

*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine serving

THE NORTH QUABBIN: Athol • Erving • New Salem • Orange • Petersham • Phillipston • Royalston • Templeton • Warwick • Wendell  
THE SOUTH QUABBIN: Barre • Belchertown • Hardwick (Gilbertville) • Hubbardston • Leverett • New Braintree • Oakham • Pelham • Rutland • Shutesbury • Ware



Good morning, Quabbin in early autumn!!  
photo © by Dale Monette

**ON THE FRONT COVER**

***Bowen's Pond, Wendell***  
a photograph by Mitchell R. Grosky of Athol

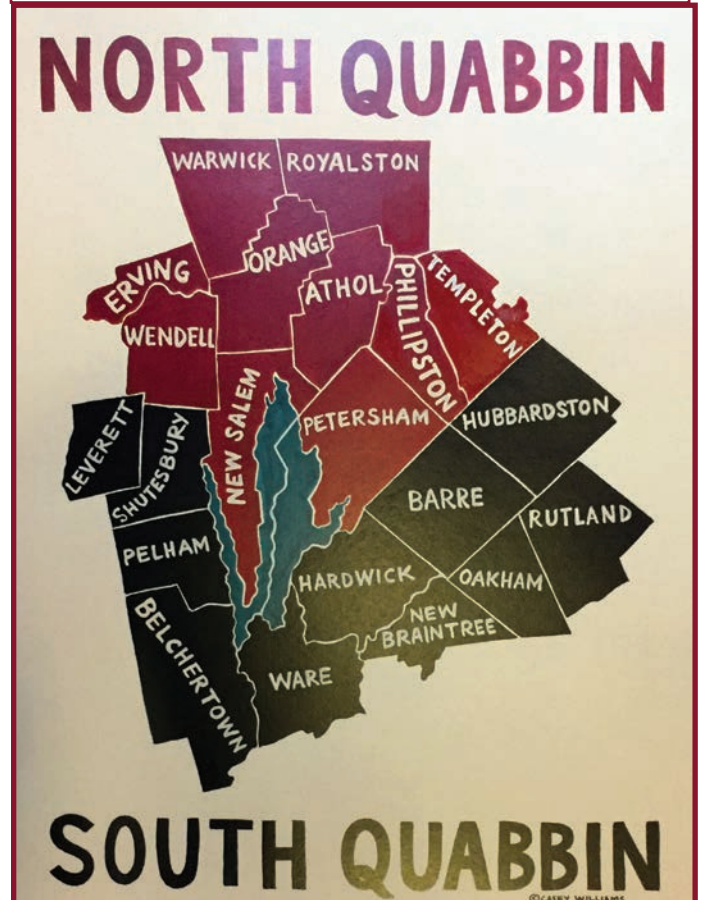
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volume 4, number 2 • September to December 2019

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

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

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## a note 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, Hubbardston, New Salem, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Rutland, Ware, Warwick, and Wendell for supporting Uniquely Quabbin magazine with local cultural grants for 2019. Their support is vital to the life of our magazine.

As the summer winds down and fall drifts in, let's give thanks for the rewards from our summer gardens, which may have produced something a little different or given you an overabundance of delicious veggies or flowers because of some interesting tidbit you picked up from one of our many articles that enhanced your gardening this season. And fall . . . big fat orange pumpkins, fall fairs, big red juicy apples for picking, and apple cider, and fall flowers bursting with color and the foliage!

So curl up on a comfy sofa with a glass of warm cider after a day of enjoying cooler temperatures and crisp air, pick up our magazine, and thank the writers, artists, and photographers who bring us the many articles, events, and pictures that provide us with a way to enjoy all the wonderful things around us.

I also want to thank our advertisers, who play such a big role in the success of this magazine. It is an ever-growing list of businesses and organizations that continuously support Uniquely Quabbin. Please support them as they support us.

Thankfully,  
Debra Ellis, treasurer  
Athol Historical Society



Uniquely Quabbin magazine  
gratefully acknowledges the support of

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Rutland Cultural Council • Ware Cultural Council  
Warwick Cultural Council • Wendell Cultural Council

## a note from the publisher of Uniquely Quabbin

We really hadn't intended to pursue a Halloween theme in this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*, but from ghosts in Belchertown's Clapp Memorial Library to paranormal specialists to ghost walks and cemetery tours, we seem to have covered a lot of the requisite bases.

And more, to be sure. Our contributors bring us ever more swell art and photography, poetry, information about forests and wildlife, reminiscences of the past, updates about the present, restaurant reviews, insight into animals and music, reporting about farms . . . and the promised more.

What a pleasure to work with contributors, advertisers, and local cultural councils to bring readers this edition of the magazine. We hope that you'll enjoy it. We who present it to you surely have.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher  
Haley's

## about Uniquely Quabbin

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

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.

FIND LISTINGS FOR  
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN  
EVENTS  
BEGINNING ON PAGE 61

# Uniquely Quabbin

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

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



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## Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts

### *familiar water remains its own mystery*

by Dorothy Johnson



Dorothy Johnson

What is it about water that draws us to it? We use water for commerce, entertainment, energy, and power, and yet, we have never conquered it.

Perhaps that's it. Water remains its own mystery.

A sunshiny day is perfect for kayaking, particularly to mark

the beginning of autumn. The moment is both exhilarating and sad. Summer's gone and winter nears, and still the water calls to me. I chose the Tully River off Doane's Hill Road past Tully Reservation between Athol and Royalston. The stream runs quietly from a launch area to Long Pond, and that very quiet is what attracts me.

The water seemed smooth and scarcely moving. My friends and I might drift slowly or paddle at our own pace, even upstream. The sun shone bright, and other kayakers seemed to share the idea of ending one season that day and beginning

another with smiles and friendly greeting.

I saw no indication of wildlife on the shore unlike in spring when Canada geese greeted us. They seemed unafraid but careful of their six goslings. I wondered how those once tiny birds had grown and where they had flown.

On the way back downstream, another kayaker passed and called out, "Another day in paradise!"

I certainly agreed.

Now, I hope I haven't implied that I am a stalwart soul who can lift my forty-pound kayak all by myself

*continued on page 40*

## *Tully River and Tully Lake offer havens among many*

text and painting by Susan Marshall



*Tully Lake*

acrylic on canvas © by Susan Marshall after a photograph by Norm Eggert

The Quabbin region abounds in waterways, places of immense beauty and sources of tranquility and power. I find I am called to such places for their splendor, vastness, and innate ability to calm our minds and lift our spirits. Waterways inspire me. The many vistas, colors, values, and textures ignite creation through emotional response in photos, on canvas and in words.

Tully River and Tully Lake offer havens among many that can transform us. In my kayak, I have glided along a mirror of water where my perception expands in continuous changes found paddling there. One day, the surface shines as still as glass and shrouded in mist. Another day, it blazes in reflections of sunlit trees, rocks, and islands.

The painting reflects early morning sun pushing its way through mist to a chiaroscuro of light and dark in the foreground as sun rises above one island to touch another in the distance.

We can find some of the most beautiful lakes, rivers, waterfalls, and streams in our own back yard. Whether any of us has a heavy heart, daily life takes a toll, or a spontaneous hike or swim calls, we find that nature renews us.



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# fall festival celebrations, hayrides,

**September 14, Saturday**  
North Quabbin Fall Festival  
Downtown Athol  
9 am-4 pm  
food, vendors, crafts, live entertainment, farmers market and family-friendly fun, including crafts, and face-painting

**September 20, 21, and 22**  
**Friday -Sunday**  
Belchertown Fair  
Belchertown Common  
beginning 4 pm Friday  
8 am-5 pm Saturday • parade, 10 am  
8 am-6 pm Sunday  
Saturday, September 21  
exhibit hall including arts, crafts, vegetables, flowers, and baking competitions, woodworking, scarecrow contest, giant pumpkin contest, farm animals, pulling competition, and petting zoo

**September 21, Saturday**  
Celebrate Shutesbury  
Shutesbury Town Common  
10 am-2 pm  
BBQ sponsored by Shutesbury Athletic Club, book sale at Spear Memorial Library, pumpkin painting and town-wide tag sale sponsored by the Shutesbury Elementary School PTO, bake sale and tea party sponsored by Shutesbury Community Church, live music and dancing, cheese-making demo by Valerie Wisniewski, merchandise, radar baseball toss with Shutesbury Police Department, emergency vehicle tours, donut-eating sponsored by the selectboard

*Quabbin region autumn events  
compiled by Carla Charter*

**September 28-29**  
**Friday-Saturday**  
North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival  
Forsters' Farm  
Chestnut Hill Road  
Orange  
9 am to 5 pm  
shuttle from Fairman/Holtshire roads  
bands and performances, garlic-themed games, petting zoo, exhibitors, cooking demonstrations, and hayrides

**October 12-13**  
**Saturday-Sunday**  
Carter and Stevens Farm Annual Harvest Festival  
500 West Street/Route 122  
Barre  
noon to 7 pm  
pumpkin catapulting, hayrides, BBQ, ice cream, beer, live music

# corn mazes in the Quabbin region

**October 12-13**  
**continued**  
Phillipston Fall Fair and  
Giant Pumpkin Weigh-In  
Red Apple Farm  
455 Highland Avenue  
Phillipston  
11 am-4 pm Saturday  
11 am-3 pm Sunday  
pumpkin weigh-in at 1 pm  
face painting, bake sale, coffee-can auction, slightly used clothing, children's game area; displays from the police, ambulance and historical society; hayrides, cordwood and pellet raffle, children's cupcake decorating; flower arrangement contests and judging of apple pies for all ages

**October 18-19**  
**Friday and Saturday**  
Lions Club Annual Haunted Hayride  
Silver Lake  
Athol  
starting at dusk, with non-scary rides at the beginning of the evening

**October 25 and 26**  
**Friday and Saturday**  
Lions Club Annual  
Halloween Haunted Hayride  
Rietta Ranch Flea Market  
183 Gardner Road  
Hubbardston  
7:00-9:30 pm  
Hayrides at 7 pm with hayrides friendly to young children at the beginning of the event. Haunted hayrides begin at dark.

**September 21-November 3**  
**Saturdays and Sundays**  
Hunt Farm  
207 Daniel Shays Highway  
Orange  
10 am-5pm  
adult maze, kids maze, petting zoo

**September 28-October 27**  
**Saturdays and Sundays**  
Austin Brothers Valley Farm  
348 West Street  
Belchertown  
11 am-6 pm Saturdays  
11 am-5 pm Sundays  
last hayride an hour before closing; corn maze for adults and older children, storybook trail at kids corn maze, pumpkin picking and hayrides including a wheelchair accessible hayride.  
admission fees



SEASONAL IMAGES

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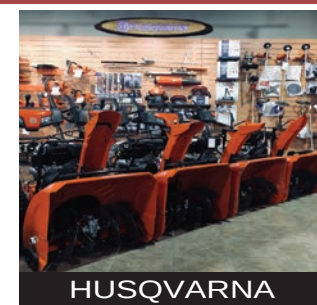
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# 1763 lightning storm takes life of Barre's

by Charlotte Westhead

The week after the marriage of Elizabeth Caldwell and John Black on July 7, 1763, according to Barre Vital Records, James Caldwell was killed on July 18, 1763.

The Black and Caldwell families of Barre and immigrants from Londonderry, Ireland, shared the experience, religion, and history of other Scotch-Irish immigrants. Many were Presbyterians, and most of the community practiced Congregationalism.

On the day of his death, James, 52, worked in a field a distance from the Caldwell house when a sudden summer storm came up. With James was Quork, 10, oldest son of the slave woman Dinah. They ran, but according to the records, the storm caught them before they reached the house. Under a tree, they found shelter from pounding rain.

A brilliant flash of light preceded a great crash as lightning hit that tree. When a severed branch fell, it killed James and broke Quork's leg, according to the *History of Barre* by Helen Webber Connington, Albert Clark, and Mary Harty Kelley.

Everyone in the house knew James and Quork were working in the fields. Did Quork crawl to the house and inform the family or did the family run out to find James and Quork? One author writes that Quork crawled to the house and told the family about the fallen tree branch. Another author writes that, after the storm passed, those in the house who heard thunder and saw the brilliant flash went out to look for James and Quork.

James, white father of four young children, husband of Isabel, and owner of cattle, several slaves, and vast estates—a reported sixteen hundred acres—was dead. Isabel very briefly had charge of herself, her children, slaves, and cattle.

A stone in the woods not far from what once was the Caldwell house reads

This stone is erected in memory of the time and the place where Mr. James Caldwell died in the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of his age.

Official notice of the marriage of James and Isabel, the births or baptisms of their children, and James's death does not appear in Barre Vital Records. The

# James Caldwell at work with slave's son

marriage of James and Isabel occurred in Athol and is recorded there. Lack of data may reflect discord between Congregationalists and Presbyterians in the area in the mid to late eighteenth century. Some Presbyterians stopped attending established Congregational services, and some brought their children to Pelham for baptism. Possibly vital records of Presbyterians were recorded and taken for safety by the minister when he left Barre.

In 1764, an inventory of the estate of James Caldwell was completed. Isabel inherited forty percent of the farm, all the furniture and household equipment she wanted including a feather bed and a bedstead, small items, one horse, one cow, use of the barn, and the slaves. James Jr., then about ten years old and the eldest son, inherited 240 acres including the buildings on that acreage.

John Black, recently married to James Caldwell's sister, was appointed guardian of the children. Values were put on items of inheritance. Slaves were appraised: Mingo at sixty-six pounds, Dinah at forty-nine pounds, Quork at fifty pounds, and Minah at ten pounds. The inventory does not list Dinah's four younger sons but values Priscilla at six pounds and Roseanne, born that year, also at six pounds.

Why was Minah's value so low? Was she small or sickly or in some way deformed? What happened to Dinah's four young sons? Perhaps some other records will provide the answers, but thus far, the facts remain unknown.

In 1765, Mingo ran away from Nathaniel Jennison of Barre. A runaway slave poster describes him as African, five-foot-six who "speaks midlin good English." Isabel therefore apparently had at least a business relationship with Nathaniel. She may have loaned Mingo to Nathaniel for a particular job or time. If so, Isabel would have received compensation from Nathaniel for the loss of her slave's labor. Description of Mingo's speech implies that the slave Mingo may have been born elsewhere and, thus, did not originally speak English.

Also in 1765, Arthur, a half African, half Indian slave, escaped from Edward Clark. Nathaniel Jennison, Edward's brother-in-law, helped find Arthur, who ended up in shackles on his way to court in Worcester, where documents record his charges as lying, stealing, and running away. When guards removed Arthur's shackles momentarily, the slave ran away again. Officials recaptured Arthur and hanged him in Worcester.

