

# CONTENTS

volume 9, number 3 • January-April 2025

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

Quiet Places, Quiet Thoughts . . . . . 4

*Winter Blues* . . . . . 5

bird counts demonstrate population characteristics . . . . . 6

living winter landscapes hint at coming seasons . . . . . 8

region's farms offer winter storage vegetables . . . . . 10

making snowy roads passable before snowplows . . . . . 13

Lost Town libraries closed forever . . . . . 14

railroad buffs seek historic stock certificates . . . . . 16

organizers plan 60th River Rat Race . . . . . 18

anticipating springtime and return of baseball . . . . . 20

continued on next page

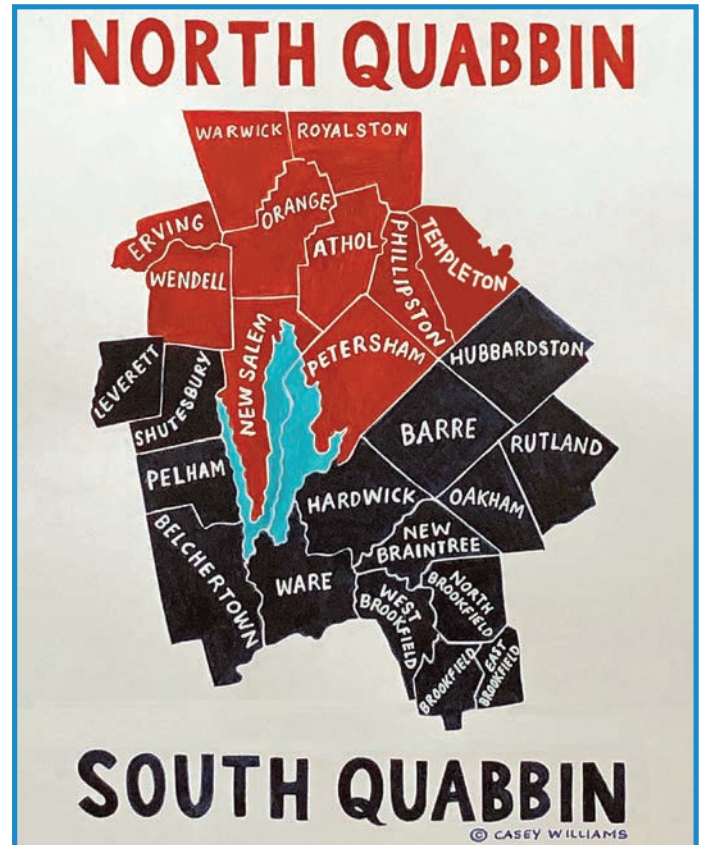


A barred owl hovers around a tree near Quabbin Reservoir.  
photo © by Dale Monette

### ON THE FRONT COVER

*Hardwick Covered Bridge*

oil on canvas by Elizabeth Callahan



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

# CONTENTS

continued from previous page

diverse resources sustained Hubbardston . . . . .	22
early Shutesbury industries included farms, mills . . . . .	26
hygge: the practice of coziness . . . . .	30
memoirs trace family history, spiritual journey . . . . .	32
libraries recommend winter reading . . . . .	34
from the pens of Uniquely Quabbin poets. . . . .	38
recapping forty years of Quabbin History Calendar . . . . .	40
pack-energy-punch PEP bars . . . . .	42
King Phillip Restaurant, McCarthy's Pub . . . . .	44
Scotland's Atholl Highlanders will paddle in Rat Race . . . . .	62
Uniquely Quabbin listings . . . . .	70

## about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

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

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

## a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Erving, Hardwick-New Braintree, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Rutland, Shutesbury, Ware, Warwick, Wendell, and West Brookfield for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2024. The generous support from those councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

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

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

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

As you settle into the next couple of months of snowy, cold weather, I hope this issue gives you much reading pleasure. Pick a new book to read from our book reviews and snuggle up with a blanket and a hot cup of tea. Or, after reading the restaurant reviews, you might just decide to brave the cold and go out to dinner or lunch. And, as always, the calendar of events is full of things to do.

Happy reading!

Debra Ellis

Athol Historical Society

**Please consider donating to**

***Uniquely Quabbin* magazine**

**with a check to *Uniquely Quabbin***

**c/o Debra Ellis, business manager**

**1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue • Athol, MA 01331**

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

Writers, photographers, and artists have once again brought a variety of descriptions, insights, analyses, and images to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Our contributors focus on wildlife, woodlands, days gone by, finance, family, travel, literature, sports, the arts, town histories, and more.

Contributors enthusiastically share their work with the magazine. As we work collaboratively on editing and assigning their work to pages, we realize their enthusiasm and interest in what they bring to readers as seasons manifest and change.

Winter transforms into spring in this twenty-sixth edition of *Uniquely Quabbin*. We hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher  
Haley's

### *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine



gratefully acknowledges the support of

Athol Cultural Council • Barre Cultural Council

Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council

Erving Cultural Council • Hubbardston Cultural Council

New Salem Cultural Council • North Brookfield Cultural Council •

Oakham Cultural Council • Orange Cultural Council

Pelham Cultural Council • Petersham Cultural Council

Phillipston Cultural Council • Royalston Cultural Council

Rutland Cultural Council • Shutesbury Cultural Council

Ware Cultural Council • Warwick Cultural Council

Wendell Cultural Council • West Brookfield Cultural Council

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

# Uniquely Quabbin

January-April 2025 • Vol 9, #3 • ISSN 2472-081X

published at Athol, Massachusetts

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

Free

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Marcia Gagliardi, editor and publisher

Debra Ellis, business manager

Mark Wright, graphics designer

Elizabeth Callahan, editorial consultant

John Burk, photographic consultant

*Uniquely Quabbin* is printed by

*The Republican of Springfield*

Writers and columnists: Copyrights by Emily Boughton,  
John Burk, Elizabeth Callahan, Kathy Chaisson, Carla  
Charter, Sue Cloutier, Christopher Coyle, Debra Ellis, Ami  
Fagin, Clare Green, J. R. Greene, Kylie Hedges, Sally Howe,  
Len Mazarowski, Jack McClintock, Kathleen Nicoletti,  
Christine Noyes, Amber Robidoux, Charles R. "Rocky" Stone,  
Karen Traub

Photographers: Copyrights by David Brothers, John  
Burk, Kathy Chaisson, Sue Cloutier, Christopher Coyle,  
Rick Flematti, Marcia Gagliardi, Mitchell R. Grosky, Nancy  
Lagimoniere, Dale Monette, Christine Noyes, Amber  
Robidoux

Artists: Copyrights by Emily Boughton, Elizabeth Callahan,  
Ami Fagin, Brian Fournier, Louise Minks, Jen Niles, Sonja  
Vaccari, Casey Williams

Front cover photo by Elizabeth Callahan

Cover designed by Mark Wright.

UQ logo by Mark Wright.

*Uniquely Quabbin* logo by Mary Pat Spaulding.

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

*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine is produced as a collaboration of  
Athol Historical Society • Haley's Publishing  
North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and  
Visitors Bureau

with an initial grant from

International Music and Arts Foundation.

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

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

# Where are the snows of yesteryear?

by Sally Howe



Sally Howe

A head cold and the outside cold kept me inside for the day. Sometimes, the long dark hours and bleak weather of winter make me restless. Like a nesting dog, I turn in circles trying to settle down. That day, I lit a fire, made

tea, and found a seat. I considered reading a travel book and dreaming about a trip that I won't take. Instead, I picked up the top book on my pile, set my music app to background music, and tried to read.

But my mind wandered out the window to the snowy yard as I thought about where I live in the lovely Quabbin region. Central to our local history is formation of the reservoir and subsequent lost towns. I have hiked through the Federated Women's Club State Forest in Petersham and up to the lookout on the soapstone quarry and its encompassing view of the tops of hills that became islands and of Prescott Peninsula. Underneath the

glistening water lie the lost towns. I remembered that hike and how I sensed the lost towns under the water.

That day I stayed inside, I time traveled back to a time long ago when I was a teenager in France.

"Where are the snows of yesteryear?" translates in English from "Où sont les neiges d'autan?" That French phrase by the fifteenth-century poet François Villon came to mind as I looked out at falling snow near my Quabbin region hillside home.

Villon wrote the words to refer to the past bloom of youth, and I decided to look at my personal past and muse on the blend of yesteryear

continued on page 66



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

**Services Include:**

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



22 Convenient Locations  
Throughout New England  
Find us online at [www.petestire.com](http://www.petestire.com)  
978 544 8811

# Winter Blues

text and drawing in ink line and watercolor wash by Brian Fournier



## Winter Blues

ink line and watercolor wash on paper

### About *Winter Blues*

Winter brings the blues—  
winter blues, pale blue days  
as skies ask for any color, but gray  
and water seek a way of healing ice.  
So, call the wild thing inside yourself  
and hunt down Nature for advice.

It beats its song on rosy cheeks.

Tell her you've come to play in days  
not meant for tea and sympathy  
but for snow, ice, and chilling cold.

Make it something more to be a  
New Englander. Face the day knowing  
our true fire comes from the heart.

It's no surprise to anyone who knows me that I love the woods and nature. Most of all, I fully appreciate this Quabbin area where we live. It has given me, a writer and artist, a wealth of memories—so many ideas to think about and images to express.

The *Winter Blues* drawing and poem remind me of my childhood and how I spent my younger years in the woods behind my old house on South Athol Road. Nature provided my escape, and once in the woods, I knew I was at home.

Something about line and wash suits me as an artist. Loose enough media, they render expression quickly to my great satisfaction. Fine lines of a pen filled with waterproof ink aid in creating structure, and the almost transparent colors of watercolor wash tie the artwork together as one thought.

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

# Local winter bird counts assess numbers

by John Burk

Bird watchers, naturalists, and residents from the Quabbin region participated in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, CBC, an annual census of birds held in communities throughout the western hemisphere. An early winter tradition for 125 years, the CBC ranks as the oldest continuous community science project and survey of wildlife in the United States.

Established in 1967 by the late Robert Coyle, well known science teacher and founder of Athol Bird and Nature Club, the Athol CBC encompasses Athol, Orange, and portions of New Salem, Warwick, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, and Baldwinville.

The Quabbin CBC, held annually on the weekend after December 25, covered most of Quabbin Reservoir and adjacent land in Hardwick, Petersham, Ware, Belchertown, Pelham, and Shutesbury. Observers usually find approximately sixty to seventy species annually according to Scott Sumner, who has administered the Quabbin count for thirty-six years.

Sections of Templeton, Hubbardston, and Rutland lie within the Westminster CBC circle, and the northern portion of the Sturbridge count extends to the Brookfields.

Ornithologist Frank Chapman and other conservationists formed the national CBC in 1900 to promote protection of birds after many people held competitive hunts during the holiday prior to the twentieth century. Approximately eighty thousand volunteers from more than twenty-six hundred local groups, thirty-three of them based in Massachusetts, take part annually.



With Dave Small, right, coordinator of the Christmas Bird Count for Athol Bird and Nature Club, bird enthusiasts assess how many individuals of viewable species populate the area.

photo courtesy of Athol Bird and Nature Club

Local CBCs follow specific methodologies to maintain consistency of results. On one day between December 14 and January 5, teams of observers count every bird they see or hear in circular territories with a radius of fifteen miles. Organizers of local counts submit compilations of results to the National Audubon Society, which maintains a comprehensive database for use by scientists and conservation organizations.

During the Athol CBC, forty participants documented 68 species and 9,150 total birds on December 14. Locations included Millers River, Bearsden Conservation Area, the northern end of Quabbin Reservoir, and wetlands in Royalston.

Coordinator of the Athol count since 1988, Dave Small said, "Despite cold temperatures that caused many ponds to freeze just before the count and a lack of winter finches, it turned out to be a good day overall with close to normal numbers of species." Notable sightings included a northern shrike, a ruby-crowned kinglet, a yellow-bellied sapsucker, and five evening grosbeaks.

Variations in weather and food sources influence CBC sightings. "Several factors, such as mild

## Original Tire Company

### Tires and Alignments

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

Joseph D. West  
978.249.3477

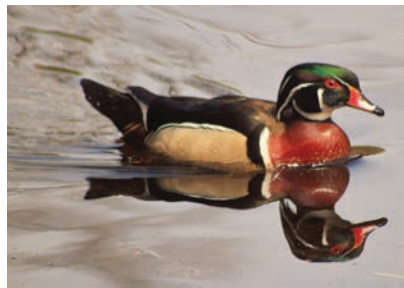
443 South Athol Road  
Athol, MA 01331

# of region's avian individuals by species

temperatures, open water, and an abundance of pine seed and other natural forage coincided when we set the Athol count record of seventy-two species in 2023," Small said.

