Heights Way
Rutland
rutlandmafot@gmail.com

October 26, Sunday
Open House
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Oakham Historical Museum
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
At 1:00 p.m. Speaker Maria Beiter Tucker, interpretive services supervisor at Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation at Quabbin Reservoir, will discuss creation of Quabbin Reservoir building of the Windsor Dam.

October 28, Tuesday
Haunted Scavenger Hunt
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Follow the clues to find creepy costumed characters hiding around the library. Collect candy from ghosts and ghouls until you get to the final clue, where a prize awaits you. Open to ages 5-18 and their famililes.
athollibrary.org

October 30, Thursday
Beginning Rug Braiding with LaunchSpace
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Learn to make a hand-braided rug by sewing strips of fabric into long strands, braiding them, and sewing them together. Get started in class and take your project home to finish. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

November 1, Saturday
Miller's Woods Annual Christmas Fair sponsored by Miller's Ladies
Miller's Woods
739 Daniel Shays Highway
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Theme baskets, gift card raffle, bake table, welcome raffle, 50/50 raffle, scratch ticket raffle, and snack bar

Central Massachusetts Postcard and Ephemera show
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
29 South Street
Barre
9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
$3.00 admission
J. R. Greene, manager
jrg01331@webtv.net

November 6, Thursday
Fall Desserts of New England
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Donroe Inman, award-winning author of *New England Desserts* and *New England Brunch,* will share fall dessert recipes and the stories behind them. Samples will be provided and signed cookbooks will be available for sale. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

November 8, Saturday
FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book
5 p.m.
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
The electrifying sci-fi classic reanimated with a family-friendly spin!
thecenterateaglehill.org

November 15 and 16
Saturday and Sunday
November 22 and 23
Saturday and Sunday
November 29 and 30
Saturday and Sunday
December 6 and 7
Saturday and Sunday
Country Roads Christmas
North Quabbin Regions
A month-long event from the first weekend in November through the first weekend in December. Take a weekend drive down old New England country roads shopping at sixteen unique stores for one-of-a-kind gifts where folks are truly glad you came by!
Countryroadschristmas.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from previous page

November 13, Thursday
Stained Glass Mushroom Night Lights
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
This will be a beginner friendly introduction to stained glass led by LaunchSpace. Students will take two cut pieces of glass, foil wrap, and solder them together to create a mushroom to attach to a nightlight. Registration required.
athollibrary.org

November 15, Saturday
Holiday Bazaar
Women's Fellowship Ladies
Athol Congregational Church
1225 Chestnut Street
Athol
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bake table, crafts, gift card raffle, greens and wreaths, theme baskets, jewelry, Winner Wonderland raffle, tag sale, and an snack bar

November 18, Tuesday
Eyes on Freedom
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Folklorists, gatherers of oral testimonials, and audio producers, present an hour-long audio tapestry, an interweaving of many of twenty-five voices recorded near and far under the guidance of the Nelson Legacy Project Archival Committee. Listen together and have conversation and light refreshments.
athollibrary.org

November 18, Tuesday
continued
Ice Storm of 2008
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street Rutland
Learn how Rutland and surrounding towns were devastated by the fierce storm of 2008
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org.

November 22 and 23
Saturday and Sunday
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Red Apple Farm
Highland Avenue
Phillipston
The festival features delicious food, The Brew Barn, face painting, pony rides, hayrides, blacksmiths, live music, picking ornamental corn, guided nature hikes, and more!
Redapplefarm.com

November 23, Sunday
Thanksgiving Farmers Market and Bake Sale
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Williamsville Chapel
4 Burnshirt Road
Hubbardston
The farmers market and bake sale offers farm fresh products for the holiday table. Baked goods, pies, bread, meats, cheeses, jams and jellies, vegetables, and more!

December 5, 6, and 7
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
The Gilbert Players present:
Nuncrackers
December 5 and 6
Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.
December 6 and 7
Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.
Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
thecenterateaglehill.org

December 5, 6, and 7
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
December 12, 13, and 14
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Barre Players present:
Legally Blonde: the Musical
December 5 and 6
Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
December 7
Sunday at 2 p.m.
December 12 and 13
Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
December 14
Sunday at 7:30 p.m.
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street Barre
barreplayerstheater.com

December 5, 6, and 7
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
25th Annual Festival of Trees
event specifics TBD
Rutland Commons
Rutland Library
Rutland Historical Society
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

December 31, Wednesday
Starry Starry Night
Time TBD
Downtown Orange
Musicians and performers in several venues throughout the town, plus gorgeous ice sculptures in Memorial Park, a warming bonfire by the Fire Station, and a walk down Main Street for the Parade of Stars. The night is capped off with the Fireworks over Millers River.