Edward stayed busy at home. His wife, Anne, Nathaniel's young sister, had recently delivered her third



A memorial stone in Barre woods designates the site where James Caldwell died in 1763.

photo © by John Burk

child. Neither mother nor child did well, and both died within the year.

Charlotte Westhead, a retired registered nurse from Shriners Hospital, Springfield, spends time poring through demographic records of the colonial era at Quabbin regional historical societies and university libraries. She contributed to the books *Sandisfield Then and Now* (2012) and *From Schul to Soil* (2018), a history of Jewish farmers in Berkshire County. She lives in Amherst.



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New Salem sisters Harriet, Elvie, and Maude Paige vowed as children that they would marry on the same day. And so they did at noon on February 5, 1906 in a triple ceremony at their father's home in New Salem in Cupid's triple victory. Harriet married William Bullard. Elvie married Myron Doubleday. Maude married Harvey Reed. All honeymooned in Boston. Swift River Valley Historical Society, 40 Elm Street, New Salem, houses the Paige sisters' wedding dresses.  
photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society



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## SIMPLY OUT OF THIS WORLD: QUABBIN REGION PSYCHICS AND MEDIUMS

by Paula J. Botch

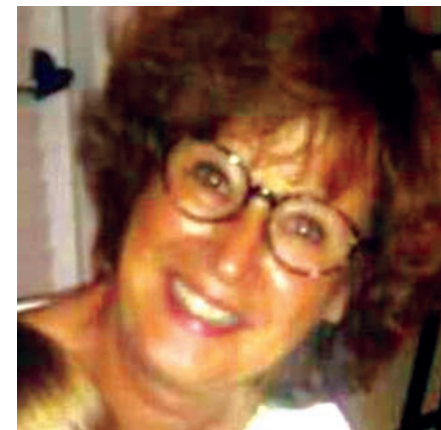
Unique and mysterious abilities of psychics and mediums encompass a variety of definitions and practices involving the unseen and spirit world. Mediums are always psychics, but psychics are not always mediums. Psychics say they have the skill to know what other people think, while mediums serve as intermediaries between the living and those no longer living in the material world. And you may even find mediums sprinkled among Quabbin friends and neighbors.

Psychic medium Linda Merkel of New Braintree followed a career in architecture before working as a medium. She shares her psychic abilities with others and has helped people around the world.

"My gift is just my soul talking," said Linda. Our conversation began with a surprise. Linda stopped my first questions by asking the significance of images she got that relate to my life, and her perceptions stunned me.

As a child, Linda felt spirits around her. It seemed natural, and for many years, she didn't realize others didn't share the same experience. She never perceived spirits or ghosts with her eyes but felt them. She calls the sensation her "feeling mind." For her, spirits appear in her mind's eye often like snow on a TV set. She occasionally sees a spirit body form as part of the image. She said animals communicate with her using pictures but no words. After hearing only brief information of an incident, she has experienced horrifying images and the abject terror of a murder victim whom she didn't know.

Linda said her mother, grandmothers, and other family members had psychic abilities.



Linda Merkel  
psychic medium

photo courtesy of Linda Merkel

From her early childhood years and through most of her life, she spoke with a spirit she named Jimmy. After some time, Linda's mother told her that Linda would have had a twin. "I lost him at three months," her mother told her.

"Everyone has the gift of mediumship," Linda said, "but many don't open themselves to it."

It's a matter of training the brain." Although not formally educated in the practice, she said she has learned to "turn it off" and finds that people with something to hide may be uncomfortable around her. "Only any man who has cheated on his wife," she laughed.

With deep faith in God, Linda prepares for client readings with time in prayer. During readings, she doesn't go into a trance state. "I slow down my body and heart rate," she said. "It's a matter of concentration." She said she specializes in healing hearts and helps many through loss of loved ones by bringing their messages and providing guidance and healing.

"Set no expectation of what you will hear," she said. "Be open to the blessings that come through. We can transform energy but cannot destroy it." She believes in reincarnation, and her client readings may include past

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## QUABBIN CURRENTS vegetation and buildings cleared for filling of Quabbin

by J. R. Greene



Quabbin Reservoir begins to fill in 1939-1940 after damming of Swift River.  
photo looking north from near Goodnough Dike, Ware • from the collection of J. R. Greene

As summer morphs into autumn, people think of leaves changing color before trees shed them. In August, 1939, no trees remained standing in the thirty-eight-square-mile stripped area that would become Quabbin Reservoir. Contracted workers had removed all trees and structures in what ended up a barren grassland.

One former resident who viewed the bare valley said it reminded her of “the skin of a man’s shaved head.”

Because Quabbin would serve as a drinking water supply, contracted workers cleared away all growth above grass height and all buildings to ensure a higher quality

continued on page 58

## Belchertown, Hubbardston, New Braintree, Royalston, and Rutland ghosts rumored to frequent buildings, cemeteries, highways, and byways

by Carla Charter

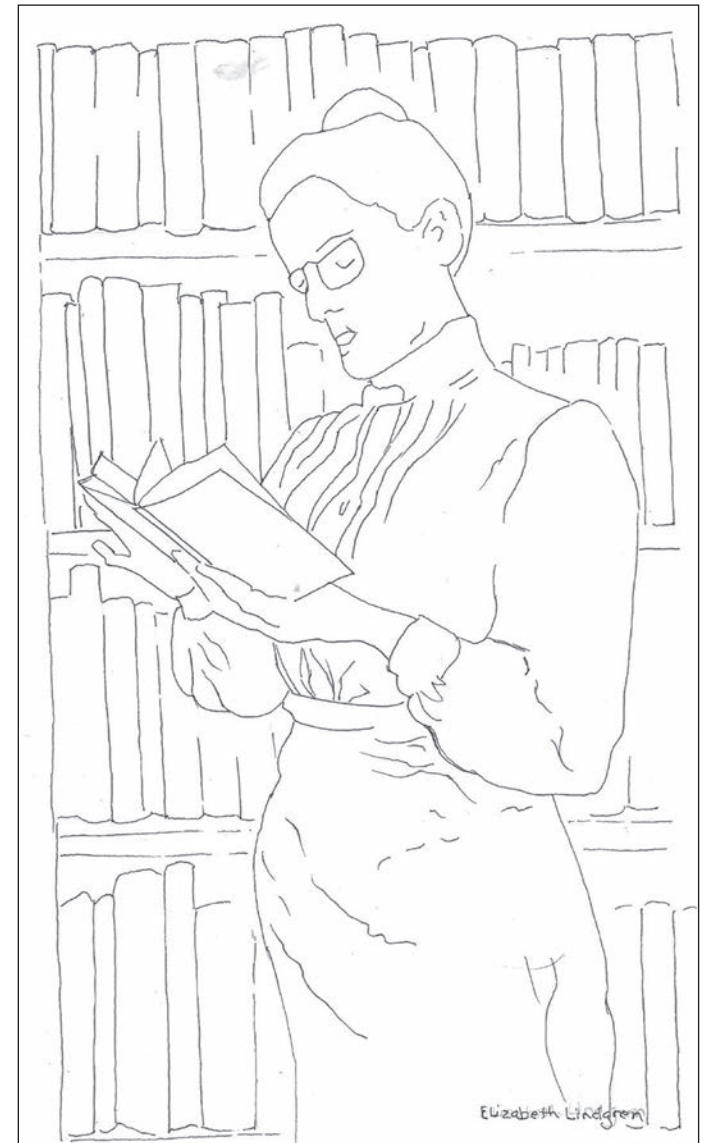
Previous generations haunt sites in the Quabbin region, according to persistent accounts.

Crumbling remains of Rutland Prison Farm, built in 1903 to house minor offenders, also contained a functioning coop farm that produced potatoes. Inmates raised chickens and dairy cows that produced milk sold in Worcester. A tuberculosis hospital opened on the premises in 1907. Buildings were abandoned in 1934, with ruins now open to the public to hike through and explore. If the ruins don’t spook anyone, some say the ex-warden’s wife haunts the location of her former home.

A ghost reportedly wanders among the stacks at Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown. A night custodian witnessed apparitions on the stairs, felt cold spots, and saw books sliding on their own in and out of shelves. Rumor has identified the ghost in residence as deceased former librarian Lydia Barton. The library has been featured on TV’s *Ghost Hunters*. Sheila McCormick, Clapp Library director, commented that, even if people do not have a ghostly encounter, the library nevertheless has plenty of spooky books on its shelves to check out.

On one side of Williamsville Road Cutoff, Hubbardston, a slate monument commemorates Elizabeth “Betsy” Brigham Browning, 1793 to 1828. According to the *History of Hubbardston* by J. M. Stowe,

On the Sabbath, September 7, 1828, Mrs. Betsy, wife of James Browning, in returning from meeting, was descending the hill west of the almshouse when the harness broke and the horse took fright. Mrs. Browning



A ghost among the stacks at Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown, made her way to TV’s *Ghost Hunters*.

pen and ink drawing. the artist’s conception.

© by Elizabeth Lindgren

was thrown from the wagon and instantly killed. A monument marks the spot.

Local lore has it that a woman in a white dress, believed to be Betsy Browning walks the road trying to get home, only to disappear.

continued on page 43





Athol-Orange Community Television raises funds at its annual auction in early December.  
photo © by Bonnie Benjamin courtesy of AOTV

## Community Access TV Covers Region's Activities

by Paula J. Botch

### Athol-Orange Community Television • AOTV

Without missing a beat, AOTV Executive Director Carol Courville said “freedom of speech” in response to my question about the station’s purpose. Although the concept of public, educational, governmental or PEG and community access channels may sound daunting, AOTV welcomes a broad range of ideas and opinions. The approach tempers open access to the community with balance allowing for general decency and respect as well as following broadcast and FCC rules.

Founded in 1995, AOTV—along with the addition of radio station WVAO 105.9 FM in 2015—integrates with the communities of Athol and Orange. Funding for AOTV, which broadcasts on channels 1301 and 1302, comes through a percentage of gross revenues from the local cable company. Money for WVAO comes through fundraising by AOTV. The station relies on two full-time and three part-time paid positions. Carol has trained more than seven hundred people in production during her years there. With 193 volunteer producers officially on the rolls, about a hundred remain active, she said.

Anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Athol or Orange can learn how to produce shows. Several times a year, Carol teaches a five-week TV production class that covers field production, audio, editing, studio production, directing, and lighting. Between six and eight students generally attend the classes. AOTV opens the class

to people of all ages, and children may take it. “I leave it to parents to make the decision,” said Carol. Some kids as young as ten have qualified as producers, and there’s even a seven-year-old! For adults, the sky is the limit—AOTV welcomes youngsters and oldsters.

Educated in television production Carol had to learn on the fly to do radio training, she said. Radio producers take a two-week class, then one-on-one hands-on training.

“Programming is produced by the community for the community, and the offerings are eclectic on both radio and TV,” said Carol. Topics range from coverage of town events and meetings to dramatic readings and book discussions, movie

reviews, and programs that cover current events and politics. People also provide DVDs on a variety of interests. Some programs air on both AOTV and WVAO. WVAO hosts a variety of music programs in prerecorded format running 24/7.

AOTV covers the annual River Rat Race and the Food-A-Thon, which Carol particularly mentioned. In 2019, AOTV’s Food-A-Thon on-air fundraiser brought in about twenty-six thousand dollars with more than fifteen thousand items donated.

### Hubbardston Cable Access Television • WHPA

Station manager Brittany Blaney manages four stations, three outside of the Quabbin region. She came

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—Benjamin Franklin




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# from Stonewall and beyond to Quabbin

by Allen Young

Police stormed Stonewall Inn, a seedy Mafia-run gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village, on a June night in 1969, a historic moment that became known as the Stonewall Uprising. It started as a routine raid rooted in corrupt payoffs, but in a startling new happening, the patrons fought back. It was the spark that created the modern gay liberation movement.

Over time, political and cultural changes resulting from that night in New York found their way to the Quabbin region two hundred miles from New York City. Dramatically influencing people's lives, post-Stonewall ideas and innovations brought new freedom and happiness.

Enhanced with its designation as World Pride, New York's annual Pride March the past June celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising with more than one million observers crowding sidewalks. As an

activist in 1970-1971 with the New York Gay Liberation Front, launched after Stonewall, I marched with other GLF survivors. GLF served as grand marshal of this year's Pride March.

With four other gay men, I bought land in Royalston four years after Stonewall to start the commune we called Butterworth Farm. We didn't know what to expect as we made our homes in the Quabbin region, but we gradually found ourselves comfortably integrated into the community. Hereabouts, we met lesbians and other gay men, some open and quite a few deeply closeted.

As the post-Stonewall era evolved, people from North Quabbin and South Quabbin towns attended pride parades in New York, Boston, and Worcester—and eventually in Northampton and Greenfield. The courts legalized same-sex marriages, and area newspapers acknowledged them.



Eight gay men pause from their work building a timber frame house in Royalston during autumn, 1973. They are, from left, front, Arthur Platt, Carl Miller, and Allen Young; back, Martin Roland, John Burton, Steven McCarty, Bob Gravley, and Bob Pollock. photo courtesy of Allen Young.

# with PRIDE and commitment to diversity

Former State Senator Steve Brewer of Barre proclaimed his personal pride in voting to support marriage equality after “three full years of vetting and learning and listening. I understood that marriage equality meant equal justice under the law and had nothing to do with forcing anyone to perform a sacrament.”

By 2018, things had changed to the extent that a twenty-something gay man and selectboard member, Ryan Mailloux of Orange, spoke at Franklin County Pride. An anthology about lesbian couples featured two New Salem women, Dorothy Johnson and the late Doris Abramson. Pharmacist Diane Lincoln won awards as a lesbian singer-songwriter, and her Bruce's Browser store in uptown Athol hosted programs for gay pride. Athol High School's Gay-Straight Alliance members, including Athol native Eric Wirth wearing his Eagle Scout uniform, attended a pride march in Northampton.

The North Quabbin Diversity Awareness Group got its start in 1992 after the annual meeting of the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce, when outgoing president Arthur Platt revealed he was ill with HIV-AIDS. The diversity group brought together a broad array of area residents who sought to combat all kinds of prejudice. The diversity group supported Christopher Muther, an Athol High School alumnus and openly gay man who wrote in the Greenfield *Recorder* newspaper to recall the suicide of a close gay high school friend bullied for his sexual orientation. Chris now writes for the Boston *Globe*.