Long-term trends documented by CBC observers in the Quabbin region and that scientists attribute to climate change include northward range expansions of southern species such as northern cardinals, red-bellied woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, tufted titmice, and mockingbirds.

Mild temperatures and resultant availability of insects and other food sources have caused migratory species, including songbirds such as eastern phoebes, hermit thrushes, grey catbirds, eastern towhees, and pine and yellow-rumped warblers, to linger in central Massachusetts through early winter.



A rare Say's phoebe perches, top, while a wood duck floats along with its reflection, center, and an eastern bluebird takes time out in a wintry tree.

photos © by John Burk

"We're seeing more wood ducks and other waterfowl staying around later because there has been more unfrozen water," said Small.

Observers collectively tallied nearly three hundred eastern bluebirds during the Athol and Quabbin CBCs in 2023, consistent with a recent trend of the species to overwinter in Massachusetts.

Changes witnessed by Sumner include increases in sightings of bald eagles and common ravens, indicative of successful recoveries by both species from historic population declines. "We've had as



The bird count included more sightings of bald eagles.

photo © by Dale Monette

many as thirty-eight eagles on past counts," he said. Massachusetts wildlife officials reintroduced bald eagles at Quabbin Reservoir during the 1980s. Common ravens returned to central Massachusetts during the late twentieth century after declines caused by hunting.

Data from CBCs provide a vital record of changes in populations and behaviors of birds at local and national scales. Researchers and organizations such as the US

continued on page 67

**deadline for submissions to  
May Uniquely Quabbin:  
March 15  
email  
[marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com)**

## KIMBALL LAW OFFICE

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

Real Estate  
Wills  
Probate

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



# living landscapes near Quabbin

text and photos by Sue Cloutier

Seasons may transition silently, but each living landscape has its hints of seasons to come. In late fall, the witch hazel's flower with seed from last year's bloom may be dusted with snow. Or in late winter, the red maple flowers bloom will make winged seeds of spring. Both plants let us know that flowers do the work of producing seeds. Also, signs and sounds of mammals and birds seeking mates in fall and winter signal the inherent need for species to survive into the next season.



Witch hazel, female maple flowers, and male maple flowers, from left, hint at springtime to come.

Oaks and pines produce acorns and cones containing potential new trees. If a parent tree blown down in a winter storm is harvested for timber or

dies from disease, species' survival rests on life in their acorns and cones.



Oak acorns, left, and pine cones contain potential new trees.

Acorns and pinecone seeds also provide a winter food for deer, birds, and mice. In a recent mast year—when trees and shrubs produce an unusually large amount of fruit, seeds, or nuts—so many acorns fell to the ground that a few acorns not eaten will sprout come spring.

Last year, white pines in Quabbin region forests had a similar mast year and produced a carpet of cones under them. The same animals that fed on acorns used seeds in the cones for winter food. In some places, pine seeds sprouted many tiny seedlings to form a green fluffy carpet. Mast years increase the possibility that some of new trees will be part of tomorrow's forest.



Portending future growth, a tiny seed reposes on snow above the pine cone, left, while a second year of growth rests on dry leaves.

Wildflowers also provide hope for spring as we hike the winter woods. The brown seedcase of the pink lady's slipper holds hundreds of tiny seeds. To be successful, one seed blown by wind must get to a bit of

**The North Quabbin and Beyond**  
A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

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

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

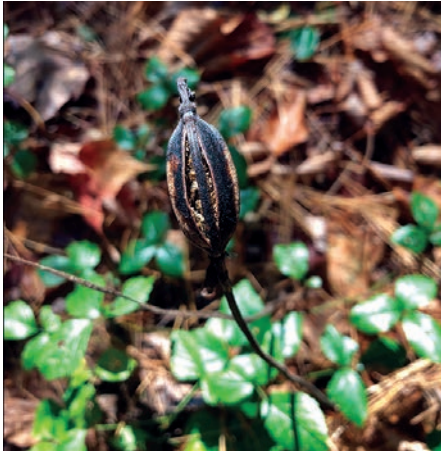
Only \$32.95 plus tax (plus shipping, if required)



# provide hints of seasons to come

open ground where a mycorrhizal fungus—one that forms a symbiotic relationship with a plant’s root—enables the seed to open.

The fungus also provides food to the sprout. Once the lady slipper orchid grows its two broad leaves, it then shares its food with the fungus. That helps both species survive. Even when we don’t see them, lady slipper orchids may be present beneath the dead leaves



After a fungus provides food to lady slipper seed that sprouts, the seed shares food with the fungus.

of fall. The seeds and the mature plants’ roots can survive in the soil for years. It is easy to understand how lucky we are to find a patch of pink lady’s slippers as so many things must be just right for their survival.

Other lives also make us aware of season’s change from fall to winter and on to spring. Deer sign of buck rubs and scrapes let us know mating time has arrived with the promise of fawns come spring. Owls call in the twilight of January to hoot their interests as the deer sign did in late fall. Soon the owl’s eggs will be in the nest, and the owls will be quiet to keep the family safe by not alerting predators to their presence.

Treasure what you find on your winter walks. Consider not only the challenges all life faces but also the hope for spring and species survival.

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



During late season mating season, male deer called bucks rub against saplings and other forest growth as in the new buck rub at top and the old buck rub above.

**PLEASE TELL OUR ADVERTISERS  
THAT YOU SAW IT IN  
UNIQUELY QUABBIN MAGAZINE.**

# region's farms offer winter storage veggies

by Carla Charter



Hardwick's Still Life Farm offers an array of winter vegetables.

Although fresh vegetables and growing them may not seem related to winter, Quabbin area farms have winter storage vegetables available. By late winter, farms gear up for the next growing season.

Curtis and Halley Stillman own Still Life Farm in Hardwick. Curtis, a third-generation farmer, said he grew up with farming running through his veins.

Halley first encountered farming in middle school. "The more I was exposed to farming, the more I loved it," she said. "We both feel a strong local food system is an important cornerstone of functional society."

Still Life Farms offers winter vegetables and fresh winter greens at winter farmers markets in the area. Offerings include winter squash; root vegetables like carrots, beets, and radishes; alliums like onions, leeks, shallots, and garlic; potatoes and sweet potatoes; and various cabbages, apples and

pears. Fresh winter greens include spinach, kale, bok choy, salad greens, lettuces, escarole, and herbs. The farm participates in Community Sponsored Agriculture where it offers a five-month winter share.

"We have built the infrastructure on our farm to incorporate a variety of storage options such as different storage bays with various temperatures and humidities to accommodate the needs of the different types of vegetables we grow and store," said Stillman.

Seedlings started in the heated greenhouse in late winter/early spring include onions, leeks, shallots, celery, celeriac, tomatoes, peppers, spring greens, scallions, zucchini, and summer squash. Vegetables grown directly from seed include radishes, turnips, and herbs and greens

Among the winter farmers markets where Still Life Farm can be found are West Brookfield Winter

Farmers Market, West Brookfield Congregational Church, 36 North Main Street, Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. November through March.

The Farm School in Athol grows winter-storage vegetables including beets, carrots, parsnips, three types of squash, onions, garlic, celeriac, red and green cabbage, and leeks. They store crops harvested between July and November for winter use. They grow spinach, bok choy, and cilantro throughout the winter.

"We have a walk-in cooler that uses cool bot technology, a refrigeration unit like an air conditioner with an override called cool bot which allows cooling below the typical sixty degrees allowed on an AC unit," said Kristen Wilson, Vegetable Operation Coordinator for the Farm School.

The Farm School starts first seedlings at the end of February and the last ones at the end of August, according to Wilson.



Vegetable starts germinate in winter in a Farm School, Athol, greenhouse.

photo courtesy of the Farm School

“I have no idea how many total plants I start in a season,” Wilson added, “but that would be some fun math to figure out!”

“The earliest plants we start in our greenhouse are onions, parsley, and celeriac. We start many vegetables in the greenhouse. We also direct seed

crops into the ground like mixed salad greens, spinach, cilantro, carrots, beets, beans, and peas. Some crops we grow from a tuber, like potatoes or part of a bulb like garlic cloves. We grow spinach, cilantro, and bok choy in our hoop houses over the winter,” Wilson said.

Typically in New England, the frost-free date occurs somewhere between the end of April and May 15 depending on where you live. “With climate change, the date seems to be shifting. You can always try to cover plants with row cover if you plant

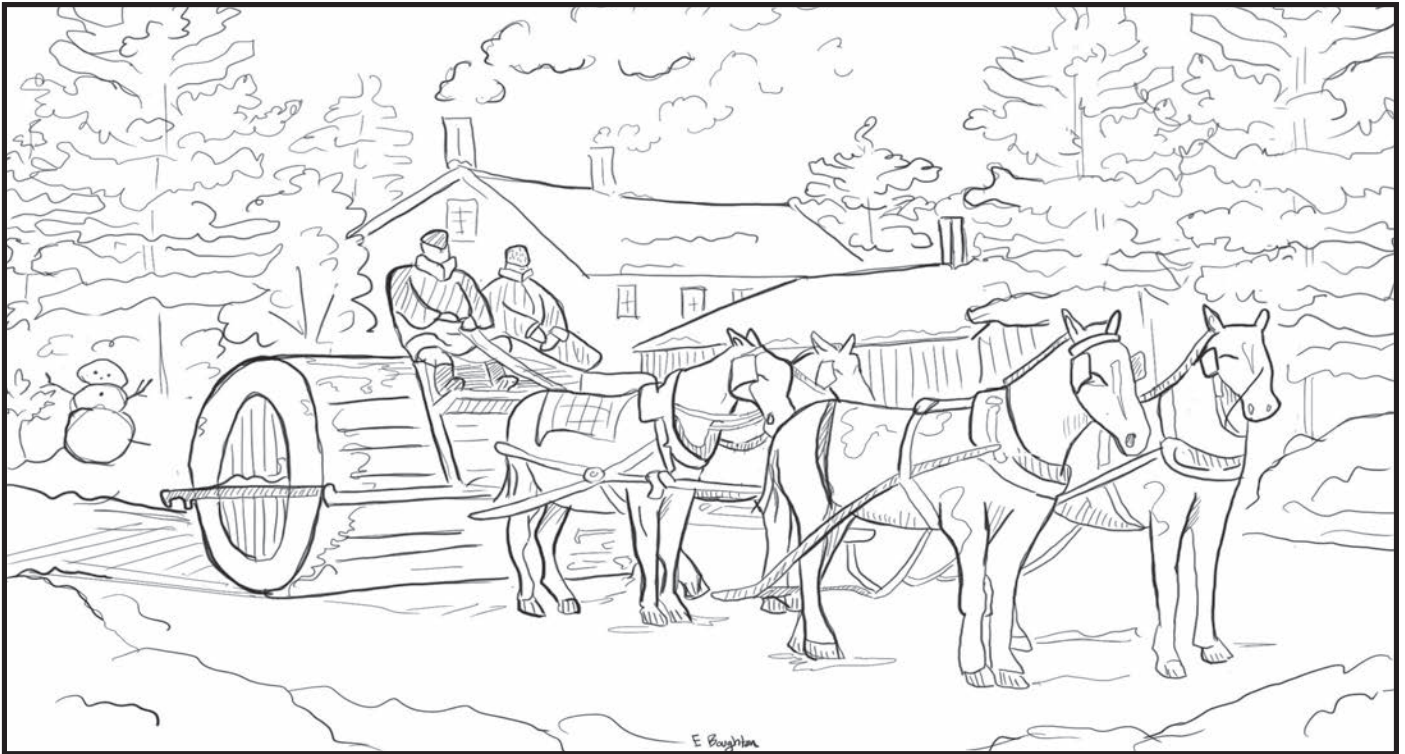
[continued on page 51](#)

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

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

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

NE-386884



Before snowplows maneuvered by motorized vehicles cleared Quabbin area roads, horses and road crews rolled snow to flatten surfaces for horse-drawn conveyances.

pen and ink drawing © by Emily Boughton



**John Burk Photography**

*featuring New England and the Quabbin Region*

*Prints for Home or Office • Stock Images*

*Photo Restoration • Scanning*

*Artwork Reproduction*

*regional books and guides, including  
Best Day Hikes in Central Massachusetts*

*john-burk.pixels.com (Fine Art Prints Online)*

*johnburk.zenfolio.com • jbphotos2002@yahoo.com*

# Whipps, inc.

## WATER CONTROL GATES

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

**P. O. Box 1058 • 370 South Athol Road  
Athol, Massachusetts 01331 USA  
www.whipps.com**

**Tel: 978-249-7924 Fax: 978-249-3072**

# making snowy roads passable before snowplows

by Carla Charter

How were roads cleared prior to plow trucks? Similar methods likely prevailed throughout the Quabbin region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Plow trucks today are much improved over those of yesteryear, according to Richard Adamcek, Pelham Highway Department superintendent. He said their 2021 snowplow has a heated mirror, windshield, and lights. "It means there is no snow buildup on the windshield mirrors or headlights during a storm," said Adamcek. He added that the 2021 plow truck even has heated seats.

"The comfort is so different," Adamcek said. "New trucks are almost like driving a car. They are so different today."

As for what residents can do to make it easier on plow drivers, he said "If it's snowing, stay off the roads. Drivers should be patient and give plow drivers a couple of hours to clean up after the storm."

Right now, he said, highway departments are getting away from sand and using salt instead, as there are



The Monroe, Maine, Historical Society collection includes a late nineteenth/early twentieth-century snow roller.

photo by Bob Coyle courtesy of Christopher Coyle concerns with sand getting into wetlands and having to clean it up afterwards. "I can see that sand on the side of the road provides grit," Adamcek said. "I can't see where salt goes, since it turns liquid. I can't see it to clean it up.

"I try to keep the roads as clean as if my wife and kids are driving them," he added.

Several Royalston men recalled the days before plow trucks, including when residents pitched in to plow with

*continued on page 61*



Gifts & decor  
Local crafters

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

& Country Store

Fri & Sat 10-4  
Sun 11-4

Over the Top Bakery  
90 New Athol Rd  
Orange, MA  
homemade baked goods  
indoor seating  
open daily 7-4



Collectibles  
Furniture  
Flea market

90 New Athol rd  
Orange, MA

Store & Flea Market

Fri & Sat 10-4  
Sun 11-4

**Rotary**  
Athol-Orange Area



A Community Service Organization  
Serving the Athol-Orange Area

1925 **100<sup>th</sup>** 2025  
ANNIVERSARY

Interested in giving back to your Community  
Contact us at [arotary@gmail.com](mailto:arotary@gmail.com)

"Have you made someone's life better today?"

# as towns drowned to create Quabbin Reservoir,

by Karen Traub



Prescott's Free Public Library served residents of the first of the drowned towns to surrender to the water district.

photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society



- **Craft Workshops**
- **Fundraisers**
- **Walk-in Sign Making**
- **Birthdays**
- **Private Parties**
- **Custom Orders**

Scrafty offers a unique crafting experience right in the center of Orange. From private group parties to open workshops, there is always something happening at Scrafty! Inside our doors we also host a cafe and a general store creating a wonderful day trip opportunity!

**1 South Main St Orange, MA**



## NEW SALEM GENERAL STORE

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

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

Jeff, Natalie & Jack Reynolds, Proprietors

*A Friendly, Quabbin Market for All*

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

*Stop by and see us soon!*

## Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott libraries closed forever

Along with factories, mills, stores, churches, taverns, schools, and people displaced for creation of Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s, the libraries of the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott closed their doors forever.

Prescott was the smallest of the four towns, the last established, and the first to surrender to the water commission. Prescott's Free Public Library opened on August 7, 1891 with an annual town appropriation of thirty dollars. Henry L. Berry served as librarian of the main branch until his poor health forced him to resign. M. Flora Brown oversaw the East District branch, and Helen Dickinson tended the Hill District branch.

Surprisingly, the small farming community of Prescott never got electricity as it maintained three branches of the public library. Quabbin historian J. R. Greene informed me that private homes housed smaller libraries. According to the 1904 annual report of the Massachusetts Library Commission, branch libraries were busy. The report says:

The wisdom of establishing branches of the library has been demonstrated by the patronage they have received. Both branches combined have loaned more books than the main library, and this too, despite the fact of a comparatively small number of books to choose from.

Enfield established a library association in 1881 with individual contributions totaling about eight hundred dollars. Its two thousand volumes were located in the townhouse and free to the public during library open hours on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Reverend C. Savage was president of the board of directors. In 1907, the association accepted an offer from Caroline D. Jones Woods to erect a library building as a memorial to her late husband, Cyrus E. Woods.

When the town of Dana established a free public library in 1892, the library commission delivered a hundred dollars worth of books, the town appropriated a hundred dollars for books, and Miss Elizabeth Putnam Sohier donated about a hundred volumes.

Dana had two libraries about four miles apart, one in North Dana open on Tuesday afternoons and evenings and one in Dana center open on Wednesday afternoons. The three trustees were N. L. Johnson, Herbert O.

[continued on page 50](#)



Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem displays a desk from the Enfield Library.  
photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society

# UPTOWN

BEER • WINE • SPIRITS

**SUNDAYS—10% DISCOUNT ON ALL WINES**  
**EVERY DAY—10% DISCOUNT ON CRAFT BEER CASES**  
**9 AM- 9 PM MONDAY-SATURDAY**  
**10 AM-6 PM SUNDAY**  
**174 MARKET DRIVE, ATHOL • 978.249.6782**

# railroad buffs look for colorful,

by Christopher Coyle with stock and bond certificates pictured from his collection

Area collectors seek historic stocks and bonds from railroads built in the Quabbin region—Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad, Ware River Railroad, and Boston & Albany Railroad to name a few.

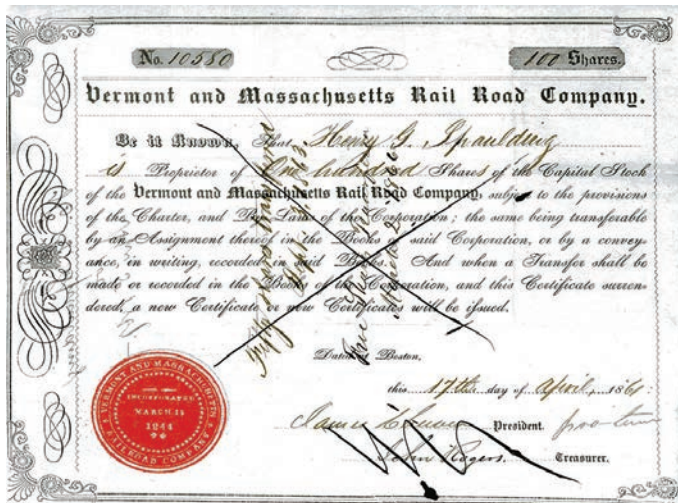
Likely, one thinks of brawny laborers swinging spike hammers when building railroads comes to mind. Indeed, building area railroads involved a lot of brute force and hard work in the days before power machinery. Legends of track-building crews singing railroad-building songs in unison may be just that—legends. Several Irish laborers reputedly are buried in unmarked graves in the Bearsden area of Athol after fatal accidents while building the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad through the area in the 1840s.

But just as important as physical building of railroads was, raising capital to pay for construction was equally necessary. United States railroads number among the first companies to issue bonds and stocks to finance their construction. Large amounts of capital, often from foreign investors—particularly Great Britain, paid for railroad building.

Investments included stocks purchased in the form of shares to provide a small percentage of ownership in a company and bonds representing loans to assist financing a company. Stock purchase involves risk, although returns may considerably exceed those of bonds paid back at a fixed rate over time. Stockholders have rights to information and to vote on company decisions, while bondholders do not vote on company business issues. Seen as safer investments for some creditors, bonds have a set interest payment, maturity date, and face value.

Investment in railroad stocks and bonds was significant in the nineteenth century at the height of railroad construction when stocks and bonds for railroads comprised a large part of the total US stock market capitalization. The importance of railroad stocks and bonds waned following World War I near the end of the railroad construction boom as other industries emerged as more attractive and potentially lucrative to investors.

Historical bond or stock certificates have no present value as securities. Bonds issued to finance building of railroad companies are not payable by the successor railroads of today such as Norfolk Southern or CSX.



An invalidated 1861 stock certificate once recognized investment in the Vermont and Massachusetts Rail Road Company.



**Tina Leslie, FPQP®**

Branch Office Administrator

Office of Financial Advisor David Mason, CFP®,

ChFC®

Phone 978-780-0002 Fax 833-295-8183

Web [edwardjones.com/david-mason](http://edwardjones.com/david-mason)

164 Market Drive, Athol, MA 01331

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

25 Bickford Drive  
Athol, MA 01331

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



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
OF SERVICE TO THE  
NORTH QUABBIN AREA

RS906



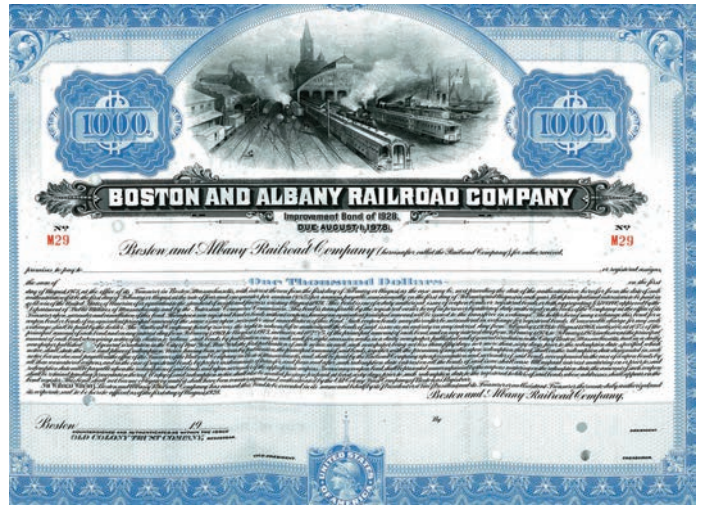
# historic bond and stock certificates

However, historical bonds and stocks often have value to today's collectors.

Some early railroad corporations have vague backgrounds not easy to research for definitive answers. The Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad incorporated in Vermont in 1843 and in Massachusetts in 1844. The corporation remained underlying owner of the railroad despite subsequent operation by Fitchburg and Boston & Maine railroads and more recently by Guilford Rail Systems. The Vermont & Massachusetts appears to have been dissolved in 1991, although the name Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad surfaced in legal notices in area newspapers at the sale of Pan Am Railways in 2022.

Ware River Railroad, organized in 1867 and first leased to New London Northern Railroad, saw the lease

transferred to Boston & Albany Railroad in 1873. The Boston & Albany later leased to New York Central, which



The Boston and Albany Railroad Company issued a thousand-dollar, fifty-year bond in 1928. merged with Pennsylvania Railroad in 1968 to become Penn Central. Penn Central became part of Conrail in 1976. Giant east coast railroad CSX currently operates most Boston & Albany lines. Whether any earlier railroads remain legal entities, holders of certificates shouldn't plan on cashing them in.

Along with their history, stock and bond certificates from street railway companies often offer a more challenging hunt than those from so-called steam railroads. Yet, the astute collector can locate and acquire them.

Scripophily, a branch of numismatics—the study or collecting of coins, medals, paper money—refers to studying and collecting old stocks and bonds. The

[continued on page 47](#)



On August 29, 1930, the treasurer and president of Ware River Rail Road Company issued hundred-dollar shares.

# Atholl, Scotland, Highlanders will paddle in race

## River Rat Canoe Race organizers

by Kathy Chaisson

Every year during the second week of April, a festive atmosphere encompasses the North Quabbin region.



In 1964, a plaque honored winners of the first race, then called the Silver Front Canoe Race.

photo © by Kathy Chaisson

Spring arrives, and after the long toil of winter also rolls the annual River Rat Race, a 5.2-mile canoe sprint down Millers River from Athol to Orange. The event brings recreationists and professionals together to compete for prizes, attain personal goals, or to participate just for fun as crowds line up along the riverbanks to cheer them on.

On Saturday, April 12, 2025, the race will mark the sixtieth running of the competition. Planning started last autumn sooner than in previous years.

“We want to get things out there earlier than we have been,” said River Rat Race Chairperson Gail Spring, a twenty-five-year member of the Athol Lions Club, which organizes the race. “We want to make it bigger.” She said the club has been formulating ideas to honor the special anniversary.

As many as two hundred teams have entered in recent years, according to Spring. They include paddlers from the Quabbin region and elsewhere in New England as well as from New York, Canada, and other countries.

In 1990, the Athol Lions Club took the helm of organizing the race, which has grown considerably since its inception in 1964 when it started as a bar bet among a small group of local men. The River Rat Race is the club’s largest community project and, with the help

A gift to be cherished.