At a hearing sponsored by the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, created by Republican William Weld, Chris emotionally shared his story about his friend. The commission later acknowledged achievements of the Mahar Regional School, Orange, Gay-Straight Alliance, coordinated by physical education teachers Karen Grzesik and Polly Bixby. The school received a rainbow flag to be flown beneath the Stars and Stripes on the Mahar's flagpole.

Many supported flying the diversity flag, but some citizens objected. Nevertheless, responding to strong community support, the school committee kept the flag flying. When Grzesik and Bixby retired from teaching, the school committee named a school gymnasium after the couple, who were open about their personal relationship.

Kelli Bixby Gervais, Polly's daughter, identifying as a Roman Catholic, publicly challenged her church's

opposition to same-sex marriage. Other churches in the area became gay friendly, displaying rainbow flags. “We congratulate our communities as to how our people have moved forward and beyond that,” said Grzesik and Bixby. “Now we can all live openly with each other as family and friends with the respect that we all deserve.”

Lorri Cetto, Athol native and AHS graduate, credits the lesbian community in Athol and Orange as “a life-saving, safe, welcoming, and supportive environment.” Lorri recently retired as music teacher and choral director at Hall High School, West Hartford, Connecticut. She lives in Easthampton with her spouse, Alison Buck.

“The town of Athol and my immediate family were not a welcoming community in relation to homosexuality,” Cetto said. “Once I was out to myself, I spent years under the radar whether in my teaching career or with my family. In the early 2000s, I was out as a gay teacher at the high school where I taught and helped lead the Gay-Straight Alliance there.”

Nancy Ferron, an Athol native long active in community affairs, recalls her coming out as a slow process, beginning with “crushes on both girls and boys” and “youthful experimentation with kissing, holding hands, going to youth dances with boyfriends, and light make-out sessions with girlfriends at pajama parties.”

She concludes that the open-mindedness of her family and the North Quabbin community plus friendship with gay male friend Jay Stangvilla, who later died of AIDS, helped her fully come out as a lesbian. Nancy disdains those who think of the Quabbin region as inhabited by “ignorant bigots.”

Last September, when anti-gay politician Reverend Scott Lively came to Athol, Susannah Whipps, independent state representative, organized a No-Place-for-Hate protest.

“I've been an ally for as long as I can remember,” Whipps said. “Many of my then-closeted gay friends moved out of town to more metropolitan areas. Athol wasn't as open-minded and welcoming then as it is now.”

While the closet still reigns for some, young and old, it's much easier in 2019 for people to come out and find happiness with the support of friends, family, and community.

Allen Young lives in Royalston. He received the University of Massachusetts Writing and Society Award in 2004 and is author of the autobiography, *Left, Gay, & Green*



# John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid has threads

by Carla Charter



John Brown

photo courtesy of Wikimedia

Many of us learned in history class about nineteenth-century abolitionist John Brown and his raid on a Harpers Ferry, Virginia, arsenal. Fewer of us, however, may know that the raid that led to his downfall has threads leading back to the Quabbin region.

Soon after John Brown's death by hanging on December 2, 1859, for leading the armed assault with twenty-two abolitionist compatriots, Carrie Bacon of Barre wrote "The Martyr of December 2d, 1859," published in William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator* on December 23, 1859.

John Brown and twenty-two men raided Harpers Ferry Arsenal and took hostages on October 16, 1859, in an attempt to start an armed slave revolt and destroy the institution of slavery then prevalent in the United States. By the next morning, Brown and his men found themselves surrounded. On October 17 in the year before the American Civil

War began, a company of United States Marines, led by Colonel Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart, joined other military men to overrun Brown and his troops. Ten of Brown's men, including two of his sons, died in the assault. Brown's complement included eight white men, among them himself and his sons, twelve free black men, a freed slave, and a fugitive slave, according to Robert E. Lee's account of the Harpers Ferry raid.

Athol resident Lysander Spooner wrote abolitionist tracts and books, including the *Unconstitutionality of Slavery* arguing that the United States Constitution prohibits slavery. John Brown admired Spooner's work and sent friends copies of Spooner's book.

# leading to Quabbin region personalities

Living in Boston in the 1850s, Spooner spent almost every evening at the home of Dr. George Hoyt, an abolitionist who had lived in Athol and moved to Boston. Shortly before the Harpers Ferry Raid, Spooner and Brown met in Hoyt's home, according to sources.

Spooner authored a broadside entitled "A Plan for the Abolition of Slavery." On the reverse, he writes "To the Non-Slaveholders of the South."

When a Human Being is set upon by a robber, ravisher, murderer, or tyrant of any kind, it is the duty of the bystanders to go to his or her rescue, *by force if need be*. In general nothing will excuse men in the non-performance of this duty, except the pressure of higher duties.

The tract, included in the *Collected Works of Lysander Spooner* by Charles Shively, requests that northern groups send arms and aid and fight in the South, with the words

Groups of black citizens in the South should also form themselves into band, build forts in the forests, and there collect arms, stores, horses, everything that will enable them to sustain themselves, and carry on their warfare upon the slaveholders.

The broadside was hastily withdrawn from publication at John Brown's request over concerns it might forewarn Southerners of Brown's plan.

The Hoyts, another well-known abolitionist family originating in Athol, knew John Brown, and they continued associating with him throughout his trial. At twenty-one, George Henry Hoyt became a lawyer for John Brown at Brown's insistence when the federal



US Marines surround Harper's Ferry Arsenal during 1859 John Brown occupation. Harper's Weekly, public domain

government tried Brown in Charles Town, Virginia, from October 27 to 31, 1859, on charges of treason, insurrection, and murder.

On the third day of Brown's trial, Hoyt—who had no criminal law experience—spent most of the day

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*Approaching Fall iii*  
a visual haiku  
by Ami Fagin

The fireworks of fall foliage in New England shows in spectacular scale. Arcing through the azure, *Approaching Fall iii* reveals a flourish of foliage costumed in the carotenoid chemical coloration that autumn creates. The ever-changing landscape of the small miracles of our daily lives in the Northeast fully displays itself, punctual and perky, in Ami's watercolor from her collection of visual haiku.

Amy Fagin (who works sometimes as Ami Fagin) specializes in traditional manuscript illumination at her 20th Century Illuminations print studio in New Salem. Author of *Beyond Genocide*, she is an independent scholar in genocide studies. Find Ami's book collections of visual haiku on the artist's website: [visualhaiku.graphics](http://visualhaiku.graphics)



© Ami Fagin



Resplendent with autumn foliage, Quabbin Reservoir mirrors classic golds, oranges, and yellows, with remnants of summer's green as a lone loon floats away from shore near Gate 37 off Monson Turnpike, Petersham.

photo © by Rick Flematti

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Bernie Bergeron, owner of Canadian Tree Expert in Ware, operates his Chase saw, manufactured in Orange.

photo © by Diane Nassif

# Where does the wood go?

by Diane Nassif

Foresters, loggers, arborists, and sawmill owners harvest wood from Quabbin area forests and have a hand in getting the timber to a market, whether local or long-distance. The harvest results in a variety of products, distributed widely.

Using different tools and machines depending on their preferences and the requirements of the task at hand, logging crews cut down trees. The industry has changed dramatically over the past forty years, becoming ever more mechanized. Some folks remember when handsaws and horses or tractors were tools of the trade. Bernie “Big Tree” Bergeron, owner of Canadian Tree Expert in Ware, prefers chainsaws and cable skidders as less intrusive in forests where his crew works. Fred Heyes of Heyes Forest Products in Orange favors a fully mechanized approach, including a feller-buncher machine to drop the trees. Heyes said that the feller-buncher machine fosters safety by protecting the operator in the cab from logging risks. The machine enhances efficiency by felling and bundling more trees in shorter time than a human worker would take to perform the same task.

As the process of harvesting timber became more automated, the number of local sawmills declined dramatically. In 1973, Massachusetts had 130 sawmills. Now, fewer than 30 operate in the Commonwealth with just a handful in the Quabbin region. Remaining sawmills specialize in particular products and types of customers. In nearly every case, loggers and sawmill owners ship some portion of harvested wood to Canada

for processing. Loggers describe the process as a back haul, as drivers delivering goods from Canada pick up logs to fill their trailers on the way home. In some cases, Massachusetts companies also ship logs to China.

Loggers, sawyers, and arborists provide services to local individuals, towns, and institutions. Ware’s Canadian Tree Expert handles tree work for private individuals and several local towns as well as implementing cutting plans for property owners under Massachusetts Chapter 61 protection, whereby the state taxes land on the basis of timber value rather than development value.

Heyes Forest Products does ongoing cutting for the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Orange area to create successional growth and wildlife habitat, including creating a turtle nesting area along a stream. Travis Knetchel, an arborist and tree warden for the town of Athol, has a crew that manages trees in town parks, cemeteries, and roadways. He uses wood harvested in town to create a wood bank for residents who can apply for a voucher to pick up a half cord of cut and split wood for heating in winter.

Equipment used by Heyes Forest Products can cut a tree to a specified length and strip branches and tops off while in the forest. Residue, therefore, decomposes to advantage on the forest floor. Some harvested wood is chipped, thus turned into biomass for burning or pulp for paper. Individuals and institutions throughout the region use small-scale biomass. Large trucks transport

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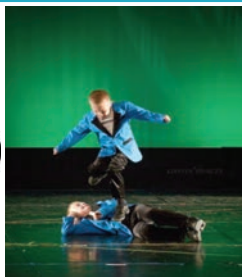
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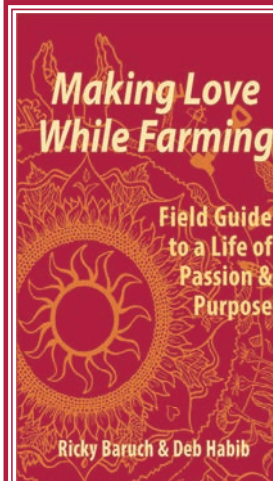
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# Quabbin hiking regimen includes visits to forty-seven gates

by Jim Morelly

How many public access gates has the state Department of Conservation and Recreation established around Quabbin Reservoir? Where do the gates lead?

In 2011, I started regularly hiking in the Quabbin reservation. Each weekend, I drove along Route 122 or Route 202 and randomly selected a gate to enter for a hike. One day, I got to thinking, just how many gates provide access around Quabbin?

At Quabbin Visitors Center, 455 Ware Road, Belchertown, I purchased a “Quabbin Reservation Guide Map,” second edition, 1986, that provides detailed information.

The map identifies fifty-five gates, including eight off limits to the public where DCR does not permit public access. That left forty-seven gates for me to find and explore. I just had to start organizing my hikes in an effort to locate every gate.

Anyone who has visited Quabbin knows that a numbered yellow pipe identifies most gates. However, that’s not the case at all gate entrances. Each gate shows

a variety of entrance types. Two cement pylons with a pipe or board across the road identifies some gates. At a few gates, another short path cuts into a dirt road. Old fences with blue plaquettes identified other gates, and in several locations, an unmarked boulder offers the only indication of an entrance.

When arriving at a gate, I first took a picture, highlighted the gate number on my map, recorded the GPS location, then hiked and explored the roads. Sometimes roads lead to the reservoir, and other times meet more roads. I hiked intersecting roads for miles, often finishing mornings with very long hikes back to my truck. As I became familiar with the Quabbin road infrastructure (along with bushwhacking), I could follow loops that made for stimulating hikes and shorter trips back to the truck.

I took my first hike at Gate 3A in Belchertown and concluded at Gate 54 in Quabbin Park. It took me just about a year to visit all the Quabbin gates. Hikers can easily reach most gates from public roads. However,



With a timer on a camera on a tripod, Jim Morelly took his own photo with attention to showing the gate number.

On his shoulder, he has a hiking camera mounted to a monopod.

photo © by Jim Morelly

finding one gate on the east side and another on the west side of the reservoir will offer challenges. In case someone else wants the challenge of locating those two gates, I won’t reveal the gate numbers. A clue: because of posted property, hikers cannot access the particular gates from outside Quabbin reservation boundaries but instead only from the network of internal dirt roads.

I enjoyed the gate endeavor and having a new location to hike each weekend and seeing a variety of wildlife.

Early on, I carried a point-and-shoot camera in anticipation of photo opportunities. Soon, however, I decided to purchase a digital single-lens reflex camera.

Buying the camera was the easy part. Learning how to use it became the challenge.

Hiking Quabbin roads from yesteryear offered the perfect environment for learning and practicing with the new camera. Those roads lead to many interesting points in the reservation, including fieldstone foundations, walls, fields, and scenic shorelines.

I wanted to learn more from the hikes than locating gate entrances. I wanted to find out all I could about different Quabbin habitats in order to locate ideal wildlife viewing areas, and I achieved that goal.

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## The North Quabbin and Beyond

A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

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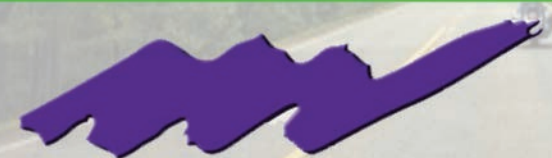
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# Changeable Autumn: Animals and Plants Stay Put

by Sue Cloutier

As the air chills and days shorten, obvious shifts occur in the landscape. Fall briefly changes the complexion of hillsides surrounding Quabbin. Leaves of maples flame to red and orange, and birches go to bright yellow.

Without their green, trees lose their ability to make food. All their energy stores in their roots for release next year so they can grow again. Trees for the most part are stuck where they start. The only way most trees can move any distance occurs when wind or water carries their seeds or animals move them, as happens when squirrels move acorns and stash them in the ground.

Of course, we also move trees so they grow where we want them!



Turkeys forage in the fall, and acorns sprout quickly to escape them.

photo © by Sue Cloutier

Some changes happening now are less obvious. Each organism has its own way to make it through New England seasons. What happens concerns survival of individuals and species. The key involves finding food or storing energy, being safe, and being able to reproduce.

In fall, oak trees drop acorns that could grow into new trees, but acorns also provide nutritious food for wildlife. White oak acorns taste sweeter than those from the red oaks. In order to escape a hungry turkey, bear, or squirrel, white oak acorns quickly sprout in the fall.

## or Move

Red oak acorns with their bitter tannins wait until spring to sprout, and animals eat them as a last resort. The acorn production system works for oaks while enabling many wild animals to have enough energy to survive winter and allowing oaks also to survive.

Although wildlife breeding activity and raising young essentially stops in autumn, animals are intent on building internal fat reserves and food stores in early fall to enable winter survival.

As plants shut down, food for wildlife takes a dramatic shift. Some animals like chipmunks and mice create a storehouse of food. Bears and others add lots of fat because, even though they move around less in the winter, they still need energy.