**Spruce Hill Studios**

Original Art Prints

Rutland, MA



10" Giclee Prints, Set of 3, \$65

Visit Etsy or Call 774-272-0364



# anticipate 60th Millers River event



Paddlers, top, wait for the start of the 2024 River Rat Race. They're off, above, with a cannon shot.  
photos courtesy of Athol-Orange Community Television, AOTV

of countless volunteers and the participation of local businesses and fundraising organizations, the weekend has become a family-oriented tradition that has included a pancake breakfast, parade, road race and carnival.

State Representative Susannah Whipps announced that the Atholl Highlanders, a private infantry regiment from Scotland, will visit its namesake town during River Rat Race weekend. The regiment with its own pipe band also visited Athol some years ago during the town's anniversary celebrations and plans to enter canoes into the race.

Local media covers and promotes the race, and community-based Athol-Orange Television broadcasts the weekend events. Athol Lion Jim McIntosh has been involved with the measuring and jiggging of canoes at the finish line since the club took over thirty-four years ago. He said he has never seen the start of the race, except for "once on AOTV when they were broadcasting live and I could watch it on the monitor." He still laughs at the

memory of late longtime race director Dave Flint when he gave him the title of "Snow Fence Set Up," which remains one of his duties.

McIntosh said that over the years he has witnessed an evolution in canoe design, going from fiberglass to Kevlar and carbon fiber which help make the canoes "lighter and sleeker," and that the more serious paddlers started making their own canoes using cedar strip. Racing canoes, he explained, have a different covering than a recreational "Rat" canoe. All canoes must meet size specifications to be qualified for the River Rat Race.

Surrounding the South Main Street bridge in Athol, anticipation is palpable. Teams of paddlers line up in the water, and observers gather from all over the region as they wait for a loud cannon BOOM to send a mad dash of canoes under the bridge. Barring any tip overs and collisions, paddlers adeptly navigate through the congestion and the race down the river begins. "It's not

*continued on page 63*

# region's residents anticipate the return of baseball

by Charles R. "Rocky" Stone

Even when spring seems farther away than just around the corner, residents of the Quabbin region anticipate the springtime and the beginning of baseball played on sandlots, in Little League, in minor leagues, in school varsities and junior varsities, and in major leagues. Over time, the region has produced players at all levels.

Credit goes to Abner Doubleday for introducing the game of baseball in 1839 with Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York, named after him many years later. Doubleday Field, not far from the National Baseball Hall of Fame, hosted the Hall of Fame Classic on Memorial Day weekend for many years.

Although historians have debunked the theory that Abner Doubleday invented the game—which likely began at least a century earlier—the legend persists. Considerable evidence traces the origin of baseball back to England in the eighteenth century. Some

historians suggest that two common games played in England, one known as rounds and the other as cricket, evolved into the game of baseball.

Major league baseball began in the United States in 1876 with formation of the National League. In the late 1800s, Black players participated in the game on college and company teams. However, increasing racism in America during the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century, forced Blacks off the fields with Whites.

Many Blacks then formed their own barnstorming, travelling teams that challenged all comers. Eventually, many Black stars like Jackie Robinson and Satchel Paige went on to play in the major leagues. Other members of the Negro Leagues also subsequently entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 1903, the National League and American League combined to establish the organization we now

call Major League Baseball.

While major league baseball evolved, American kids played baseball from sunup to sundown on vacant lots, cow pastures, and backyards. Before television, American families listened to major league ball games on the radio. Throughout the country, cities and towns formed local ball teams. North of the present-day Quabbin Reservoir, Athol and Orange along with two of the four lost towns, Dana and Enfield, fielded spirited teams.

South Quabbin towns also fielded talented teams. In fact, two of those towns provided native sons who went on to be elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In addition, seven players from Ware reportedly went on to play major league baseball. More about South Quabbin baseball will appear in the May 2025 issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*.


One of the most talented and certainly most charismatic player from the North Quabbin area was

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



THANK YOU!

LUNA BODY THERAPEUTICS



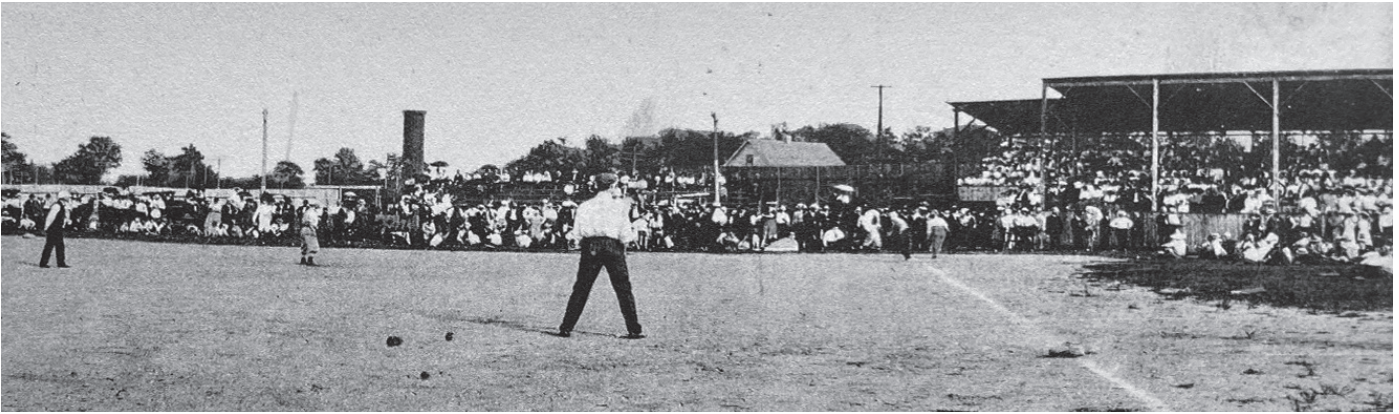
MASSAGE THERAPY  
AYURVEDIC BODYWORK  
CAROLYN CULLEN LMT CYT  
978-633-5423



Botox • Filler  
Facial Rejuvenation

faceologybyjen.com  
978.895.0537  
4 New Salem Road  
Petersham, MA

Mention this ad for 10% off.



A postcard from the 1930s shows Brookside Field in Orange, where fans turned out to watch local teams play baseball.

Frederick “Cy” Waterman. Cy grew up in New Salem and at fifteen played sandlot ball for the Gardner Eagles and high school ball for New Salem Academy. He was a flame thrower of renown who earned his first salary while pitching for the Shelburne Falls Indians when he was fifteen.

Waterman graduated from New Salem Academy in 1929 and pursued a career in minor league and semipro teams for some thirty years. While pitching for the Springfield Rifles, he earned a split decision against the powerful New York Yankees giving up a home run to Babe Ruth in the first game but striking out Ruth’s teammate Lou Gehrig in the second. Along the way, Cy developed friendships with Satchel Paige and Dizzy Dean.

Several other players from Athol and Orange played baseball after high school. Athol High graduates Hans King, Pete Deane, and Johnny Nylander played for Harwich in the renowned Cape Cod League.

From Athol and Orange, John Knapp, Johnnie O’Lari, Vic Colo, Harvey Krupnick, and Larry Hoskins played in the minor leagues. Knappe served with the Army, King with the Army Air Corps, and Deane with the Navy during World War II. During the Korean Conflict, O’Lari served in Korea and Colo in Germany while Krupnick served with the Army during the Vietnam War. Most played service ball for their respective units.

Area industries including Athol’s L. S. Starrett Company sponsored baseball teams.

[continued on page 60](#)



In 1959, Athol’s L. S. Starrett Company fielded a team including, from left, front, unknown, Mike Dube, Don Ferrari, unknown, Elwin Barber, and Larry Zanga; rear, Jackie Hood, Jim Cetto, Larry Day, unknown, Hank Homon, and John Jasins.

photo courtesy of Stuart Deane



Pete Deane, Hans King, and Johnny Nylander, from left, played baseball in the 1950s for Harwichport in the Cape Cod League.

photo courtesy of Stuart Deane

# diverse natural resources sustained

by John Burk with photos and postcards from Hubbardston Historical Society



In a 1907 postcard, guests take their place outside the Hubbardston Inn.

Diverse natural habitats and geology characterize Hubbardston's 41-square-mile landscape, located at the boundary of the Worcester Monadnock Plateau and Lower Worcester Plateau ecological regions in northwestern Worcester County. Elevations range from

approximately 780 feet on Ware River West Branch to 1,313 feet atop Canesto Hill in the northern part of town.

Most of Hubbardston lies within the watersheds of Ware River's West and East branches that converge near Barre Falls Dam. Significant tributaries include Burnshirt River and Canesto Brook.

A popular recreation destination, Asnacomet Pond, also known as Comet Pond, offers outstanding fishing year round. Mare Meadow Reservoir and Bickford Pond serve as water supplies for Fitchburg.

Mount Jefferson and adjacent Hubbardston State Forest attractions include hayfields with views to Wachusett Mountain, a historic mill pond, and groves of mountain laurel. Hubbardston Wildlife Management Area encompasses meadows, wetlands, and a portion of Cunningham Pond.

Sites used seasonally by Native Americans for hunting and fishing included Asnacomet and Moosehorn ponds and Ware River. A primary Native American travel corridor passed by Burnshirt River, Asnacomet Pond, and Wachusett Mountain.

Present Hubbardston was originally the northeastern part of Rutland, where proprietors divided land for farms, house lots, and civic institutions in 1737. Hubbardston incorporated as a Massachusetts district in 1767. Settlers laid out a common, meetinghouse site, and cemetery at the center in 1773. Thomas Hubbard, for whom Hubbardston is named, served as speaker of the colonial House of Representatives and treasurer of Harvard University.

Many Hubbardston farmers participated in Shays' Rebellion after oppressive taxation by the state government exacerbated an economic crisis that followed the American Revolution. Eighty armed men led by Captain Adam Wheeler of Hubbardston shut down a courthouse at Worcester in September 1786.

Rich soils of Ware and Burnshirt river valleys yielded agricultural commodities such as grains, corn, rye, oats, barley, hay, and vegetables. Numerous dairy farms collectively produced a hundred thousand pounds of butter and cheese annually through the 1860s, and more than four hundred thousand gallons of milk by the early 1900s. Hubbardston farmers also cultivated blueberries, strawberries, apples, pears, and poultry.

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

Dealer Shop Store Phone: 978.652.5429

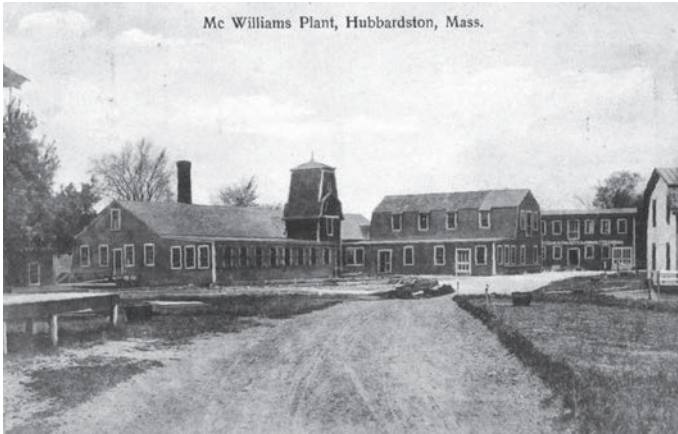
**Country Bumpkin' Antiques**

Kimberly Pirner	owner
36 Baldwinville Rd.	Templeton, MA 01468
countrybumpkinantiques@hotmail.com	

Like us on Facebook and Instagram

*Brimfield Antique Show Shelton Field B17*

# Hubbardston's economy over the years



In the early twentieth century, Hubbardston industry included the McWilliams plant, left, and the Wachusett Nail Corporation. Abundance of timber sustained a variety of wood industries during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including sawmills, chair and woodenware factories, and producers of potash, an element utilized for manufacture of soap, glass, gunpowder, paper, textiles, and woolen goods. Deforestation led to closure of many businesses in the late nineteenth century.

Other shops made boots, shoes, palm leaf hats, carriages, saddles, harnesses, and blankets for horses. After road construction workers discovered copperas, an ore used for production of ink and dye, preservation of wood, and tanning, a mine operated in the northern part of town after 1828.

Economic growth prompted commercial and residential development at the center in the middle nineteenth century. Several inns and hotels hosted travelers on a stagecoach route that linked Worcester, Massachusetts; Keene, New Hampshire; and Providence, Rhode Island. Entrepreneur Jonas Clark, founder of Clark University in Worcester, donated land and funds for a public library that opened in 1874.

Nestled in the valley of Burnshirt River, Hubbardston's Williamsville village was site of sawmills and factories that made chairs, wool cards, boxes, and wood for matches. W. H. Bowdlear Company produced wax and supplied material for Wrigley's Chewing Gum. A depot on the Ware River Railroad, which opened during the 1870s, facilitated distribution of commodities.

At Hubbardston's Healdville, Mason Brook provided power for Wachusett Nail Company, a factory that made toys, novelties, and boxes, and other

businesses. Establishment of the Boston, Barre, and Gardner Railroad, which provided connections to Worcester, Boston, and the Central Massachusetts Railroad, increased growth at Healdville during the late nineteenth century. Providence and Worcester Railroad acquired the line in 1974.

[continued on page 46](#)

**WORKSHOP13**  
Cultural Arts & Learning Center

[workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org)

**13 Church Street  
Ware, Massachusetts 01082**

**(413) 227-6072**



The moon rises over Rattlesnake Ledges near Quabbin Gate 29.

photo © by Dale Monette



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

**Athol-Orange Community TV & WVAO-LP 105.9FM**  
**“Voice of Athol Orange”**

**Training provided**  
**to create your own TV or radio program**

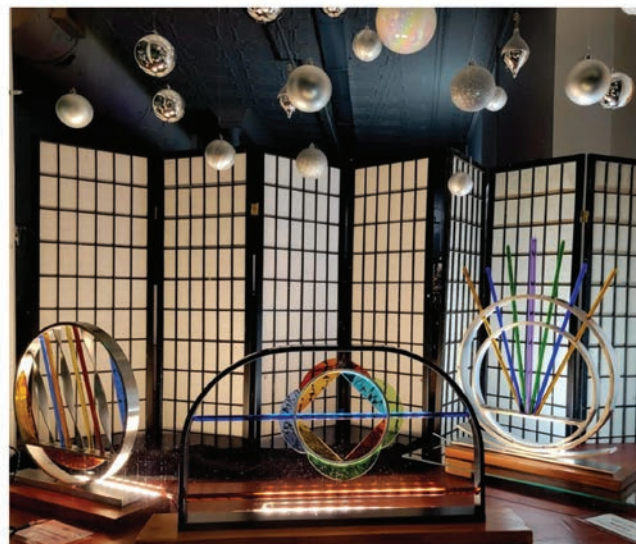
**Contact us to volunteer**  
**978-249-4470 • [info@aotv13.org](mailto:info@aotv13.org)**

**We convert your old videos to digital**  
**modest pricing**

163 S. Main Street • Athol, MA 01331 • 978-29-4470 • [aotv13.org](http://aotv13.org)

ROBERT G. OSBORNE

Metal and Glass Sculpture



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





Warm in Winter

digital scratchboard art © by Jen Niles

# Stan's


**liquor mart**  
Fine Wine & Spirits

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

 <p><b>400 PLUS CRAFT BEERS</b></p>	<p><b>600 PLUS WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD</b></p>	 <p><b>150 PLUS WHISKEYS</b></p>
--	--	---

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

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



**SEASONAL IMAGES**  
 Photos and Prints by Photographic Artist  
**David Brothers**  
 Many local North Quabbin images to choose from.  
 All Photos are printed using Epson Archival Paper and Ink  
 978-249-8229 • david55195@yahoo.com

# early Shutesbury industries included

by John Burk



The Old Town Hall stands to the right of Shutesbury Post Office on Wendell Road.

Situated in southeastern Franklin County, Shutesbury's 27-mile landscape lies within rugged uplands that divide the watersheds of Quabbin Reservoir and the Connecticut River. Meetinghouse Hill, highest elevation at 1,305 feet, lies north of the town center, resting atop a 1,225-foot hill. Other significant eminences include Mount Mineral and Ames Hill near Lake Wyola and January Hills at the boundary with Leverett and Amherst.

Renowned for abundance of trout, Swift River West Branch flows south through a steep valley to a confluence with Quabbin Reservoir near Cooleyville. Other tributaries of Quabbin Reservoir include Atherton, Cobb, and Briggs brooks. In southwestern Shutesbury, Atkins Reservoir serves as a water supply for Amherst. Popular Lake Wyola, a natural pond enlarged by construction of an industrial dam in 1883, occupies 130 acres at the town's northwest corner.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection

photos © by Marcia Gagliardi

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

## FUNERAL HOME

*With Care and Concern Since 1910*



# ORANGE

# 978.544.3160

# farming, lumbering, and sawmills

owns 5,098 acres for preservation of the watershed of Quabbin Reservoir. Conservation restrictions protect approximately 2,600 acres of sustainably managed forests owned by W. D. Cowls Company. A 14-mile segment of the New England National Scenic Trail passes by Atherton Brook, Sibley Swamp, Swift River West Branch, and Lake Wyola.

Rugged topography plus absence of large lakes, ponds, rivers, and abundance of fertile farmland in the Connecticut Valley likely limited Native American presence to seasonal use by the Pocumtuck from settlements at present-day Hadley, Sunderland, and Deerfield and the Nipmuc who inhabited central Massachusetts. Sites utilized by Native Americans included Swift River West Branch, Lake Wyola, and lowlands of what is now Quabbin Reservoir. Artifacts indicate occupation of the Swift River Valley began between 9,500 and 12,000 years ago.

Shutesbury was formed with land granted to Lancaster colonists who built a road to the Connecticut River at Sunderland—hence the original name Roadtown. Settlement, initially by residents of Lancaster and Sudbury, began in 1735. Renamed to honor former Massachusetts governor Samuel Shute, Shutesbury incorporated in 1761. Land in the northern part of town annexed to form Wendell in 1781.

Historic landmarks of the center include a community church built in 1827, a wooden directional marker erected in 1837, and the 1829 Old Town Hall, Shutesbury's oldest civic building. Views from the common in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries extended to the Berkshires, southern Green Mountains, Mount Monadnock, and Wachusett Mountain.

Despite rugged terrain that limited cultivation of crops, Shutesbury farmers produced a variety of commodities such as corn, rye, vegetables, potatoes, oats, and apples. Although widespread abandonment of farms occurred after 1820, dairying continued through the early twentieth century in uplands near the center.

Early industries included a sawmill built on Roaring Brook around 1737, a corn mill at Atherton Brook, and grist mills at Harris Brook and Locks Pond. As in nearby communities such as Wendell and Erving, wood businesses dominated Shutesbury's historic economy. Fifteen sawmills processed nearly 2,300,000 board feet of lumber in 1855. Woodworkers produced cabinets, furniture, railroad ties, fuel for locomotives, rakes, brooms, paper, shingles, barrels, and handles for tools. Forests of Shutesbury yielded seventy percent of charcoal processed in Franklin County by 1865.


[continued on page 52](#)



Shutesbury Community Church presides over the center of town.

**MacMannis**  
**FLORIST**  
& GREENHOUSES  
EST. 1947

DAILY DELIVERIES TO THE NORTH QUABBIN  
AND SURROUNDING AREA



**978-249-3595**  
**macmannisflorist.com**  
**2108 Main St. Athol, MA 01331**



Quabbin Gate 35 ices over.  
photo © by Rick Flematti



LaunchSpace Makerspace  
131 West Main Street, Suite 342  
Orange, MA 01364

# CREATIVE SECTOR PATHWAY PROGRAM

The LaunchSpace Creative Sector Pathway Program is a FREE hands on initiative created to empower and cultivate autonomy in youth ages 13-24. CSPP is designed to provide real-world creative skills training, workforce development and entrepreneurship training for career success.

**We are currently accepting participants who are both in and out of school for our 2024-2025 cohorts. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through March 31, 2025.**

For more information visit our website at [launchspace-orange.com/creative-sector-pathway](http://launchspace-orange.com/creative-sector-pathway) or contact Launchspace Program Director, Sid Nordstrom, at [sid@launchspace-orange.com](mailto:sid@launchspace-orange.com)



A Quabbin region roadway accommodates vehicles after a snowstorm.

photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky



Hello everyone, my name is Grouzer.

Are you ready for winter?

Has your heating system and/or  
heat pumps been cleaned?

Give us a call or stop by our office.

We'd love to see you!



45 Elm St., New Salem

978-544-3222

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

# Hygge: The Practice of Coziness

text and photos by Amber Robidoux



A fresh cup of coffee cradled in warm mittens expresses the coziness of hygge.

A Danish concept, hygge—pronounced hoo-gah—encompasses the feeling of quiet comfort. Elements of hygge include a variety of textures, greenery, and warm, neutral shades. Hygge evokes a feeling of extreme coziness. Practicing hygge looks like fuzzy socks by the fireplace, slow cooking a meal, or reading a book by candlelight. Hygge has a limitless variety of expressions, with the idea of contentment remaining.

The word hygge dates to around 1800. Derived from a Norwegian word meaning well-being, hygge has meanings tracing to the Middle Ages, where a similar Old Norse word meant protected from the outside world. Earlier contexts of hygge reveal a slower paced time with human connections naturally stronger due to a reliance on a neighbor for basic survival with fewer technological distractions.

Looking at hygge only as a snapshot in time does a disservice, since we need to connect with one another in present day. Outside forces, media, cross-cultural differences, and societal and individual values may create challenges in the present and interfere with creating bonds. Social media feeds reflect today's dilemma in a steady stream.

Hygge fosters connection by strengthening individual conversations, even if we do not fully agree with one another. Hygge speaks to the human condition. It means being surrounded by the people we love, feeling we are safe, and allowing ourselves to let our guard down. Hygge allows us to relax into our space by creating a comforting social and emotional environment.

Danes experience cold, dark, and long winters, a prime time for hygge. Dinners often last for hours during dark Danish winters. Imagine leaving daily space for meaningful conversations and unwinding. Busy modern lives can cause high stress levels with little time for relaxed interacting. Hygge

encourages slowing down and appreciating simple pleasures in life. Hygge as a way of living cultivates connection to others and to ourselves.

Being too busy, overworked, and away from home all represent societal norms for many Americans. Overwhelming schedules cause exhaustion rates to rise. The well-being of a population goes off kilter with no room to slow down and appreciate people and important things in life. As a society, we deeply crave comfort, security, and a sense of well-being and may need hygge.

Within a cozy atmosphere, hygge not only leaves daily space for meaningful conversations but also encourages us to slow down and appreciate simple pleasures. The peace we find within also carries into our communities.

Through constant pursuit of homespun pleasures involving candlelight, fires, fuzzy knitted socks, indoor plants, soup, coffee, and cake, hygge means wrapping up in a warm blanket, reading a book,



Adding to an atmosphere of quiet comfort, a candle slowly burns.

and not having any fear of missing out on a weekend evening. It is finding balance and contentment within the sanctuary of your home.

To the Danish, hygge is part of life and does not need to be achieved. It is how life is lived especially during the winter months.

Hygge resonates with feeling happy and content. It represents a lifestyle centered around mindfulness, making time for important things, and getting rid of the clutter and noise. Hygge means quality, not quantity, while surrounding yourself with people and things that bring happiness while taking a few extra moments to appreciate them.

A finisher in National Novel Writing Month competition, Amber Robidoux is a freelance writer. She lives in Orange.

# ADAMS INTERIOR DESIGN

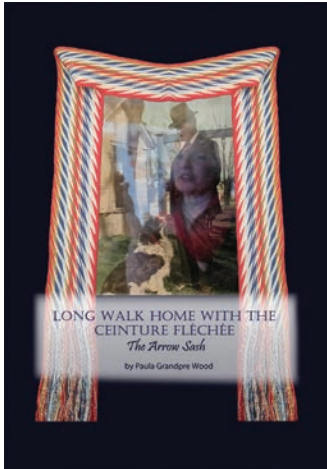


MICHAEL ADAMS  
Interior Designer

[WWW.ADAMSID.COM](http://WWW.ADAMSID.COM)

# memoirs trace history of beloved

by Carla Charter



Paula Grandpre Wood traces the history of a family sash in her book *The Long Walk Home*.

*photos courtesy of Paula Grandpre Wood*

Paula Grandpre Wood, a Barre resident, began a journey through her family's history when she decided to trace origins of a family sash passed down since the

mid nineteenth century from father to eldest son in her Grandpre family. The search led to her book *The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash*.

Wood discovered the original purpose of the sash as a tie around men's winter coats to keep them closed. Standardized on looms by 1850 because of high demand, finger weaving originally produced sashes. "My sash, however, was made on a loom," she said.