Bears and others add lots of fat in autumn to store energy.

photo © by Sue Cloutier

Deer, rabbits, and other animals also add fat in the fall although they remain active, so they eat berries, buds, twigs, and bark for energy.

While most plants and animals of the Quabbin region have a way to survive here all year long, a few animals migrate and move to new habitats as the season changes. We recognize monarch butterflies as

best-known travelers for their migration from here to Mexico. That survival strategy perhaps evolved from their experience over many generations that faced the New England area ice ages. Other insects survive here as eggs, larvae, pupae or adults because they have evolved a fluid-like antifreeze to keep their cells from dying.

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# Quabbin region state forest and parks feature

by John Burk



Colorful fall foliage frames Millers River valley slopes on a ledge above Hermit's Castle in Erving State Forest.  
photo © by John Burk • maps © by Casey Williams



The Quabbin region's state forests and parks feature a wide range of attractions and recreational opportunities managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation which oversees more than 150 parks and 450,000 acres statewide. The state acquired most of the properties in the early twentieth century, and federal Civilian Conservation Corps workers built or improved many trails, roads, and facilities during the 1930s. The state established DCR in 2003 when the former Department of Environmental Management and Metropolitan District Commission, original administrator of the Commonwealth's water supply, merged.

Several state forests collectively form a large greenway extending across northeastern Franklin County. Protected woodlands and wetlands provide many important benefits, including habitats and travel routes for wildlife, enhanced air and water

quality, and sequestration for greenhouse gases. The northern portion of the 230-mile New England National Scenic Trail, or NET, formerly the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, passes through the corridor, linking many attractions.

Wendell State Forest encompasses more than 7,750 acres in the uplands on the south side of Millers River. Lyons Brook serves as the source of Ruggles Pond, built by CCC workers. Downstream are the cascades of Hidden Valley, a 66-acre inholding managed by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Jerusalem Hill, one of several rocky hills and outcroppings, features two vistas with westerly views to Mount Greylock. Portions of the forest, including the shores of Wickett Pond, show scars of the July 2006 tornado, but the regenerating vegetation benefits many wildlife species, including rare whip-poor-wills.

# range of attractions, recreational opportunities

The extensive oak-hardwood woodlands and mountain laurel of Erving State Forest, established in 1921, encompass the north side of the valley. Popular Laurel Lake, home to a swimming beach, campground, boat launch, and private cottages, lies below a ridge with views of Mount Monadnock and surrounding hills. Several cascading brooks once powered local mills. The western tract, on the slopes of Hermit Mountain, features a rock cave named the Hermit's Castle, once inhabited by the recluse who called himself John Smith in the late nineteenth century. Smith entertained thousands of visitors at his unusual home. Above the cave, a ledge on the NET provides a panoramic perspective of Millers River valley, a great place to enjoy colorful fall foliage.

To the north rises Mount Grace, highest point of the Quabbin region and NET at 1,625 feet, and namesake and centerpiece of a 1,689-acre state forest in Warwick. A historical fire tower, erected in 1911 and rebuilt after the 1938 hurricane, offers 360-degree views across portions of three states. The remains of an old rope tow on the northeast slopes mark the site of a former downhill ski area, actively used from the 1930s to the 1970s. An Adirondack-style camping shelter on a cascading stream serves NET hikers.

Wide-ranging wooded hills and wetlands of Warwick State Forest, including Sheomet Lake on the Tully River West Branch and Stevens Swamp, provide habitat for moose, waterfowl, flycatchers, and other wildlife. The property, comprised of multiple parcels totaling more than seven thousand acres, abuts portions of Erving, Northfield, and Orange State Forests. The latter, one of several state lands in the region without developed facilities, protects about a thousand acres in three divisions.

Lake Wyola State Park, Shutesbury, also known as Carroll Holmes Recreational Area, established in 1997, is a relatively recent addition to the state park system. The forty-acre property provides public access to a popular beach on the lake's north shore. The walking trails include a portion of the NET, entering from the south from Quabbin Reservoir watershed land.

Once the site of one of the nation's first tree farms, Lawton State Forest also has the distinction of being Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's first project.

The organization, which ultimately established its headquarters at adjacent Skyfields Arboretum, purchased the 365-acre property in 1986 to prevent a large housing development and the following year transferred ownership of the land to the state. Natural features include two ponds and a wooded ridge on the west side of Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol.

Federated Women's Club State Forest, named for the organization that purchased and donated most of the land in the 1930s, abuts Quabbin Reservoir's northern tip in Petersham and New Salem. The West Branch of Fever Brook, one of the reservoir's sources, features wildlife-rich beaver wetlands frequented by moose, wood ducks, river otters, turtles, and dragonflies. At the campground, administered by Erving State Forest, trails lead to Soapstone Hill, Quabbin Reservoir, and a rocky gorge.

Otter River State Forest, the first property established by the Massachusetts State Forest Commission in 1915, lies within a large expanse of protected land in the upper Millers River watershed. DCR is harvesting old pine groves, originally planted by the CCC, to promote native forest regeneration and create wildlife habitat. In early autumn, the wetlands come alive with the bright red foliage of red maples. The state also leases forty-two hundred acres of the adjacent Birch Hill Dam flood-control area, including Lake Dennison, from the Army Corps of Engineers.

DCR manages twenty-three thousand acres of the Ware River watershed in Hubbardston, Barre, Rutland, and Oakham for water supply protection. Three-hundred-acre Rutland State Park, at the south end of the corridor, encompasses Whitehall Pond and Long Pond. The many recreational opportunities include paddling, swimming, fishing, hunting, and access to the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail. The remains of an old prison, built in the early twentieth century to house minor offenders, stands off Prison Camp Road.

In the upper Ware River watershed, several state forest tracts lie within another protected corridor along the Hubbardston-Templeton town line. In the less-traveled hills and wetlands, signs of the land's past include an old millpond and dam on Canesto Brook and large stone walls. A network of trails connects with town-owned Mount Jefferson Conservation Area and adjacent properties.

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Mist rises from Lake Wyola, Shutesbury, one autumn morning.  
photo © by John Burk

## STATE LANDS

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State landholdings located in the South Quabbin region include several wildlife management areas administered by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and popular Quabbin Park, the reservoir's main visiting area.

For more information about these properties, visit [mass.gov/dcr](http://mass.gov/dcr)

Photographer and writer John Burk documents Quabbin region wilds (and not-so-wilds) in image and word. He lives in Petersham.

## QUABBIN REGION RECOVERY PROGRAMS OFFER VARIETY OF POTENTIALLY LIFE-CHANGING SERVICES

by Ellen Woodbury

Offering support and innovative programs, recovery centers in the Quabbin region serve individuals seeking to change their lives.

Jill Panto, co-founder of Speaking Out About Addiction and Recovery, SOAAR, welcomes me to The Nest, a community recovery center at 29 Federal Street, Belchertown, during a torrential downpour.

"We opened a year ago to provide a safe haven for people with addictions and those who love them," said Jill. "We pay the electric bill, but the space is donated by the Mariettos family. We received some funding from a grant, and we fundraise.

"We offer meditation," Jill added, "and space for a young peoples' open



Jamie Woods, right, works with peer leader-in-training Dominic at Athol's North Quabbin Recovery Project.

photo by Ellen Woodbury

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, and a SOAAR meeting where addicted people and families can meet and talk. Every community should have one of these centers. We shouldn't be in a bubble."

"People in recovery have volunteered in the community," said Gail Gramarossa, program director of the Drug Free Communities Project. "We've helped churches, set up for the town fair, and helped with the library book sale. We are organizing the fourth annual 5K and mile run/walk and a music festival on the town common. We'll have information about recovery there alongside other vendors. It's important we're seen as part of the bigger community."

"Come on in. Coffee's on!"

Athol's North Quabbin Recovery Project sports new paint, comfortable furniture, and uplifting sentiments everywhere. All add up

to a welcoming atmosphere for any addict wanting to change.

Almost two years ago, a small group met to form a coalition to address the opioid crisis. With the help of funds from Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan's office and based on Greenfield's Recovery Project, the Athol center opened.

"We provide a safe, compassionate space for people wanting to change their lives," said Jamie Woods, soon to be a recovery coach and president of the Recovery Project advisory board. "Last year, three hundred people came through those doors. Multiple paths bring people here, but most likely they have suffered trauma and used various ways and substances to cope. Habits become ingrained over time, and people can lose hope.

"We help them learn how to get out of despair, to accept

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## Quabbin region's Lysander Spooner plotted to free John Brown

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in court next to Brown, comforting him as he lay on a cot. Hoyt had been a member of the Massachusetts bar for less than a year and did not have legal credentials with him. The trial quickly changed for Hoyt when Brown arose from his cot and denounced his southern lawyers. They withdrew, leaving Hoyt as Brown's sole lawyer.

The next morning, Samuel Chilton of Washington, DC, and Hiram Griswold of Cleveland arrived to replace the lawyers who had withdrawn. According to Bill Hoyt (not related to the abolitionist family), author of *Good Hater, George Henry Hoyt's War on Slavery*,

While the pair spent the morning studying the indictment and planning a defense, Hoyt did his utmost to stall the proceedings. Much to the exasperation of his prosecutor, Andrew Hunter, Hoyt re-called and re-examined several witnesses, objected to already-submitted evidence, and finally asked for a recess because the heat was making him ill. Once his replacements were up to speed, Hoyt officially passed the torch to them and spent the night sick in his room.

Following Brown's conviction, George Henry Hoyt collected affidavits in Ohio to collect affidavits the defense

team hoped would prove Brown insane and thereby avoid his execution. On November 2, after a weeklong trial and a forty-five-minute deliberation, a jury sentenced Brown to hanging.

George Hoyt's trip to Virginia involved more than defending Brown. Abolitionist John LeBarnes asked Hoyt to report to him about the proceedings, to forward messages from Brown, and to assess the military Charles Town situation with an eye toward forcibly rescuing Brown. Hoyt told Brown about the plan, but Brown refused to cooperate, according to Bill Hoyt's book.

Spooner, too, plotted to free John Brown. After John Brown's raid failed and Brown was imprisoned, Spooner developed a plan to capture Governor Henry Wise of Virginia and hold him hostage in exchange for Brown, according to *Creating the John Brown Legend* by Janet Kemper Beck.

Similar plans in New York and Ohio also failed, according to contemporary accounts. The federal government hanged John Brown on December 2, 1859.

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



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## from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin Poets

compiled by Carol Mays, poetry editor

Autumn breathes excitement, flamboyance, and abundance, but this issue's first featured poet, Chris O'Carroll, captures a darker undercurrent. Then, as winter descends, we learn to be still and present in the moment as we treasure simple and sometimes sublime aspects of life, as Joshua Michael Stewart's poignant poem suggests.

*Red & Gold*

by Chris O'Carroll

Flamboyantly decked out in red and gold—  
Mellow and misty, yes, but something more  
The year grows gaudier as it grows old.

Before warm breath succumbs to winter cold,  
Motley appears from a defiant store  
Of finery, flamboyant red and gold.

This late extravagance was not foretold  
By all the brilliant boutonnieres spring wore.  
The year grows gaudier as it grows old.

Summer's mature green kept a steady hold,  
Serenely continent awhile before  
Fall's carnival excess of red and gold.

Threescore and more around the sun I've rolled.  
Now autumn's frenzy calls me to explore  
A madcap gaudiness as I grow old.

That bell time tolls will soon enough be tolled.  
I'm primed for this unobtrusive metaphor,  
For some flamboyant notes of red and gold  
To lend a gaudy grace to growing old.

Chris O'Carroll lives in Pelham with his wife, historian Karen Manners Smith. He is the author of the *The Joke's on Me* published by White Violet Press. He has been a *Light* magazine featured poet and frequently contributes topical verse to that journal's "Poems of the Week" feature. His poems have appeared in *New York City Haiku*, *Poems for a Liminal Age*, and *The Great American Wise Ass Poetry Anthology*, among other collections. "Red and Gold" was originally published in *Love Affairs at the Villa Nello*.

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Give me your tired, your poor,  
your huddled masses  
yearning to breathe free,  
the wretched refuse of  
your teeming shore:  
send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tost to me.  
I lift my lamp beside  
the golden door!"

—Emma Lazarus



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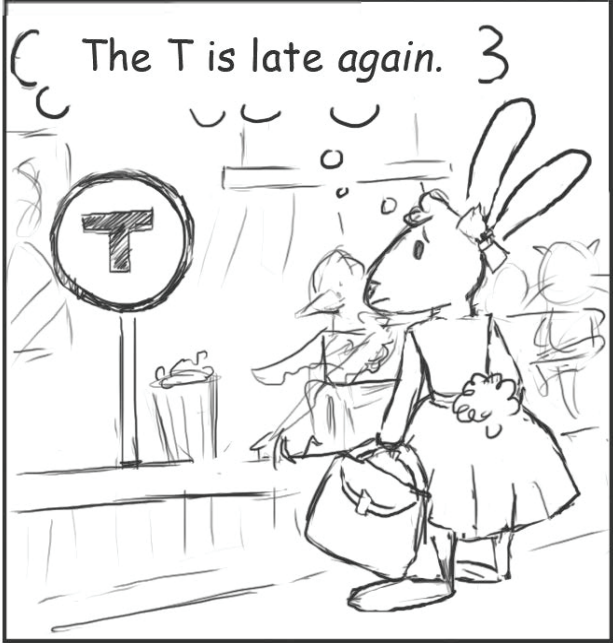
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in the Quabbin



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# wood structures efficiently store carbon

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loads of biomass chips from forests within a fifty-mile radius to Pinetree Power in Westminster, which burns the chips to generate electricity.

Sawyers have many different markets for their wood. Canadian Tree Expert cuts timber for post-and-beam buildings, sill restoration, and renovations of old buildings to meet the needs of local timber framers for specific sizes and species of wood. The sawmill also cuts pine boards for barns and vocational school shop classes. Pine with many knots serves well for companies that need crates to pack up machinery for shipment. Hemlock provides wood for small storage sheds and barn frames. White oak becomes trailer planks and outrigger pads. Wholesalers buy red oak for kiln drying and cutting into boards. Sawdust goes to local equestrians for bedding.

W. R. Robinson Lumber in Hardwick specializes in white pine lumber and trucks logs from the forestry landing to its mill, two kilns, and planing operation. Robinson Lumber sells finished products for floors, paneling, siding, and post-and-beam construction directly to contractors, timber framers, and homeowners. Online sales have replaced the furniture-manufacturing market once prominent in the region. White pine products are shipped to businesses all along the East coast.

Heyes Forest Products also creates specialty products. One customer, Jack Cadwell of Warwick,

works with carpenters and architects to replace staircases and windows in old houses to make them match the existing house.

The idea of using wood, especially local wood, as building material motivates Professor Peggi Clouston, an engineer in the UMass, Amherst, Department of Environmental Conservation. She was instrumental in urging the university to use innovative wood products to construct the John W. Olver Design Building on campus.

The Olver building uses heavy timber instead of so-called frame wood and acts as a carbon storage tank more sustainable than concrete- or steel-based buildings that require fossil fuels to create the materials. Structurally demanding applications can use wood, as exemplified by the Olver Building. For beams and columns that hold up the structure, the building uses Glulam, a laminated product with all fibers of wood running in one direction. For spans that make up floors and walls, the building uses cross-laminated timber. Fibers crisscross at ninety degrees.

Black spruce from a company in Quebec provided the timber for the Olver Building. Professor Clouston is researching the possibility of using eastern hemlock and eastern white pine for heavy timber construction. Research results have not yet materialized, but the heavily forested Quabbin region could eventually enter



Glulam laminated wood constitutes beams and columns for the UMass, Amherst, Olver Building.  
photo © by Alex Schreyer

the market for structural building materials based on local wood.

Diane Nassif calls herself a newcomer to the Boston region. She retired here ten years ago from Boston.

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# Llamas and alpacas, oh my!

by Sharon Harmon



Llamas amble about on varied terrain at Rutland's Alpaca-Lipis Farm.

photo © by Sharon Harmon

Have you ever wondered about the difference between a llama and an alpaca? I was lucky enough to learn it from Keith Tetreault, owner of Plain View Farm in Hubbardston. "Llamas are obviously bigger and weigh more," he pointed out, "and they also have

banana-shaped ears. Their fur fibers are usually coarser, alpacas tend to have fur that is finer."

Keith and his wife, Debbie, have thirty-eight alpacas and two llamas at Plain View, where they have lived for nine years. Keith's great uncle Bob Beaugard, who is ninety-four, helped them out by clearing much of their seven acres and also built some sheds and decks on the property.

When I asked Keith "Why alpacas?" he answered, "The first one I met kissed me, and that was it for me." Keith said he grew up with animals and had a pony as a kid.

He shears the animals himself. "Each one takes about fifteen minutes to do," he said. "We do it once a year and take off the winter coat in the spring."

He feeds them twice a day. "They like to eat hay, grass, and grain," he said. He let my granddaughter Bailey Lefsyk and me walk llamas on tethers, and we had great fun. We tried to sneak a petting stroke in when we could. Their big eyes and long lashes could melt your heart.

"Alpacas have a group herd mentality," Keith told us. "They need at least three of them to be happy and thrive. One of them always stays ahead to protect the herd."

Keith submits grant proposals the first weekend in April to do alpaca shows at September's Big E in Springfield. They also show at Mount Wachusett BBQ, the Sterling Fair, and the Johnny Appleseed Fair at the Red Apple Farm.

"On Sundays, we have yoga with alpacas in one of the fields," he said. "People seem to like it." A couple of local kids help them out with the animals. Cats and chickens also roamed all over.



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# Can you tell the difference?

We saw alpacas kiss Keith and cuddle with him. He seemed well loved by them all. He has names for each of them.

A shop inside the Plainview Barn sells llama and alpaca products. He showed us an alpaca shearing he had done a few days earlier. "People buy yarn from us at a mill in Vermont, and some goes to Fall River," Keith said.

My granddaughter and I had a great time browsing and looking at socks, mittens, and scarfs, some of them from Peru. The shop also sells stuffed animals, including bears and even adorable chickens made of alpaca fur.

"It's lots of fun here in December, as we are always a part of the Country Road Christmas Tour the first weekend in December and we are open Sundays 10-3 as well," he stated.

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From the age of fifteen, Faith Mayer wanted to be a llama farmer. She joked about it over the years through high school and college, then marriage and four children.

In 2014 on the anniversary of her mother's death, she and her husband, John, sold their house and bought forty acres in Rutland. On her husband's fiftieth birthday, they signed the papers for their dream of becoming llama farmers. The stars seemed aligning as everything seemed to fall into place. They opened Alpaca-Lipis Farm, home to two llamas and nine alpacas. Faith



Bailey Lefsyk takes an alpaca for a stroll at Hubbardston's Plain View Farm.

photo © by Sharon Harmon

said that many school groups visit their farm, and she and John also take their animals to nursing homes and fairs.

"Alpacas are excellent with autistic children," Faith said. Alpaca-Lipis also offers birthday parties. Faith and

*continued on page 51*

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help all along the way assists octogenarian kayaker  
enjoying a sunny day on Quabbin region lakes

continued from page 4

and tie it to the top of my car. No indeed. My eighty-six-year-old self had help all along the way. Just getting me in or out of a kayak makes for a comical moment useful for taming any conceit I may harbor. Friends who helped me with the kayak also came along when I rented a boat in order to fish on the Quabbin Reservoir. To do so, you need a current Massachusetts fishing license. At my age, I qualify for a free license. Renting a boat costs only twenty dollars for senior citizens.

We chose to go out a bright and beautiful midweek day to cruise on Quabbin. The water was calm, and spirits were high.

We began at the launch site off Route 122 in New Salem, and we had a map. Launch site personnel told us we might get lost out there among lookalike islands and coves.

The motor putt-putted, and we were on our way. Mostly, it was a quiet time, but occasionally the wake from a larger passing boat rocked us.

Quabbin is large, and the water can be very deep. You get a sense of space between water and sky. Steering close to shore, you find timeless rock formations, some smoothed by water and others standing tall and seeming to climb up surrounding hills.

As autumn approached, leaves had a touch of color with evergreens dark in contrast. Ghosts of the lost towns under Quabbin came to mind. Is it up to me to decide whether or not this day was worth their loss? Of course not. Greater Boston's need for that water far surpasses any compulsion for my day's pleasure in the outing.

Thinking about Boston's need for water brings me back to my original question. What is there about water that draws us to it? I know it's part of us and no creature can exist without it. Beyond that, I have no answer. For me, all bodies of water remain mysterious.

Quabbin Reservoir serves as the water supply for the city of Boston. In all, sixty-one communities—including Chicopee, South Hadley, and Wilbraham in the western part of the state—depend on the Quabbin water supply. Accordingly, regulations apply to fishing and other recreational activities in the Quabbin reservation. Find more about fishing at the website below or telephone the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221. [mass.gov/quabbin-reservoir-fishing-guide](http://mass.gov/quabbin-reservoir-fishing-guide)

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A small, unnamed island in the northern Quabbin reservation provides home to nesting loons during the summer. It also makes a great vantage point for bald eagles looking for fish in early spring as ice goes out and in autumn when an early-transforming maple heralds the time when leaves fall to the ground.

photo © by Dale Monette

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## poetry from the Quabbin Region

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### Family Recipe from a Stained Spiral Notebook

by Joshua Michael Stewart

When my dad goes to clinic for chemo,  
I stop over to his place for a few hours  
fix up some lunch and watch  
Gunsmoke with Grandpa  
he's in his bib turning  
the pages of a National Geographic  
as if it itself were an artifact  
about to crumble and sieve

My dad's golden retriever hips  
from table to stove, stove to table  
plops his white muzzle  
in the old man's lap

Yesterday I watched six deer graze  
on a snow-patched hillside  
and decaying undergrowth

pervaded the crisp air  
The deer sauntered through yellow grass  
into a grove, nibbled on branches  
I marched along the other side of the dell  
to snap a better shot

and as I came to the path's curve, the deer  
one by one crossed in front of me  
and with a few grunts absorbed  
into a forest of pine and birch

"How's things down at the plant Charlie"  
Grampa says as I ladle chili  
into pear-green bowls his boyhood friend  
and the GM factory long gone

This morning I read some Mary Oliver poems  
when younger I couldn't sit still for owls or blue irises  
didn't bother to search for what hides

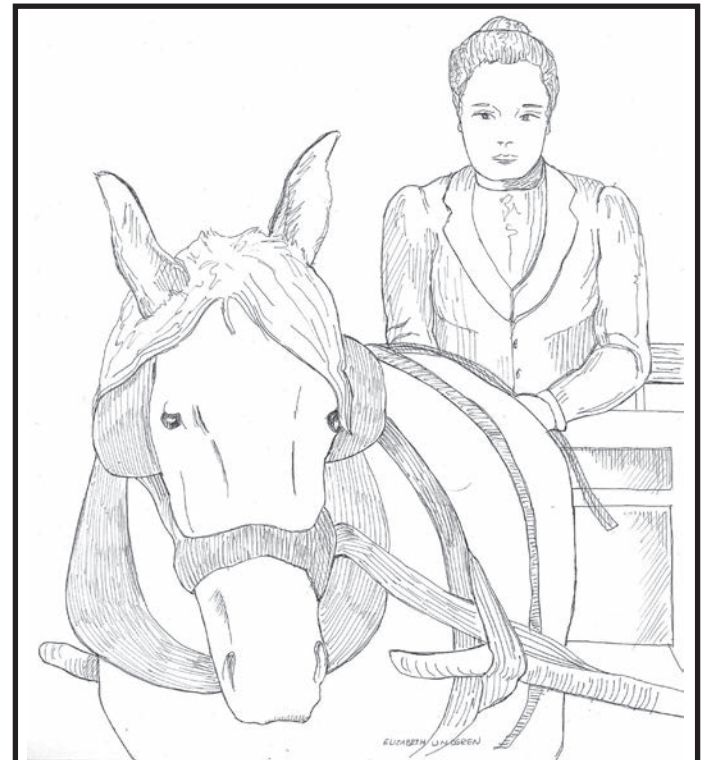
between petals under wings  
Now all I want is stillness  
to be like the dog  
lucky to have a concept of time  
that extends no further than a tongue

Like Mary I want to believe in everything  
believe in anything  
before the two old bucks hoof it into the woods  
and this house becomes an empty field

Joshua Michael Stewart lives in Ware, Massachusetts. He has had poems published in the *Massachusetts Review*, *Salamander*, *Brilliant Corners*, and others. His collection of poems, *Break Every String*, was published by Hedgerow Books in 2016. He's been a teacher/counselor working with individuals with special needs for more than twenty years.

Poet Carol Mays edits poetry for *Uniquely Quabbin*. Submit poems to her for consideration at [irisspring@hughes.net](mailto:irisspring@hughes.net).

Find *Uniquely Quabbin* online at  
[uniquelyquabbin.com](http://uniquelyquabbin.com)



Some sometimes see the late Betsy Browning on a Hubbardston road.

.pen and ink drawing. the artist's conception.  
© by Elizabeth Lindgren

## Quabbin region ghostly sightings

continued from page 13

The monument warns that


*Death is ever near! Near this spot, on  
Sunday 7, September 1828. Mrs. Betsy, wife  
of Mr. James Browning, was thrown from a  
carriage, as she was returning from Publick  
Worship and instantly killed.*

The monument is on the Smithsonian Institution list of historic monuments.

Frequenters of New Braintree know of Elsie, said to appear near Evergreen Cemetery on Route 67. Every April 18, goes the lore, her spirit rises from her grave and wanders by the stone wall next to the cemetery. She is said to be the spirit of a bride killed in a carriage accident on her wedding day.

In Old Royalston Cemetery in the so-called Olde Centre, surrounded by a short stone wall, many otherworldly sightings have occurred, including a misty woman with long blonde hair and a black shadowy apparition that moves very quickly. People have also felt cold spots and feelings of being watched or touched.



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

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## Baldwinville Station, Baldwinville Center and

by Diane Kane



Baldwinville Station serves home cooking in the center of quaint Baldwinville, a village of Templeton.

photo © by Diane Kane

### Baldwinville Station

#### Route 202 • Baldwinville Center

Baldwinville Station restaurant has been a breakfast and lunch gathering place of families and friends for more than a decade.

When former owners Mike and Jenn DeCarolis decided in June 2018 to follow other pursuits and put the restaurant up for sale, Diana and Shawn Graham saw their opportunity. From 2007 to 2013, Diana and Shawn—both alumni of Narragansett Regional School in Templeton—had owned Rockin' Robin's restaurant across from the Athol Area YMCA.

Diana and Shawn continue Baldwinville Station traditions by giving customers home cooking at affordable prices. Sometimes simply called The Station, the two-story building nestles on the hillside and radiates a homey atmosphere. Two large open rooms often filled with laughter and smiles provide plenty of seating for up to sixty-five patrons and more.

Railroad tracks wind behind the restaurant where the original Baldwinville Railway Station stood when railroads provided long distance transportation by passenger rail no longer running. Freight trains still pass by.

The restaurant serves hearty, classic breakfasts with a menu that speaks to the building's origins. The

## Reed's, New Braintree, offer home cooking

Conductor consists of two eggs, toast, meat, and home fries for \$5.75. The Engineer offers two eggs, sausage links served with two thick French toast slices for \$6.99, and the Hungry Hobo provides two eggs, meat, home fries, and toast with choice of two buttermilk pancakes or two thick French toast slices for \$8.99.

I visited on a Tuesday morning to find the place bustling with activity. Settling onto a comfortable wooden stool at the horseshoe shaped counter, I looked over the extensive menu and ordered the Train Wreck: three eggs whipped with onions, mushrooms, tomatoes, green peppers, broccoli, bacon, ham, sausage, and choice of cheese— just one of the Station's tasty omelets. At \$9.59, it came with choice of toast and home fries, grilled or deep fried. I had wheat toast and home fries grilled to perfection. Everything came out piping hot, and the portions would satisfy the heartiest of appetites.

For lunch, The Station offers a nice variety of choices including sandwiches, wraps, salads, burgers, and fries. Homemade soups and chili always take their place on the menu. Daily specials include meatloaf on Monday for \$6.99, lazy chicken cordon bleu typically served on

Tuesday for \$7.99, and roast turkey dinner, sometimes on Thursday, for \$8.99.

Ample parking in the back has easy access to the main entrance. Take Exit 19 off Route 2 and catch Route 202 north to Baldwinville Station at 9 Circle St, Baldwinville, and experience for yourself the popular destination for breakfast and lunch. *Their motto: Friends and Family Gather Here . . .*

Open 5:30 am to 2 pm seven days a week. Breakfast served throughout open hours. Lunch served from 11 am to 2 pm weekdays only.

### Reed's

753 Barre Road, Route 67

### New Braintree

Reed's in New Braintree has been a family affair since 1977 when Ed and Sue Reed bought the country store and restaurant in the rural South Quabbin.