Wood discovered her sash was made in 1850 in the Quebec suburb of L'Assomption and originally owned by her three-times great-grandfather Vital II de Grandpre. "The sash was first used on the L'Île Dupas, Canada."

Prior to her ancestors living at L'Île Dupas, the family lived in Trois Rivières with her seven-times great-grandfather among the first European settlers in 1658, Wood said. The sash migrated with family from L'Île Dupas to Saint Simon, where in 1883 Vital II died, and then to his son Vital III. When Vital III died in Saint Liboire, it passed to his son Domina, Wood's great-grandfather.

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

**Family Pet Veterinary Services**  
Dr. Sue Ellen Mowcomber  
(978) 249-4626  
697 Templeton Road - Athol, MA



# family object, of spiritual journey

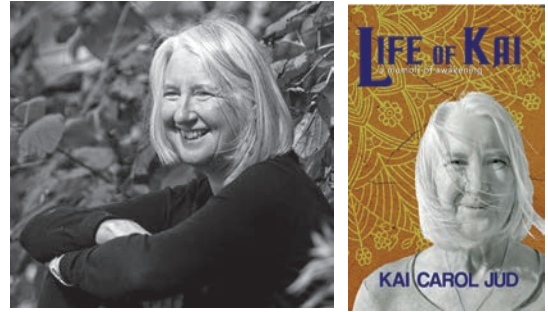
In 1922, Wood's great-grandparents immigrated to Central Falls, Rhode Island and brought the sash with them. "From my great-grandfather, the sash passed to my P p  Emile, his eldest son," Wood said. "The sash moved with them to Pawtucket in 1938." She said it passed to her father, Roland, then to her brother RJ, current owner of the sash.

The idea for the book began after Wood took a research trip to Quebec in 2015. "I knew I wanted to tell their story but didn't know I'd be telling mine also."

The book includes an account of her trip to Grand Pr , Nova Scotia where she discovered a connection with her and the family of her grandmother Anita Lussier. The family experienced exile during the colonial era, and Wood discusses generational wounds experienced because of the exile.



*Life of Kai, a memoir of awakening*, "is a book about resilience," said the author, Kai Carol Jud, a psychotherapist, who continued,



In *Life of Kai*, Kai Carol Jud guides readers through her spiritual journey "not as something that should be followed, but as an inspiration."

Through my stories, I provide my own spiritual journey not as something that should be followed, but as an inspiration to the reader to find their own life and discover their own spiritual path.

My story begins with the telling of my mother's accidental death in a sailboat accident when I was thirteen. It follows my growing up as a motherless child; finding work as a piano teacher and then psychotherapist


continued on page 49



Dale Monette

**NORTH QUABBIN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
North Quabbin Wildlife and Scenics  
Quabbin History and Wildlife Presentations

Dale Monette  
978-846-9289  
[www.northquabbinphotography.com](http://www.northquabbinphotography.com)



**1794 Meetinghouse**  
PO Box 8 • New Salem, MA 01355  
A Beautiful Historic Hall with Wonderful Acoustics  
QUABBIN VALLEY PRO MUSICA

**QV  
PM**

**QUABBIN VALLEY  
PRO MUSICA  
WINTER CONCERT**

**3 pm Sunday, February 2, 2025**  
at Athol Congregational Church  
1225 Chestnut Street • Athol  
purchase tickets at  
[www.1794meetinghouse.org](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org)  
and at the door

# winter reading recommendations from

by Carla Charter

With winter in full swing, the following lists award-winning and best-selling reads to curl up with.

## recommendations from Phineas S. Newton Library, Royalston

Kathy Morris, director of Royalston's public library, suggests the following *New York Times* bestsellers.

*The Small and the Mighty:*

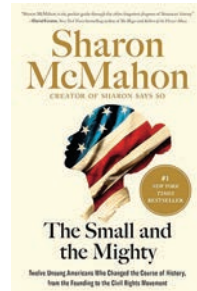
*Twelve Unsung Americans*

*Who Changed the Course of History*

by Sharon McMahon

"McMahon writes about common people we all should know. The book is informative and entertaining,"

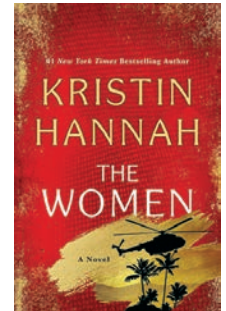
Morris said.



*The Women*

by Kristin Hannah

Morris describes *The Women* as "a well-researched exploration of women who served as nurses in Vietnam. An engrossing, haunting, and heart-breaking look how women of the Vietnam War were treated."



*The Frozen River*

by Ariel Lawhon

For those looking for a historical mystery, Morris recommends *The Frozen River*. "While a mystery dealing with the death of a man found frozen in the river, *The Frozen River* is based on the true story of Maine midwife Martha Ballard who in the late 1700s was a midwife/doctor in Maine," Morris said.



# Quabbin Valley Dental

546 Main St. Athol, MA 01331

## Your Neighborhood Dental Practice

Phone: 978-830-4610

info@QuabbinValleyDental.com

Fax: 978-830-4540

www.quabbinvalleydental.com

# Pelham and Royalston libraries

## recommendations from Pelham Public Library

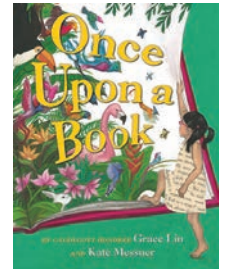
Jodi Levine, director of Pelham Public Library, recommends the following award-winning books.

### In the picture book category, Levine recommends:

*Once Upon a Book*

by Grace Lin and Kate Messier

“Follow the adventures of Alice, who loves to imagine herself in her favorite story, in a gorgeously illustrated adventure,” said Levine. “Northampton’s own Grace Lin wrote and illustrated *Once Upon a Book*. She has won numerous awards for her other work including the Caldecott and Newbury Honor. Co-authored by Kate Messier, *Once Upon a Book* won the 2024 Massachusetts Book Award in the picture book category,” Levine said.

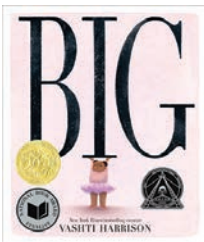


*Big*

written and illustrated by Vashti Harrison

*Big* won the Caldecott Medal for most distinguished picture book of 2024, according to

Levine, who added, “its young protagonist finds self-acceptance after discovering that words are powerful and can both hurt and heal.”



*Journey*

by Aaron Becker

*Journey* won a Caldecott Honor in 2014, and its sequels *Quest* and *Return* make up a magical wordless trilogy that also plunge young readers into an adventure told in detailed pictures that parents and children will revisit again and again, said Levine. “They were created by Pelham’s own Aaron Becker, whose most recent book, *Winter Light*, an interactive board book, came out in October,” Levine added.



### In the children and teen category, Levine recommends the following.

*Frizzy*

by Claribel A. Ortega

“*Frizzy* is middle grade graphic novel about accepting yourself as you are, frizzy curls and all,” said Levine. It won a 2024 Massachusetts Children’s Book Award.



*Blue Lock #1*

by Muneyuki Kaneshiro

*Blue Lock #1* won one of the 2024 Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Awards. A manga or Japanese comic book written back to front, *Blue Lock #1* tells of a winning World Cup soccer team and is part of a series also adapted as an anime or animated series, said Levine.



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

Phineas S. Newton Library, 19 on the Common, Royalston  
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Thursdays  
9 a.m. to noon Saturdays  
royalstonlibrary.org

Pelham Free Public Library, 2 South Valley Road, Pelham  
2 p.m.-7 p.m. Mondays • 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays  
1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays • 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays  
10 a.m. to noon Fridays • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays  
pelham-library.net

Winter Stream ii—a visual haiku by Ami Fagin



it was an hour's walk  
ruby, blue-black sparkling ebb  
drifting aimlessly

ami fagin  
ketubahindesign.com  
beyondgenocide.net  
visualhaiku.graphics



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



Fresh Produce  
Local Foods  
Coffee and Chai



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

12 N Main St, Orange 978-544-6784

Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 9-5

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



**Barre Historical  
Society & Museum**

SAVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

See our 1859 stagecoach.

*Finding William Lewis*  
book presentation by  
Christie Higginbottom and Bruce Craven  
Sunday, April 6 at 3 p.m.

Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
All are welcome!

Questions?  
contact us at  
[barrehistory@gmail.com](mailto:barrehistory@gmail.com)

more info on our website  
[barremahistoricalssociety.org](http://barremahistoricalssociety.org)



Bears Den Falls, New Salem, crash and roil in winter.

photo © by David Brothers

**BATTERY  
POWER  
by  
STIHL**

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

Hedge Trimmers      Chainsaws

Blowers

Kombi Motors & Attachments      Trimmers

*We also offer*

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

at **ORANGE SAWS**

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-5  
Spring/Summer  
Open Saturdays 9-1

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

About My Cat  
and Other Tales

written and illustrated by  
Brian J. Fournier

About My Cat  
and Other Tales  
selected poems 1970-2020  
written and illustrated by Brian J. Fournier

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

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

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

# from the pens of

poem by  
Len Mazarowski

## *Grey Zone*

Magenta maple makes a statement—  
brilliant yellow and vibrant green.  
Now I move like a cat on snow,  
quiet and cunning, never seen.

Seasonal changes  
bring me back to life.  
Did you see me in the shadows?  
I cut through your senses  
like a razor-sharp knife.

Some say they've seen me  
but cannot describe  
what they glimpsed in shadow  
where I must hide.

I come and go on impulse  
never in the same place.  
I am the most important part of you,  
hiding behind your face.

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

poem by  
Kylie Hedges

## *Growing Pains*

Life is not stolen of its meaning.  
Perhaps for some,  
the delicate aging of time  
may seem it so.  
Meaning ages like a vintage  
photograph, dusty, ever lightening.  
One must take another unless to be  
subjected to living  
in life's shedded shell—  
lest a cicada passing before it can  
ever see the beauty  
beyond underground.  
We do not find meaning  
simply because we do not mote it.  
It is not created.  
It is not plopped in your lap  
like a debted obligation.  
It is not an heirloom passed  
from centuries beyond yourself.  
It is you.  
And it grows with you.  
From seed to tree, it twists and turns  
in a violent dance.  
Parts of it die.  
And, oh, we know it dies.  
But to bear the mark of time  
and still stand—just stand,  
for you must do nothing but live.  
Is exultatious beyond the hopes of  
the flesh that bore time before you?

Kylie Hedges of Athol has lived in the Quabbin area for her entire life. She's enrolled in a liberal arts program at Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner.

poem by  
Kathleen Nicoletti

## *Shadows of my Mind* *in memory and voice of my friend who tragically took her own life*

*dial 988 for the  
suicide and crisis lifeline*

For many years, I've battled  
with a succubus inside.  
I put a smile on my face  
while my true feelings I hide.  
To my family and friends,  
I give with all my heart,  
and to animals I am always kind.  
But my intrusive demons  
always linger  
in the shadows of my mind.

I try to fill the ever-increasing chasm  
from deep within my soul,  
although the darkness  
is so hard to control.  
I've chosen to stop the dominance and  
put the sadness to an end.  
For those I leave behind, this message  
I send:  
With angels' wings, I now fly high.  
When you think of me,  
I don't want you to cry.  
When you think of me,  
don't remember my pain.  
I am at peace now, so think of me  
in the solitude  
of a midsummer's rain.  
Think of me when the sun's rays gently  
caress your face.  
I want you to know that I no longer  
have a hollow space.

Kathleen Nicoletti of Athol is author of the children's books *It's Okay to be Sad*, *Ruby the Ruthless*, *Ernie's Catastrophic Day*, *Duckless*, *Katelyn's Adventures in Imagination*, *Not That Chicken*, and *They Only Saw His Teeth*.

Submit poems for *Uniquely Quabbin* to  
[marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com)

# Uniquely Quabbin poets

poem by  
Jack McClintock

## *Evergreen*

*for Miguel de Cervantès Saavedra and his mighty avatar, Don Quixote de la Mancha*

Sunlight glistens on a dewy leaf.  
The autumn sky is warm at noon.  
Then daylight flees in pell-mell flight  
as though startled by the moon.

Once evening falls abrupt and cold,  
the living sun abandons heaven,  
routed by the shimmering horde  
by night's glittering demons driven.

Through the brief but verdant day,  
a gentle breeze wafts conflagration  
while at night pre-winter chill  
now infiltrates the vegetation.

With the dawn are vast green armies  
sallied boldly to life's cause.  
Through the day their battle rages,  
grimly trying nature's laws.