Walking in the door of Reed's instantly transported me to a time gone by and dearly missed. The spacious wood and stone dining room filled with comfortable

continued on page 54

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Erica Goulding tends to cheese-making at Westfield Farm, Hubbardston  
photo © by John Burk

## Quabbin region farms turn out

by Carla Charter

Cheesemaking dates back four thousand years, according to the International Dairy Foods Association. Although cheesemaking in the Quabbin area does not date back that far, a number of farms offer local cheeses for the fall season.

Debby and Bob Stetson own Hubbardston's Westfield Farm, in business since 1971. The farm turns out a little more than fifteen hundred pounds of cheese per week. A hundred pounds of milk produce from fifteen to twenty pounds of cheese. Classic Blue Log, the farm's well-known ripened blue cheese, has won many awards, including the 2018 American Cheese Society designation for best in class. Greenfield's Green Fields Market and Shelburne Falls's McCuskers sell Westfield Farm cheese, also available online at [chevre.com](http://chevre.com).

Westfield Farm  
28 Worcester Road  
Hubbardston

Pamela and Ray Robinson Jr. own Hardwick's fifth-generation Robinson Farm, in operation since 1892. The farm's one-hundred-per-cent-grass-fed and certified-organic cows graze on the farm's pastures,

## pounds of cheese from local cows, sheep, and goats

and the Robinsons use only their own cows' milk to create Robinson Farm cheese. Since 2010, the farm has produced raw milk and farmstead cheeses, including Robinson Family Swiss and three European, alpine-style cheeses, Tekenink Tomme, Barndance & Prescott, and Hardwick Stone, a brick-style cheese developed from an 1870 family recipe. The farm most recently added Arpeggio, a hybrid, bloomy rind-style cheese.

American Cheese Society and the Eastern States Exposition Big E Gold Cheese Competition have awarded Robinson Farm cheeses many honors. Robinson Farm retails and wholesales cheese throughout the Northeast and also operates a small farm shop that sells cheese, raw milk, seasonal vegetables, eggs, pasture-based beef and pork. Also find their cheese at [robinsonfarmcheese.com](http://robinsonfarmcheese.com)

Robinson Farm  
42 Jackson Road  
Hardwick

Rachel Scherer and her husband, Bruce, create cheese from the milk of their herd of Lamancha dairy goats at Little White Goat Dairy of Orange. Along with yogurt and kefir made on a regular schedule, the farm makes Chevre and ricotta cheese, surface ripened "bloomy rind" cheeses, Bulgarian Feta, and aged hard cheese. Little White Goat products include Stella Blue cheese with a bloomy white rind and blue cheese kick and Chestnut Hill Tomme, an aged raw milk cheese. Little White Goat Dairy has a farm store, open April-December, seven days a week from 8 am to 6 pm. Also find their cheese at [littlewhitegoatdairy.com](http://littlewhitegoatdairy.com).

Little White Goat Dairy  
309 Gidney Road  
Orange

Ben and Laura Wells-Tolley operate Chase Hill Farm of Warwick. They took over the property in 2017 from the Fellows family who established the farm in 1957. The herd, raised on the farm's 270 acres of land, mainly

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In loving memory of the president and owner of Orange Oil Company

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who died on June 5, 2019. Family and friends will dearly miss him, as certainly will his Orange Oil family, who loved him and knew him best.

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Bob Harris Jr., late president and owner of Orange Oil Company, had an amazing work ethic evident early in his life.

While in grade school, Bob began pumping gas at his father's gas station in Orange. The business evolved and his father started Orange Oil Company in 1947.

Bob often took the company truck to high school, so he could deliver heating oil and kerosene after school hours. His father wanted him to go to college, but Bob wanted to go to trade school. He obtained his license to be a burner technician, and then Orange Oil could offer service and installations as well as delivery.

Not one to sit idle, Bob obtained his trailer truck license and convinced his father to buy a tractor trailer truck so they could haul their own oil out of Sterling and Boston.

Bob worked long hours his entire life. In his younger years, he did service and deliveries by day and hauled oil at night. In his later years, he was still first to arrive in the morning and was always the last one to leave.

He really did love to work.



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# Community Television Offers Training and Equipment

continued from page 15

to WHPA in 2015. Prior to her arrival, the town provided only a PowerPoint slideshow of community announcements. Starting from the ground up, the station purchased new equipment and cameras. A large meeting room has a remote camera to record town meetings.

For a small community, Brittany said, “The audience is huge,” pointing to the large number of views of videos on the station’s YouTube channel. “The people of Hubbardston expect coverage of their meetings and public hearings,” Brittany added.

“Community connection and a central location for sharing

information” define community access TV, according to Brittany. “It’s an opportunity for regular people to put out their messages and be informed.”

WHPA welcomes volunteers and offers informal one-on-one training about equipment use.

Templeton Community Television • TCTV Headed by Steve Castle, TCTV represents an up-and-coming community access station. Founded in 2007, expanded in 2015, and currently without a studio, TCTV covers and airs town meetings and events, community announcements and

school committee meetings also available to Phillipston viewers. TCTV’s Facebook active page updates daily. The TCTV YouTube channel carries meetings and town events. “No politics, no opinions—the goal is to provide the information and programs as they happened,” Steve commented.

Steve said “I’m working on forging strong community ties and getting young people involved to build a club of like-minded people interested in tech.” He and a part-time videographer are the only paid employees, but two part-time media assistants will soon join them, thus allowing greater access “to the community for the community.” TCTV welcomes volunteers

regardless of town residency, and they will receive basic training on equipment and use.

Steve’s rule number one? “Never drop the camera.”

In a partnership between TCTV and the Town of Templeton, community preservation funds finance renovation of Scout Hall, an 1830s schoolhouse. A portion of Scout Hall will become home for TCTV, allowing desired expansion. “It’s not going to be high tech,” Steve said. “There will be pseudo studios with small sets to allow for original programming, potentially talk shows.”

“We have an obligation to teach our young people respect and how to do broadcast responsibly,” Steve said.

## Contact:

Athol/Orange • AOTV at [aotv13.org](http://aotv13.org) or Facebook

Barre • BCTV on Facebook

Erving • MCTV at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org)

Hubbardston • WHPA on Facebook

Oakham Community Access at [oakham-ma.gov/cableaccess.cfm](http://oakham-ma.gov/cableaccess.cfm)

Rutland • RCTV at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)

Templeton • TCTV at [tctv@templeton1.org](mailto:tctv@templeton1.org)

Ware (WCTV) at [waretv.org](http://waretv.org)

Paula J. Botch is a writer and photographer who lives in Orange, Massachusetts.

# area recovery programs include meditation, meetings, and community involvement

continued from page 31

responsibility for their lives and change,” explained Jamie. “In our meetings, you might hear someone talking and someone else saying ‘Me too!’” he said.

“We are committed to community. We participate in many community activities.

“To keep community ties strong, I visit other businesses to let them know what we are doing,” Jamie said.

Dominic, training to be a peer leader, explained. “Shame and guilt can keep people away, but we can change. It takes practice!”

“Right now, the sheriff’s office pays for the lights and rent here. We always accept donations of money and time,” Jamie said.

“One goal of the Opioid Task Force involves improving the overall wellness of the community,” said Heather Bialecki-Canning, executive director of Athol’s Community Coalition. “North Quabbin Recovery Project developed from the ground up based on need.”

Morgan Ban-Draoi, substance use treatment program manager of the Dana Day Treatment Program at Quabbin Retreat, Petersham, said the facility opened in July 2017.

Part of Heywood

Healthcare, the day treatment program operates for three and a half hours a day over two weeks. The retreat also offers individual and group therapy.

“We provide transportation, Ban-Draoi said. “We provide groups led by master’s level clinicians as well as mental health counselors. We offer a comprehensive approach to getting better.

“We have received a grant for musical instruments, and a donor has provided a soundproof room,” Ban-Draoi added.

“We schedule groups so

that people can work and still live their lives. We share our building with McLean Hospital, an in-patient program, so we can refer back and forth depending on the needs of the person.

“We offer follow-up with recovery coaching so people feel supported. Referrals may come from individuals, physicians, and other professional agencies. We have a lot of things on the drawing board. We want to get it right!”

**The Nest**  
259 Federal Street  
Belchertown  
[SOAAR01007@gmail.com](mailto:SOAAR01007@gmail.com)  
(413) 324-8285

**North Quabbin Recovery Project**  
416 Main Street  
Athol  
(978) 249-4989

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.

**Quabbin Retreat**  
Dana Day  
Treatment Program  
Petersham  
(978) 724-0010  
[morgan.ban-draoi@heywood.org](mailto:morgan.ban-draoi@heywood.org)

**North Quabbin Community Coalition**  
251 Exchange Street  
Athol (978) (249-3703  
[info@nqcc.org](mailto:info@nqcc.org)

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## region's psychic mediums offer proficiency with esp

continued from page 11

life regression. She doesn't believe in fortune telling but guides with what she calls "future telling." She said she notes energies and informs clients of vibrations about potential choices.

"It's up to them to make the decision," she said.

If you've never experienced it, imagine the surprise of suddenly being told that a deceased loved one stands next to you. It happened during my conversation with psychic medium Joanne Collins as she narrated her own life story.



Joanne Collins  
psychic medium

photo © by Paula J. Botch

Although no longer living in the Quabbin region, Joanne lived for a long time in Orange. She remains active in the community as a member of Quabbin Valley Paranormal, an Orange group that investigates happenings without empirical explanation.

As a child unable to explain her perception to doubting parents, Joanne always felt different, because unlike others, she saw and sensed spirits. Whether she saw a full or transparent body, she never wondered whether she saw someone living or the spirit of someone dead.

Things moved and disappeared in front of her. She experienced strange dreams and premonitions, and some impacted decisions she made about how to conduct her life.

Joanne holds a psychology degree and took many courses in the process of learning more about her abilities and how to hone her skills. She stresses the need for education and learning about one's psychic abilities. "Don't declare yourself a psychic or medium and just start practicing. It can be dangerous and open doors to dark forces."

With Joanne's individual clients, there's no fortune telling. Joanne uses angel cards ("they are white light") rather than tarot cards that she associates with darker spiritual forces. She loves helping people and wants to discuss whatever a client wishes, including past life experiences or possible future events.

Clients may think Joanne reads their thoughts, but she says, "I never invade privacy. And I've learned techniques to shut it off. Being on all the time can become unhealthy and takes so much energy."

A veterinary nurse for twenty-five years, Joanne has among her gifts the ability to communicate with animals. "I worked with doctors who were open to it," she said, sometimes assisting them with sick or injured animals.

"I saw pictures," she said, "and picked up on feelings. Not much was verbal, occasionally just a few words."

She has a dual role as investigator and resident psychic medium on cases with Quabbin Valley Paranormal. A forensic medium, Joanne sometimes assists law enforcement with heartbreaking, often frustrating, cases involving missing persons. A physical medium, she says she feels what a person went

through during an ordeal. With some cases, she uses a technique known as remote viewing. In her mind's eye, Joanne can place herself at a distant location, thus allowing police investigators to ask questions about what she experiences.

At Tintagels Gate in Athol, Diane DiPietro welcomes clients. A professional psychic medium reader for more than twenty years, she also provides energy sessions to help relieve pain, balance energy, and create and maintain good health. The store carries a variety of New Age products, Renaissance and medieval items, clothing, and floral arrangements.

Templeton's Church in the Wyldewood, established in 1967, offers a spiritualist community open to all. Community fellowship follows Sunday services. Healing services take place, and guest mediums share experiences and provide readings. Throughout the year, the church offers workshops and events including spiritualism, astrology, and tarot.

For more information:

Linda Merkel  
psychicreadingsbymedium.com  
blindablessing@aol.com

Joanne Collins  
joanecollinsmedium.com

Tintagels Gate  
509 Main Street  
Athol  
tintagelsgate.com

Church in the Wyldewood  
214 Shady Lane  
Templeton  
churchinthewyldewood.org

Paula J. Botch is a writer and photographer who lives in Orange, Massachusetts. She finds the vast paranormal world a fascinating place.

## llamas and alpacas

continued from page 39

John bring two animals to a client's house, or the party can come to them. Either way, Faith also provides party favors in the cost of the event. For an extra fee, she and John provide an alpaca birthday cake.

"We do weddings, too, but not here. We bring alpacas to the wedding site," she said. The Mayers also take the alpacas to Tower Hill in Boylston and Davis Hill Elementary School in Holden.

"Our busiest time is the fall season. Alpacas like the cool weather best, and a trip here is beautiful with the autumn foliage," she said. "We have an open house from 9 am to 3 pm September 28. It also includes vendors and hand feeding with our animals," she said.

Faith's love of her pack show when you see her interacting with them. At last Faith is living her dream, AKA the Llama Farmer.

Faith & John Mayer  
156 Intervale Road  
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Under the new ownership of William Snavelly of Petersham, Alpacas of Wuthering Woods welcomes visitors Monday through Friday from noon until five. "In the mornings I have all my chores to do," William said.

People can visit the alpacas where the farm provides seed for visitors to feed them. "We are one of the largest alpaca farms in the region. We now have close to sixty alpacas," he stated. William tells visitors about how they get fleece from the animals and other facts, including the names of Wuthering Farm alpacas and llamas.

Snavelly plans to revamp the farm's historical house and open a gift shop during the summer of 2020 with items on sale including wedding dresses, dress shirts, hats and coats.

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## animals and plants adapt as winter approaches

continued from page 27



Several years ago, the snowy owl here spent time in the New Salem woods.

photo © by Dale Monette

We also know that birds migrate. Warblers that brought color and song back to the Quabbin the previous spring will winter in the south where insects fly all year. Bobolinks, great burbling singers that build their homes in hayfields—where hay cutting was delayed during 2019—have a long migration each year of more than twelve thousand miles to and from fields in Brazil and other countries far to the south. Bobolinks depend on active insects for food and would not survive our winter.

Some species wander well beyond their normal range when food grows scarce after a good breeding season. Last year, food grew scarce for young snowy owls from north of us that moved south for food and took up temporary residence in the Quabbin region. When unusual birds extend their range and end up here, you can locate them when you see crowds with telescopes and binoculars.

Less well-known migrants are a few species of dragonflies that fly to and from our region in large groups in the fall but in spring return a few at a time. The common green darner, wandering glider, black saddlebags, and variegated meadow hawk all migrate to and from our region. Successfully reproducing here, they form masses moving south in August and September. Just recently, scientists have had more than

simple observations to track dragonfly movements: with radio-isotopes, they discover how far dragonflies have flown from where they left the water as adults. As a citizen scientist, you can help the migration discovery process if you add your observations of dragonflies to information at [migratorydragonflypartnership.org](http://migratorydragonflypartnership.org).