Watch the leafy pyrotechnics  
dance and sparkle in the sun!  
Then their dry and lifeless corpses  
blown in heaps, their struggles done.

Thinning legions march resigned  
in answer to life's clarion call,  
which yearly heralds end of summer  
and warns of the impending fall.

Then life, that precious gift of God's,  
must gird itself 'gainst fading light;  
retreating over frost-cloaked hillsides  
ravaged by encroaching night.

Each day becomes a little shorter.  
The sun at noon looks pale and wan,  
'til at length the air is bitter, and  
it seems life's strength is gone.

Once redolent, the breeze of summer  
without intent conveys  
a piquancy that's born of harvest,  
assurance that what lives decays.

"No quarter given" is the cry  
resounding through ravines and hills,  
which though lifeless to the eye  
had been the home of daffodils.

Tulip, jonquil, lilac, lily,  
daisy, crocus, pansy, rose,  
living treasures, oh, so fragile,  
each an heir to timeless woes.

Pluto's onslaught rolls unchecked  
before receding ranks of green.  
The day is sacked and with it life  
while cold eyes smile upon the scene.

Through the winter, life as moisture,  
seems enchanted to a stone.  
Empty branches reach toward heaven.  
Leafless boughs in high winds moan.

Gale-force storms drives ice and snow  
toward phalanx of barren trees  
as Muslim swords and Mongol arrows  
once drove the West onto its knees.

But there among death's frozen  
cohorts  
stand ranks of fearless evergreen  
facing winter's deadly onslaught  
in what must seem a bedlam dream.

Oh, there are those it seems to me,  
who demonstrate great fortitude  
and by their great and selfless  
striving lend hope to our  
vicissitude.

Through their steadfastness to duty,  
through their sacrifice and art,  
each rekindles flagging courage  
to find once more a warrior's heart.

With unrelenting ancient valor  
renewed without a thought to cost,  
green legions surge back into light,  
renewing faith which had been lost.

Can there be order in the chaos?  
Is there life beneath the snow?  
Ask no other for an answer  
the light within already knows.

And when springtime gaily  
lingers,  
while the world remains serene,  
ask yourself when winter comes,  
will you be a leaf or evergreen?

A mental health professional, Jack McClintock  
cares for patients and clients in institutions and community settings.  
His poetry reflects insight gained in his work.  
[a-turn-of-phrase.com](http://a-turn-of-phrase.com)

# QUABBIN CURRENTS: recapping forty years of creating the *Quabbin History Calendar*

by J. R. Greene

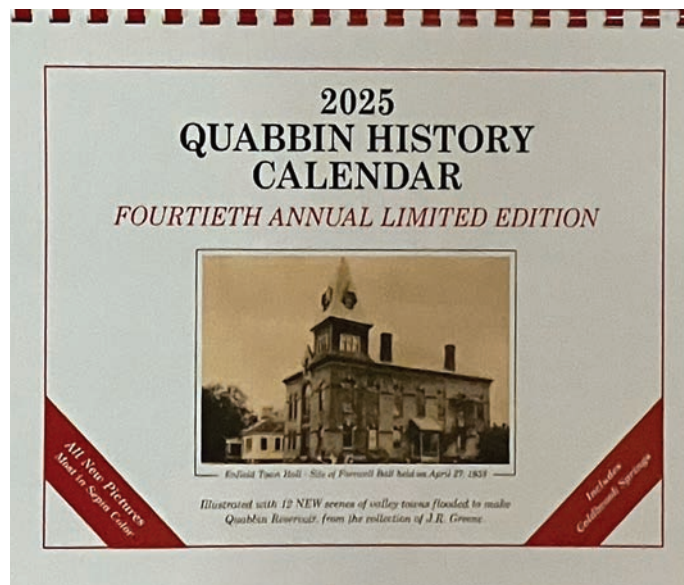


For forty years, J. R. Greene has created the annual *Quabbin History Calendar*. photo by Donna Malouin

I recently issued the fortieth consecutive edition of my annual *Quabbin History Calendar* for the year 2025. The calendar typically includes twelve views from the four towns destroyed to build Quabbin Reservoir, ones from villages in other affected towns, and, since 1992, a view from a village destroyed for the nearby Ware River diversion water project.

The late Paul Adams of the Transcript Press in Athol, then my printer, and I developed the calendar on a whim. We noticed that some organizations issued annual calendars as fundraisers. It seemed like a calendar featuring old views from the lost Quabbin towns might appeal to area residents. By listing the titles of my in-print books inside the calendar cover, it also provided a way to promote those books.

We selected photos and postcards from my collection for inclusion in the first calendar, issued in November, 1985 for the year 1986. Using the network of retail outlets that carried my Quabbin books, we sold out that printing in less than a month. The following year, we made a larger printing for the 1987 edition, but we overestimated demand and ended up destroying some calendars. Since then, the calendar has had a run of a few hundred copies each year.



The 2025 *Quabbin History Calendar* has a photo of Enfield Town Hall on the cover and includes illustrations of twelve fresh scenes of valley towns flooded to make Quabbin Reservoir.

file photo

In the early 1990s, we sold advertising on the back cover to help pay printing costs. One year made the difference between making money on the project or not. After a couple of years, we discontinued advertising in the calendar.

After Paul Adams's death in 2001, Performance Press of Winchendon produced the calendar for more than a decade and a half. When they changed their printing

[continued on page 49](#)



**HALEY'S**  
antiques • collectibles • appraisals  
book publishing • editing  
more than 250 ISBN titles  
*Contact us with your book or editing project.*  
publisher of  
*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine  
a mile west of Athol center on Rte 2A  
Marcia Gagliardi  
marcia2gagliardi@gmail.com  
978.249.9400



# What About the Penguins?

text and oil painting on canvas

by Sonja Vaccari

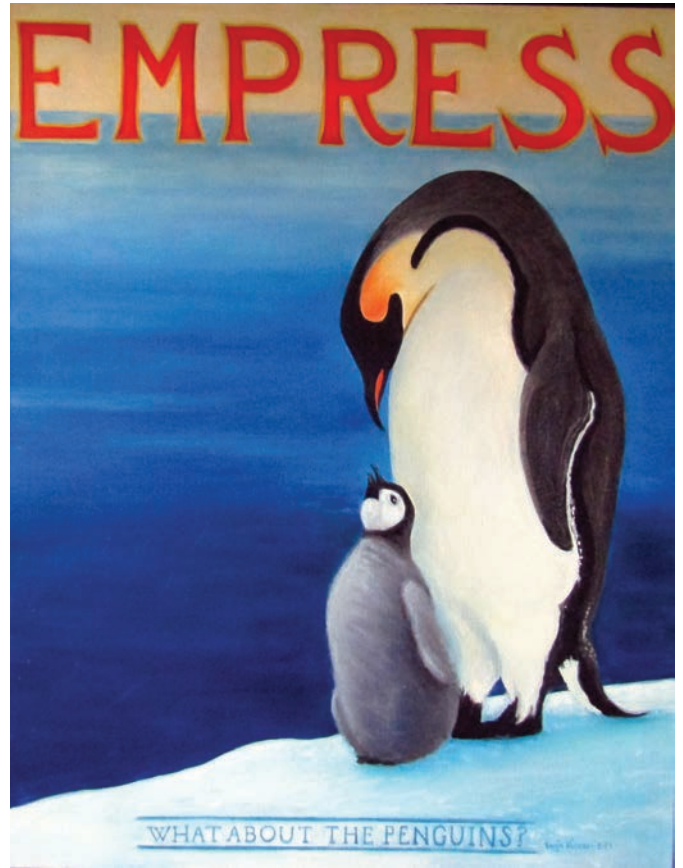
Inspiration for the painting *What About the Penguins* came out of left field as I hung laundry in my backyard. There's nothing like crisp sheets and rough towels smelling like sunshine at the heart of a timeless chore that takes time but also gives time to contemplate.

In many cities and suburban neighborhoods, you can't, won't, or don't have space to hang your wash outside. Grabbing more clothespins, I imagined all the carbon and pollution dumped into the atmosphere every single day by washing and drying the world's laundry. In a small way, I try to draw a line against global warming.

I had that very discussion with my youngest son, who is pretty tuned in to critical world issues. His response was, "Mom, *what about the penguins?*"

Yes, what is to become of them? The Emperor penguin is the largest of all penguin species and native to Antarctica a long way from my backyard. In my mind, the Emperor's mate must be an Empress. What will she tell her chick when there is no ice left to stand on?

Artist Sonja Vaccari lives in Royalston.



413-774-0100

Greenfield, MA  
Just 30 mins from Athol!

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

## Quality Hearing Care is Worth the Drive



**Alber Hearing Services is loved by locals,  
and trusted by area physicians.**

We are happy to offer the following services:

**Comprehensive  
hearing  
evaluations**

**Hearing aid  
sales  
(FREE TRIALS!)**

**Professional  
ear wax  
removal**



# packing a nutty energy punch with

text and photos by Christine Noyes

They're everywhere in the Quabbin region, but how often do we take notice? If you're lucky enough to live in an area where mighty white oak trees thrive, you have most likely been visited by a wide variety of wildlife, as have I.

Each fall, the trees produce heavy, oblong nuts with a warty, bowl-shaped cap that nourishes deer, bears, turkeys, squirrels, and other wildlife at a crucial time of year—just before winter sets in. Rich in fat and carbohydrates and easily digestible, the acorns pack an energy dense punch.

With light grey bark and deep grooves, the majestic beauties reportedly make up forty-eight percent of Quabbin Reservoir growth. Vital to our environment and wildlife species, new growth of the white oak is in decline, national research has shown.

Growing at a rate of one foot per year, a new tree takes twenty years to produce acorns. The average fully grown tree reaches from 80 to 100 feet with a life span of 350-500 years. Its peak acorn production occurs at between 50 and 80 years old.

According to experts, the invasive gypsy moth poses the biggest threat to the species.

Thanks to the White Oak Initiative, an advocate for sustainable oak forest management, a plan focuses on regeneration and sustainability of this most critical part of our ecological puzzle.

In Massachusetts, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, MassWildlife, and partners use fire as a tool to promote new growth. The ability of oaks to resprout quickly after a blaze allows them to overtake competing hardwoods that might eventually shade seedlings struggling to survive.

I'm sharing my full-of-pep protein/energy bar recipe in reverence to the amazing white oak and its energy-packed bounty. Much like acorns, the walnuts included in the bars are highly nutritious, fight inflammation, and among many other benefits, have been known to lower bad cholesterol in humans.

Enjoy!



**A wide variety of wildlife visits white oak trees threatened by gypsy moths in the Quabbin region. Supporting sustainable forest management, the White Oak Initiative focuses on regeneration to protect trees.**



# nutritious treats featuring walnuts

## pack-energy-punch PEP bars



### INGREDIENTS

2 eggs, beaten  
3/4 cup creamy peanut butter  
1/3 cup maple syrup  
3 cups quick oats  
1/2 cup milk chocolate chips  
3/4 cup chopped walnuts  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg



Mix all ingredients together. Press into a greased 9 by 9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 17 minutes. Let cool before cutting into bars.



An array of protein energy bars offers healthful snacking.

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

# King Phillip Restaurant, McCarthy's Pub

text and photos by John Burk



King Phillip Restaurant features a comfortable lounge and restaurant seating.

Conveniently located at 35 State Road in Phillipston near the intersection with Route 2, King Phillip Restaurant and Motel offers a range of traditional American cuisine and amenities for diners and guests.

The enterprise began in the 1940s as an ice cream stand on Route 2A, a busy thoroughfare at the eastern end of the Mohawk Trail before completion of Route 2. Subsequent expansion during the 1950s included

a restaurant and motel with twelve rooms. The establishment prospered until the early 1980s, when a recession caused the motel and restaurant business to decline.

In 1983, Jean and Craig Twohey acquired the

facility and made extensive renovations to the dining area and motel rooms that had fallen into disrepair. Revitalization of business prompted construction of a new kitchen in 1988 and a banquet room and a lounge in 1997. Utilized for weddings, parties, and functions, the banquet room accommodates as many as a hundred guests. A dairy bar that opened in 2009 provides affordable quality food and the option to order takeout or dine outside.

After nearly forty years of management, in 2019 the Twoheys sold the business to Harshal Patel, a biologist who also owns a sports pub in his hometown of Littleton. The restaurant's classic New England atmosphere, food, and base of loyal local customers appealed to Patel.

## RON'S FUEL, INC.

BIG ENOUGH  
TO SERVE YOU



SMALL ENOUGH  
TO KNOW YOU

NOW DELIVERING PROPANE!