Another set of animals moves away from their home range in a way that promotes species survival. Spotted salamanders reproduce in vernal pools. Vernal pools can be dry for many years. Young salamanders that came from one pool may not find water if they return to that original pool. Studies of salamanders that use vernal pools have determined that about twenty percent of adult salamanders wander away and do not return. By chance, they find another wetland or pool where they mate and lay eggs. The process insures that some salamanders, even in very dry years, may be successful breeders. Thus the wanderers ensure species survival.

Another way that species move to ensure survival involves wandering beyond their normal range when their species has a very successful breeding season. Here in the Quabbin area, we can find southern species that try out living through a year here. The giant swallowtail butterfly qualifies as one such animal. It once made its home primarily in the south and now makes its home throughout Massachusetts. Because winters have grown milder, their caterpillars can find food, and the species seems well established. Others seem to try each year, like the common buckeye and fiery skipper, but they have not yet had as much success.

Sue Cloutier is an experienced nature center director with a special interest in biodiversity.



Crowds with telescopes and binoculars clue us in to presence of unusual species.

photo © by Sue Cloutier

## Quabbin farms make cheese

continued from page 47

includes Normande cows, a French breed known for superior milk for cheesemaking. Their Normande cow milk produces a variety of raw milk artisan cheeses including Farmstead; a washed curd Colby Cheddar, aged from nine to eighteen months; Herdsman, aged six months; Alpine-style Feta, made in whey salt brine and aged at least sixty days; Italian Grace, Parmesan-style, aged at least sixty days; Tomme de Normande, natural rind semi-soft cheese, aged between three and four months; Quabbin Blue, smoky-style blue-veined cheese, aged at least sixty days.

Several farm stores around the Pioneer Valley and Amherst as well as the Lexington farmers market sell Chase Hill Farm cheese, also sold at the new farm store on premises.

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## exploring Quabbin gates affords vistas, wildlife sightings, photo ops, exercise

continued from page 25

With consistent weekend hiking, I met several other Quabbin shutterbugs typically wandering the same roads and equally committed to spending endless hours at Quabbin. I cross their paths several times each year. I like knowing they are out there most days enjoying Quabbin's beauty through the lens of a camera.

Of all the gates hiked, only one taxed me physically for a short distance: Gate 25 in New Salem.

In Quabbin's beauty and nature, I find my passion. When hiking Quabbin roads, I never forget that many people once made this wonderful place home.

Find the Quabbin Reservation Guide Map at [mass.gov/files/documents/2018/07/02/quabbinmgtareas.pdf](http://mass.gov/files/documents/2018/07/02/quabbinmgtareas.pdf)

Outdoor enthusiast Jim Morelly has enjoyed a lifelong affection for nature. Whether bushwhacking a new area, setting out trail cameras, or watching the onset of dawn with camera in hand, Jim finds the anticipation of seeing wildlife and capturing a photo rewarding.





# region's restaurants support local farmers and artisans

continued from page 45

tables and chairs has a relaxed atmosphere. I was drawn to the counter seating overlooking a clean and well-organized cooking area. I settled in and watched in awe as Ed, owner and head chef, filled each order with quiet precision and TLC. Sue, his wife and co-owner, greeted me with a warm welcome.

I looked over the many enticing menu offerings. I considered the special: turkey, cheddar, apple, and honey Dijon panini. When I asked Sue what she recommended, she said, "Why, Sue's Favorite of course!"—grilled turkey, onions, pepper, cheese, lettuce, and tomato in a pita or wrap. How could I resist? With a pickle and a choice of Sue's homemade coleslaw or red-skinned potato salad, it's a winner at \$8.99.

While I ate, Sue told the story of Reed's Country Store as Ed operated the grill, occasionally nodding and grinning at Sue's rendition.

"When we opened, we were a true country store. We carried groceries, ice cream, and cigarettes and served coffee and homemade baked goods," said Sue. "We also had gas pumps out front and a full package store license."



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In the mid nineties, removal of the gas pumps prompted the Reeds to do away with all the convenience items and liquor and to focus on the restaurant.

In addition to family, Sue gives credit to Jess Rice, a part-time employee, who has been with the Reeds for nearly twenty-five years. "She's played a huge part in our success."


Over the years, the Reeds have expanded their menu to include breakfast and lunch as well as Friday night dinners that can include beef short ribs, baked haddock, and chicken Parmesan. Appetizers run about \$8, and entrées cost between \$10-\$19. Leave room for Sue's homemade desserts that include chocolate layer cake, lemon cheesecake, or strawberry pie for \$5.

"We enjoy the challenge of preparing and serving varied menu requests," said Sue. With little need for advertising, the catering business keeps them busy. Ed is always eager to try new things, which has included preparing Indian dishes as well as a Nigerian goat entrée requested by certain wedding parties.

Sue and Ed use fresh meats and produce from local family farms including Stillman's, Pollard's, Howe's, and Still Life Farms. Ragged Hill Dairy supplies eggs and milk, and Rose 32 bread is a staple. "We had been incorporating fresh, local products long before farm-to-table caught on," Sue said. "We are happy to see people embrace the concept and support local farmers and artisans."

Open 8 am to noon Sunday, 7 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday 5 to 9 pm Friday.

Diane Kane, a writer and former chef, published *Flash in the Can*, a collection of short stories. She lives in Phillipston.



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## Nature's Nuances by Clare Green Forest Bathing

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

—William Shakespeare

Infinite nature. Infinite secrets. Infinite love. Infinite forgiveness. Truly. The mere act of walking in nature provides us with soul, heart, body, and spiritual sustenance. If encouraged, it restores us to wholeness.

Consider a fall foliage hike in any one of the beautiful forested areas of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin regions.

One of my favorite hikes begins in New Salem near the town common to an open wooded path to Millington's stone walls submerging beneath the Quabbin edge. With visual reminder as clear testament to its storied past, the path speaks volumes about its own history. Peaceful reflections may accompany you as you bathe in the New Salem forest.

Or consider a self-guided fall hike at Phillipston's Red Apple Farm complete with smells of apple pie baking, cider donuts, and fresh apples to pick. Follow trails with clear apple signage marked by North Quabbin Trails Association. Check in at the farm stand with any questions.

Enjoy your walk in the woods. Be sure to bring all of your senses, including your heart, which may help weave your experiences into inspiration and renewal.

Is it any wonder that a practice known as forest bathing or Shinrin Yoku developed in Japan with a multitude of associated health benefits?

"In Japanese," said Dr. Qing Li, "we have a word for those feelings too deep for words: yugen. Yugen



gives us a profound sense of the beauty and mystery of the universe. . . . The art of forest bathing is the art of connecting with nature through our senses.

"The term was invented in 1982 by Tomohide Akiyama, then director general of the Agency of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. He said the people of Japan needed healing through nature. The idea was also part of a campaign to protect forests. If people were encouraged to visit forests for their health, they would be more likely to want to protect them and look after them."

We are fortunate in the Quabbin region where many folks inherently understand the values of the woods and work to preserve and enjoy them on many levels.

As my son, Ned Green, often hiked along Mount Grace in Warwick, he wrote in his journal, "Today was Poetry." I can only imagine his ease with accepting the gifts of the day that came his way. Immersed in the forest, he breathed its vitality into his being.

Peace. Perhaps yugen?

May a moment of yugen be yours as you saunter, forest bathe, and walk along during autumnal beauty in our vibrant region.

Clare Green, retired educator from Warwick, welcomes folks to visit her woodland labyrinth or stop by for a cup of tea.

photo Old Cellar Hole, Quabbin Reservation  
© by Rick Flematti

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## Brew Barn, Stone Cow, Scott Savoy, and Tom Smith bring music

by Laurie Smith

The Brew Barn in Phillipston and the Stone Cow Brewery in Barre are two of the many locations in the Quabbin area to hear local musicians while socializing, eating, and drinking.

In its second season and part of Red Apple Farm, the Brew Barn takes pride in already qualifying as one of the best music venues in the area. Owners cater to no specific genre of music but welcome a diverse range of musicians to check out on [redapplefarm.com/home-page/the-farm/brew-barn/](http://redapplefarm.com/home-page/the-farm/brew-barn/)

The Brew Barn features live music every Friday and Saturday night as well as Fiddlers Loft on Sunday afternoons and more live music Sundays from 3 to 6 pm. The venue also hosts a variety of festivals that include several days' worth of live music, including Blueberry Jamboree in July, Sunflower Festival in August, and Appleseed Country Fair in September in its seventh season.

Stone Cow Brewery in Barre has booked live music for almost ten years. It started out as entertainment for BBQ customers just a few times a year but has grown into a regular and exciting part of the brewery atmosphere. Bands perform two or three times a week. Stone Cow attracts local musicians and also sometimes hosts entertainers touring the country and the world. The Stone Cow books upbeat, family-friendly bands to match the venue's atmosphere. Bluegrass, Celtic, and folk predominate, especially with performers who play and sing originals.

Scott Savoy and Tom Smith recently arrived on the Quabbin region scene as solo acoustic singers.

Scott resides in Orange and has played at the Brew Barn in Phillipston, Gardner Ale House, and the Blue Print in Westminster. Tom resides in Athol and plays regularly at the King Phillip in Phillipston, in Orange on Third Thursdays and has upcoming shows at Athol's 110 Grill and the Brew Barn. Both artists often appear at open mics.

Scott started playing guitar when he was seven. Mostly self-taught by listening to old Elvis 45s and jamming with his cousin Gregg, Scott performs some covers. But songwriting defines his passion. He wrote

his first song, "Decisions of Life," when he was thirteen. He says he wrote throughout his teen years to escape his hectic household of ten children which he equates to living in Grand Central Station.

When Scott writes, music comes first, then lyrics. Scott says that, when he had children, he put music away while raising them to put a hundred percent into family. Eighteen years later, he has picked up music and rejoined the scene. Although he doesn't play a lot of seventies rock, he said he appreciates it as well as big band and classical music.



Scott Savoy  
photo by Laurie Smith

"I was so nervous playing in front of people again," said Scott. "Without kind words and support from Sweet Euphoria, Franco O'Malley, Glenn Silva, and Clayton Phelps, I'm not sure I would have gotten this far. We are so lucky to be part of a community

that honestly supports and cares for one another," His site [reverbnation.com/scottalansavoy](http://reverbnation.com/scottalansavoy) includes more than eighty songs. He plays covers including country, pop, folk and classic rock.

Tom Smith grew up in Fitchburg and Ashby and has lived in Athol since 2000. With some friends, he started a band when he was fourteen that lasted twenty-eight years until 2018. That band, 1ought9, brought Tom popularity in the Athol/Fitchburg area as a talented hard rock singer with a powerful vocal.

Tom got into singing because of the influences of Pearl Jam and Hootie and the Blowfish back in the early 1990s. He performed with Carolyn Salls in the Music Downstairs and as part of the acoustic duo 54½ with Jimmy Geikie, also of Athol.

After 1ought9 disbanded, Tom decided to learn guitar to play on his own a scaled-down version of his rock vocal covers. His set list covers mostly rock with a few pop and country songs in the mix from the 1990s to 2000s.

Tom said that he wanted to grow as a musician and thus started on his own acoustically. He also wanted to play guitar so he could simply pick up and play without relying on a full band.

## UNIQUE IN THE REGION: NEW SALEM ORCHARDS HARD CIDER

by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri

Long known for its strawberry preserves, heirloom Macintosh apples, and sweet cider, Carol Hillman's New Salem Preserves and Orchards has added something new.

Last fall, Carol decided to begin turning about a thousand gallons of her sweet cider into hard cider. Working with award-winning cider maker William Grote of Boston, Carol now has three kinds of hard cider ready for sale. They include her Redfield Reine de Pomme, a Macintosh blend that's six percent alcohol, dry with some tannins and her Macintosh, Northern spy, Empire blend that's six percent alcohol, slightly off dry with good acids.

New Salem Preserves and Orchards stands alone in the Quabbin region as a commercial producer of hard cider. Apples harvested in the late fall ferment naturally and slowly with wild yeasts over the course of winter in stainless steel casks in a climate-controlled area in the cider barn. Hard cider takes about a year to mature. Carol said that the product will help the orchard to remain sustainable. She said hard cider provides a year-round product to augment apple and sweet cider sales, previously the mainstay of the business.

To complement hard cider production, Carol set up a cider garden next to her barn up the hill from her vegetable garden and cider press. There, visitors can enjoy a glass of hard cider at six dollars for a thirteen-ounce glass. Visitors may buy the short-stemmed glasses themselves, with the Hillman's logo in red, for \$5. Thirty-two-ounce growlers sell for twenty dollars, including a five-dollar bottle deposit. Before purchase, prospective buyers may taste cider samples.



Tom Smith  
photo by Laurie Smith

Laurie Smith is an early childhood practitioner who lives in Athol.

New Salem Preserves and Orchards often opens from 10 to 5 weekdays and 10 to 7 on weekends. To be sure someone will be there or for questions, call Carol or Terry McCue, farm manager, at (978) 544-3437.

Overlooking apple trees, stone walls, and the Quabbin reservoir, Carol Hillman's orchard offers a beautiful spot to appreciate the glories of New England. What better destination for an autumn drive?

Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri, a retired middle school teacher, lives with her husband, Tony, in New Salem.



Carol Hillman  
photo by Mary-Ann Palmieri



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# contract workers cleared Quabbin Valley

continued from page 12



From Enfield Lookout, Belchertown, about a mile west of Goodnough Dike, Ware, Quabbin Reservoir—filled with water and surrounded by autumn foliage—serves as the water supply for Metropolitan Boston and Chicopee, South Hadley, and Wilbraham.

*Quabbin Autumn*, oil painting on linen © by Gillian Haven

of water. Contracted workers moved some buildings for rebuilding in other places, burned many down, or bulldozed them into their cellar holes. Contracted loggers harvested thousands of trees or pushed them into piles with brush for burning. Some observers labeled the valley “the land of a thousand smokes” in late 1938 and early 1939 when the numerous clearing fires took place.

As the last inhabitants of the future flow area, Gresham Ewell and his family stayed in their house in Greenwich until the children finished the school year at Petersham Elementary School in June, 1939. In spite of old rumors to the contrary, the state moved all people out for sanitary reasons before flooding began. Workers

had completed the dike and Windsor Dam earlier that year, so the structures stood ready to hold back the waters of the three branches of the Swift River to create the reservoir.

Blocked off at either end like all other roads leading into Swift River Valley, Route 21 existed as the only paved road running the length of Swift River Valley from north to south. In 1935, the Boston & Albany Railroad branch line that once connected Athol with Springfield had been torn up north of Winsor Dam. One building remained in the flow area after flooding began: the old Chandler Mansion in Enfield. It stood as the soil and water testing laboratory until torn down ahead of rising waters early in 1940.

# to fill reservoir

On August 14, 1939, water began backing up behind Winsor Dam. Noting how many people visited the overlook near Winsor Dam to view the “Man - Made Sahara” during following weeks, many Massachusetts newspapers covered the event. An editorial in the Athol Daily News the day after the flooding began carries the title, “Their Loss - Our Gain.” It points out that

We are all a little sad that the towns of Dana, Prescott, Enfield, and Greenwich, and parts of New Salem and Belchertown should have to be forever lost, But news that inundation of the now deserted Quabbin Valley had begun over the weekend injected a different note in the Quabbin symphony—a note of expectation of beauties to come.

The editorial also speculates about how much the reservoir would become a tourist attraction for the region.

The reservoir took almost seven years to fill and almost immediately opened for shore fishing in the summer of 1946. The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), which controlled the reservoir, allowed limited boat fishing beginning in 1952.

MDC and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation have permitted hiking, bicycling, bird watching, and a few other passive recreation activities on some of the Quabbin watershed lands over the years. The reservation has probably not emerged as the big tourist magnet the editorial writer hoped for eighty years ago.

J. R. Greene, a lifelong Athol resident, is author of sixteen books relating to the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns affected by it. His 2010 book, *From Valley to Quabbin 1938-1946*, discusses events surrounding filling the reservoir.



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## Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

### September 14, Saturday

7:00-10:00 pm  
The Barrett Anderson Band  
2013 Blues Artist of the Year  
Boston Music Awards  
Athol Historical Society  
1307 Main Street  
Athol  
atholhistoricalsociety@weebly.com

9:00 am– 3:00 pm  
Curtis Recreation Field  
Hubbardston Field Day  
Rain Date Sunday, September 15  
Food, fun, and games for the whole family. Live music by the Green Sisters. Demonstrations of blacksmithing, pottery making, wood processing, and others. Cow flap contest, tons of vendors. Sponsored by Hubbardston Lions Club

### September 15, Sunday

Evening Naturalist \* Guided Walk  
Around at Quabbin Reservoir  
4:30-6:30 pm  
Gate 29  
Route 202 / Elm Street  
New Salem  
A leisurely walk covering flat terrain through both forest and field. We will listen for the chorus of insects as well as late afternoon and evening bird sounds. Meet at Gate 29 off Route 202 in New Salem.  
massaudubon.org

### September 15-October 30 second and fourth Sundays

open museum  
Hardwick Historical Society  
40 Common Street  
Hardwick  
townofhardwick.com

### September 19, Thursday

Medicinal Weed Walk  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Rutland State Park  
49 Whitehall Road  
Rutland  
Folk Herbalist Amber Kennedy of Bohème Botanika Herbs leads a leisurely evening Plant ID hike in Rutland, location TBA.  
Email Amber at bohemebotanika@gmail.com with questions or to register.

### Voyagers, Visitors, and Home

7:00 pm  
Dale Monette  
slide show and book release  
Athol Historical Society  
1307 Main Street  
Athol  
atholhistoricalsociety@weebly.com

### September 21, Saturday

6:00–9:00 pm  
Equinox Concert featuring  
Band of Voices  
Williamsville Chapel  
4 Burnshirt Road  
Hubbardston

Celebrate Shutesbury  
10 am-2 pm  
Shutesbury Town Common

### September 20–22 Friday-Sunday

Belchertown Fair  
4 pm–? Friday  
8 am-5 pm Saturday  
8 am-6 pm Sunday  
A community fair celebrates agricultural roots and an active growing community. A wide variety of family friendly activity throughout the weekend including rides, animals, exhibit halls and entertainment.  
belchertownfair.com

### September 21, Saturday

Celebration: Christian Festival  
9:00 am-4:00 pm  
Forsters' Farm  
60 Chestnut Hill Road  
Orange  
Christianfest.org

Playing for Change Day Celebration with Fiery Hope  
7:30 pm -9:30 pm  
1794 Meetinghouse  
26 South Main Street  
New Salem  
The 1794 Meetinghouse is honored to host a Playing for Change Day fundraising event. Greenfield-based Fiery Hope sings for justice, freedom, and peace—songs new and old.  
playingforchangeday.org  
1794meetinghouse.org

Get Schooled, a program on Royalston's schools  
7 pm  
Royalston Town Hall  
On the Common  
Royalston  
Slide show of oneroom schoolhouses and a short documentary interviewing the original teachers at Old School House #1.

### September 22, Sunday

Narragansett Historical Society  
1 Boynton Road,  
Templeton  
Motorpalooza 2019!  
Classic cars, engines, machines, and all things with a motor are on display and discussion. Boothill Express will be in the Gazebo. Food tent. Follow signs for parking.  
narragansetthistoricalsociety.org

continued on the next page



**September 28, Saturday**  
PUSH Physical Theater  
7:30 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
Intense athleticism, gravity-defying acrobatics, and soulful artistry – award-winning PUSH Physical Theatre, the genre-defining masters of physical storytelling, express what it means to be human: the joy and sorrow, humor and tragedy, the big questions and the simple things.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

6:30 p.m.  
Harvest Supper  
Pelham Historic Complex  
Howard D. Barnes Memorial Pie Auction  
Following a New England boiled dinner, auction with Stan Rosenberg of handcrafted homemade pies.  
Chris Gould, (413) 253-9162 or  
Bruce Klotz, (413) 253-1601

**September 28–29  
Saturday–Sunday**  
North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival  
10:00 am-5:00 pm  
Forsters Farm  
60 Chestnut Hill Road  
Orange  
The festival that stinks! Enjoy amazing art, farm fresh products, garlic cuisine, musical performances, activities for families and more.  
garlicandarts.org



*Dance to the Light of the Moon*  
**Candace Anderson: Current Works**  
at the **Petersham Art Center**  
**September 8 to October 17**

## Uniquely Quabbin listings

*continued from page 61*

**October 1, Tuesday**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Club Fair  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Learn about local clubs and groups in the area that are looking for members.  
Athollibrary.org

**October 3, Thursday**  
When the Land Speaks  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Explore the dynamic relationship between Land, People & Nature through the eyes of the Native Americans of New England; with Larry Spotted Crow Mann, a citizen of the Nipmuc Tribe of Massachusetts. Registration required.  
Athollibrary.org

**October 5, Saturday**  
Old 78 Farm Festival  
823 Orange Road  
Warwick  
Craft and food vendors, family fun, live performers and more.

**October 6, Sunday**  
*Ride for the Ribbon*  
7:30 am  
Felton Field  
120 Old Coldbrook Road  
Barre  
Ride for the Ribbon combines horseback riding and raising money to benefit local breast cancer patients and their families.  
ridefortheribbonma.org

**October 6, Sunday  
(continued)**  
Prescott/Enfield Pilgrimage Bus trip  
11:00 am  
Swift River Historical Society  
40 Elm Street  
New Salem  
swiftrivermuseum.org

*The Life of Mary Kelly*  
Genevieve Frasier  
No. 4 Schoolhouse  
209 Farrington Road  
Barre  
presented by Barre Historical Society  
barremahistoricalsociety.org

**October 8, Tuesday**  
Ghostology 201  
6:30-7:45pm  
intended for adults eighteen and older  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Explore the darker side of the paranormal with Agawam Paranormal. This program is for an 18+ audience. Registration required.  
athollibrary.org

**October 10, Thursday**  
*No Irish Need Apply*  
Chris Daley  
a lecture and slide show  
Athol Historical Society  
1307 Main Street  
Athol  
atholhistoricalsociety@weebly.com

**October 12, Saturday**  
Elwin Bacon Memorial Fun Day  
9:00 am-4:00 pm  
NEECA Equestrian Park  
802 New Sherborn Road  
Athol  
Morning scavenger hunt and afternoon fun games and relays.  
neeca.org

**October 12, Saturday  
(continued)**  
Tom Paxton with the Don Juans  
7:30 pm  
The Center At Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
Tom Paxton has become a voice of his generation, addressing issues of injustice and inhumanity, laying bare the absurdities of modern culture and celebrating the most tender bonds of family, friends, and community.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

**October 13, Sunday**  
Bob Harris Jr.  
Memorial Harvest Car Show  
8:00 am-2:00 pm  
Orange Airport  
80 Airport Street  
Orange  
Presented by the  
North Quabbin Cruisers.  
\$10 at the gate. No classes.  
Awards, door prizes, 50/50. and more.  
Facebook event.

**October 18-27**  
*Wait Until Dark*  
7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays  
2:00 pm  
Barre Players Theater  
64 Common Street  
Barre  
A thriller by Frederick Knott, adapted by Jeffery Hatcher and directed by Anthony Masciangioli.  
barreplayerstheater.com

**October 19, Saturday**  
Semi-annual Petersham  
Antique and Vintage Holiday  
Collectibles Marketplace  
9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Petersham Town Hall  
Petersham  
Two floors of vendors featuring quality vintage Ornaments and holiday décor. An exciting time of treasure hunting on a beautiful New England Fall day.  
Patricia Susen, (978) 724-6679

**October 19, Saturday  
(continued)**  
Tours of Royalston's  
Old Center Cemetery  
7:00–8:20 pm  
meet at Old School House #1  
On the Common  
Royalston  
Costumed versions of the deceased tell the story of their lives

**October 20, Sunday**  
Fall Hike  
11:00 am  
Quabbin Gate 8  
Shutesbury  
Meet at Gate 8 for hike from Packardsvile to the shore of the Quabbin.  
swiftrivermuseum.org

**October 26, Saturday**  
12:00–4:00 pm  
Raindate: October 27, Sunday  
12:00– 4:00 p.m.  
Tom Wessels, naturalist  
Pelham Library Ramsdell Room  
2 South Valley Road  
Pelham  
Presentation on learning to read our forest landscape, followed by an interpretive walk at 1:30.  
Sign up for walk as space may be limited.

Miller's Ladies



**CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
Saturday, November 2nd  
9am - 2 pm  
Welcome Raffle • Chinese Auction • Crafts  
Theme Baskets • High Roller Raffle  
Baked Goods and Fudge • 50/50 Raffle  
Gift Certificate Raffle  
Many Local Vendors  
AWESOME Lunch Menu  
Miller's Woods / Riverbend  
739 Daniel Shays Hwy. Athol

**November 2, Saturday**  
Christmas Fair  
9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Miller's Woods/ Riverbend  
739 Daniel Shays Highway  
Athol  
Raffles, auctions, crafts, theme baskets, baked goods, local vendors and lunch menu.

**November 9, Saturday**  
The Doo-Wah Riders  
7:30 pm  
The Center At Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
GIDDY-UP and get ready for the most electric night of your life! Since 1978 there has been no other band like the Doo-Wah Riders.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

**November 16, Saturday**  
Gaslight Tinkers  
7:30 pm  
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse  
9 Morse Village Road  
Wndell  
wendellfullmoon.org

100th Anniversary Fireman's Ball  
Cocktails 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm  
Hartman's Herb Farm  
1026 Old Dana Road  
Barre  
barremahistoricalsociety.org

**November 22- December 1**  
*Matilda the Musical*  
7:00 pm Fridays  
2:00 pm Saturdays  
The Center At Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
The Gilbert Players present *Matilda, the Musical*. Matilda is an extraordinary little girl who, armed with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination, dares to take a stand and change her destiny.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

*continued on the next page*



## Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 63

### November 24, Sunday

12:00–3:00 pm  
Thanksgiving Farmers Market  
Williamsville Chapel  
4 Burnshirt Road  
Hubbardston

### November 30, Saturday

Winter Light Night  
12:00-7:00 pm  
The Belchertown Common  
Park Street  
Belchertown  
Come celebrate the holiday season  
with your family, friends and  
community members.

### December 7, Saturday

Petersham Holiday Fine Art and Craft  
Show and Sale  
9:00 am -4:00 pm  
Petersham Town Hall  
3 South Main Street (Route 32)  
Petersham  
Join us for the 17th annual holiday  
fair in the town hall on Petersham's  
historic common. The event features  
twenty juried artisans, live music,  
photos with Santa, and more  
Contact: Facebook event page

### *The Company Men*

7:30 pm  
The Center At Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick

*The Company Men* interweave  
today's Top 40 hits with re-imagined  
classics of the last six decades.  
[thecenterateaglehill.org](http://thecenterateaglehill.org)

### December 7-15

Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings  
7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays  
2:00 pm Sunday  
Barre Players Theater  
64 Common Street  
Barre  
A brand new show that offers the best  
of Forever Plaid = with Christmas  
standards that have all been  
Plaid-erized.  
[barreplayerstheater.com](http://barreplayerstheater.com)

### December 10, Tuesday

5:30 p.m.  
Holiday Potluck Supper  
Pelham Library Community Room  
2 Valley Road  
Pelham  
Ginia Servos, (413) 253-0258

### December 14, Saturday

Simon White and Rhythm Inc  
7:30 pm  
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse  
9 Morse Village Road  
[wendellfullmoon.org](http://wendellfullmoon.org)

### December 15, Sunday

2:00 pm  
Barre Historical Society  
18 Common Street  
Barre  
Christmas Afternoon Tea  
Ladies and gentlemen wear their  
best high tea finery for this festive  
occasion.

### December 31, Tuesday

Starry Starry Night  
6:00-10:30 pm  
Orange Center  
1 South Main Street  
Orange  
Celebrate the New Year with  
performances at seven local venues  
by musicians, artists, dancers,  
puppeteers and more. The event ends  
with a grand parade and fireworks  
with time to get home before midnight.  
[Starrystarrynight.org](http://Starrystarrynight.org)

### January 18, Saturday

Laughing for All the Wrong Reasons  
7:30 pm  
The Center At Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
The Second City breaks all comedy  
rules they made famous in an all-new,  
all-hilarious revue.  
[thecenterateaglehill.org](http://thecenterateaglehill.org)

### February 6, Thursday

Mighty Aphrodite: Chocolate and Love  
6:00-7:15pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
A playful program celebrating  
romantic dynamic duos throughout  
history. It includes fun trivia,  
discussion and samples of  
aphrodisiac foods (including  
chocolate), fun poetry, and more.  
Registration required.  
[Athollibrary.org](http://Athollibrary.org)

For events posted after our  
calendar deadline go online to  
[uniquelyquabbin.com](http://uniquelyquabbin.com)  
and [visitnorthquabbin.com](http://visitnorthquabbin.com)

calendar listings  
compiled by  
Emily Boughton

submit calendar listings to  
[calendar@northquabbinchamber.com](mailto:calendar@northquabbinchamber.com)