ATHOL, MA

(978) 249-3548

RONSFUELINC.COM

## COUNTRY CONVENIENCE

LUCKY STORE FOR LOTTERY!

216 South Main Street • Athol

BEER • WINE • GROCERY  
LOTTERY • KENO  
MASS CASH

\$100,000 fourth winning lottery ticket sold  
at Country Convenience

We accept EBT

# *maintain longtime traditions of service*

Customer favorites include prime rib, fisherman's feast, and seafood chowder. The menu also features signature dishes such as tender veal, Parmesan encrusted scallops, and rack of lamb; a variety of beef, seafood, and poultry offerings; several dishes for vegetarians as well as burgers, sandwiches, and pizza.

The restaurant provides buffets on New Year's Eve, Easter, and Thanksgiving holidays. Call 978-249-6300 for listings of other specials.

Known as Twohey's Tavern, the lounge has a fireplace, comfortable seating, and a bar that serves microbrews and specialty drinks. On Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local performers such as Jared Moore, Lady Pop, and the Relics provide live music.



Diners at McCarthy's Pub may choose bar or restaurant service.

The King Phillip dairy bar, open seasonally from April to Columbus Day, offers several flavors of Gifford's ice cream as well as seafood, pizza, burgers, subs, and hot dogs.

Open Monday to Thursday 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. See kingphillip.com

for more information.

A popular landmark of Belchertown's historic town common, McCarthy's Pub continues a tradition of service for travelers to the Quabbin region and Pioneer Valley that dates to the nineteenth century at the same site.

Owner Janice McCarthy Rogers acquired the

establishment, formerly the Common Pub, in 1983 after the tragic death of her fiancé André Richard caused her career plans to change. Despite the unfortunate circumstance, she developed and maintained a successful business that celebrated its fortieth anniversary in August 2023.

[continued on page 67](#)



*Trillium Ayurveda & Yoga*  
*Movement, Nourishment, Stillness*

Classes | Trainings | Retreats | Consultations  
Ayurvedic Body Work & More

*Charlotte I. Weltzin eAP, eRYT*  
*TrilliumAyurveda.com*

**ADAMS FARM** 854 Bearsden Road  
(978) 249-9441 Athol, MA

**PACKAGE #15**

- 5 lbs. Ground Beef
- 5 lbs. Ground Beef Patties
- 5 lbs. Boneless Chicken Breast
- 4 lbs. Rump Steak
- 5 lbs. Delmonico Steak
- 4 lbs. Top Round Roast
- 4 lbs. Bone-in Chicken Thighs
- 4 lbs. Pork Chops
- 3 lbs. Smoked Kielbasa

*call in your order today*

*Come Check Out Our Other Specials of the Week*

Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sat. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We Accept  




Hubbardston's Boston and Maine Railroad Depot facilitated the town's industrial shipping in the twentieth century.

## varied habitats sustained Hubbardston's economy

*continued from page 23*

An influx of Finnish immigrants enhanced cultural diversity in Hubbardston during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Finns revitalized agriculture on old farms, formed a cooperative association for farmers, and established a Lutheran Congregational church and a popular social center on Main Street.

The Metropolitan District Commission, MDC, acquired more than eight thousand acres in Hubbardston during the 1920s and 1930s for preservation of the watershed of Ware River, which supplements Quabbin Reservoir. Loss of industries and farmland adversely impacted the town's economy and

population. Williamsville declined rapidly after the MDC took over water rights to Burnshirt River.

Destructive floods in March 1936 washed out industrial dams on Ware River East Branch and Mason Brook and five bridges. The 1938 hurricane toppled approximately twenty-five million feet of timber in Hubbardston, destroyed roads, mill ponds, and barns, and caused permanent closure of Ware River Railroad.

Hubbardston Historical Society maintains a historic chapel at Williamsville and a museum at Hubbardston Public Library. Find information at [hubbardstonhistorical.org](http://hubbardstonhistorical.org).

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.

**Please tell our advertisers**

**you saw them in**

***Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.**

**978.249.4246**

**FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
REPAIRS**

**FLINT'S AUTO REPAIR**

**990 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ATHOL, MA 01331**

# collectors seek railroad stock and bond certificates

continued from page 17



A certificate canceled on February 5, 1937, acknowledges full payment to Hornblower & Weeks, a brokerage firm, for seventeen shares in Boston Elevated Railroad Company.

word scripophily is formed by combining scrip, meaning ownership right, with the Greek word philos, to love.

Railroad stock and bond certificates typically contain very ornate engraving, often in various colors with depictions of trains but usually not representative of equipment on the lines they represent. They can be found at antique shops, flea markets, on eBay, and through other sources. Owners of old railroad stock and bond certificates not only appreciate their beauty but their historical significance. Framed railroad stock and bond certificates add interest to the décor of a home and can be real conversation pieces.

Railroad enthusiast, historian, and retired UMass research technician, Christopher Coyle lives in Athol.



## State Representative Susannah Whipps

proudly serving

the towns of the

2nd Franklin District

District Office (978) 895-9606

paid political ad

### SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

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

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



# Year Round *~~~~~* **FAMILY FUN**

- ✔ **Pick Your Own Fruit** for the ultimate farm experience.
- ✔ **Live Music:** Enjoy local bands in a picturesque setting.
- ✔ Visit our **Cidery** for exclusive seasonal flavors and tastings.
- ✔ Stop by the **Brew Barn** year-round for brews and tasty eats.
- ✔ Enjoy charming **hayrides** through the farm's scenic landscapes – ideal for all ages!

- ✔ Fresh Cider Donuts
- ✔ Pumpkins
- ✔ Apple Cider
- ✔ Homemade Fudge
- ✔ Farm Store
- ✔ Family Fun

Visit us at the Stall in Boston or our cozy spots on Wachusett Mountain—perfect settings for unique treats and warm cider donuts!

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

Scan here to explore all upcoming farm events.



## Fairs & Festivals

- Applesed
- Country Fair
- Thanksgiving
- Harvest Festival
- Winter Lights

Follow us on  
Social Media!



@redapplefarm

455 Highland Ave, Phillipston, MA 01331

978-249-6763



# Quabbin History Calendar marks 40 years

continued from page 40

equipment, I then turned to Highland Press of Athol, which also has printed my recent book titles.

Early years of issue established the calendar format. January and December illustrations utilized winter scenes. March featured a town hall, as that was the month of annual town meetings in the old days. Many May scenes featured a Memorial Day ceremony or soldier's monument. Either July or August showcased a summer cottage or camp, of which there were many in the old valley. September was the time when school began in those days, so a school was depicted that month.

The emphasis of photos was on so-called birdseye views of villages taken from nearby hilltops or scenes of public buildings, mills, churches, and roadside businesses. We included prominent or unusual homesteads. Over the years, some places might appear two or three times, but the views would have been taken in different seasons or from a different angle. The approach has resulted in keeping the calendar from becoming merely a collection of views of farms or houses. As time went on, I tried to use more scenes including people, but only those shown at an identified place and not merely group portraits.

Former valley residents and their descendants have often purchased the calendar. People from as far away as California and Florida have bought them through the mail, and I have sold them on eBay since the year 2000. Some of my original outlets still carry them, but I have had many new retailers over the years in west central Massachusetts.

Due to my desire to illustrate every possible public building in the old valley, I have used more of the appraisal photos taken by the commission which built the project. They are shown in black and white, while photos from my collection are printed in sepia tone. The same view of the Enfield town hall has been used on the front cover of every edition of the calendar. It helps people recognize the calendar.

A homeowner in New Salem purchased many of the first edition as their home, still standing, appears in the calendar's photo of North Prescott village. Some

valley descendants have told me they loved finding their ancestor's home or business pictured. One former valley resident was shocked to find a photo of the elementary school in Enfield with his older brother and sister standing in front of it.

I have considered whether to discontinue issuing the calendar. It is becoming more difficult to find new subjects for photos, and the amount of time it takes to market the calendar each autumn has become a strain. I have asked purchasers of it to email me if they would like to see the calendar continue.

J.R. Greene is the author of twenty-four books, sixteen of which deal with the Quabbin Reservoir and towns destroyed to build it. He is a lifelong resident of Athol.

## *memoir traces spiritual journey*

continued from page 33

meeting Chris, my beloved soulmate, and marrying and raising two kids.

In 2002, Chris and I met shamanic teachers who changed our lives so much we could no longer live behind the white picket fence. Three years later, we left everything behind and went on the road with no plan but lots of trust. For the next seven and a half years, we followed Spirit—camping, traveling, and meeting remarkable people including the Dalai Lama, Ram Dass, and many shamans.

In October 2011, Chris started feeling weak, and in April 2012, he died suddenly of lung cancer. My book tells of the grieving process and rebirth into a new life. I provide many tools in the book, including shamanic practices, meditation, drumming, chanting, rituals, and spiritual explorations through many world religions. I share my own process of meeting Chris's illness, his subsequent death from lung cancer, my grief, and my rebirth into a new life. I hope to inspire and offer comfort and courage to those going through a similar process.

A year after his death, I consulted a psychic who told me I had to write a book. When I insisted that I didn't know how to write a book, she told me that Spirit would help and it was crucial to write my stories.

I was fortunate to join a memoir group in Wendell led by Ruth Flohr. After several years and many, many edits and invaluable support from my fellow writers, *Life of Kai* was published by Haleys in November 2023. Carla Charter is a freelance writer. She lives in Phillipston.

# Lost Town libraries closed forever when valley flooded to create Quabbin

continued from page 15

Skinner, and Grace Oaks. The first librarians were Grace Oaks at North Dana and Alice Stevens at Dana. In 1898, the library held 767 books for the approximately seven hundred residents.

In 1907, the annual report stated:

The work of this library has been very active during the year; both old and young have shown much interest in reading matter, and their many different tastes are well supplied with books from the best authors and latest publications.

The Greenwich Public Library was established in 1891, and eight years later, a building was erected to house the 850 books with local lumber supplied by William H. Walker. Fannie Walker, who had been instrumental in establishing the library, served as librarian.

When the time came to deaccession because of the reservoir, Greenwich trustees voted to give their books to the New Salem library, and Prescott's books went to the Pelham library. In 1938, after the secretary of the Metropolitan Water Supply Commission consulted with the state library adviser, six thousand books from



Fannie Walker served as Greenwich librarian when Swift River Valley flooded to create Quabbin Reservoir.

photo courtesy of  
Swift River Valley Historical Society

Dana were brought to Enfield town hall and sorted for delivery to twenty-five small libraries in the western part of the state, including Wheeler Memorial Library in Orange which had suffered flooding in the hurricanes of 1936 and 1938.

More than just a building, a library is a living force for education and culture and an essential agent in fostering peace and spiritual welfare.

The seeds of intellectual fruit cast into the world by the libraries in the drowned towns continue to blossom and flourish.

Karen Traub, whose screen name and very short bio is "happy dancer mom," lives in Shutesbury and vacations in Orange.



RICK FLEMATTI NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

LANDSCAPE AND WILDLIFE  
RFLEMATTI@VERIZON.NET

CHECKOUT MY GALLERY AT THE  
PETERSHAM COUNTRY STORE

An advertisement for Twin Piston Motorcycles. It features a detailed line drawing of a motorcycle. The text "TWIN PISTON MOTORCYCLES" is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Above the motorcycle, it says "Specializing in Harley Davidson". At the bottom, the address "334 East Main Street Orange Ma. 01364" and the phone number "978-673-8021" are listed.



Advanced growth characterizes winter veggies in the greenhouse at Hardwick's Still Life Farm.

photo courtesy of Still Life Farm

continued from page 11

and then have a cold forecast show up unexpectedly," Wilson said.

Although the farm does not sell at farmers markets, it donates to the Athol High School food pantry and offers a grant-funded/donation-run CSA share for seventy Athol and Orange seniors at risk of food insecurity.

"We grow most of the produce for our kitchen to cook all the meals for our youth programming

year-round," Wilson said. "We sell produce at about a two-thirds reduced price to a grocery store called The Daily Table that serves the Roxbury and Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston." said Wilson.

Find more information on Still Life Farm at [stilllifefarm.com](http://stilllifefarm.com). Find more information about the Farm School at [farmschool.org](http://farmschool.org).

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

# Did you know?

That we offer....

Life Insurance, College Savings, Financial and Estate Planning and much more.

Call us today!  
978-249-2837

**KESSLER**  
Investments, Inc.

2070  
Main Street  
**KESSLER**  
**INVESTMENTS, INC.**  
COME IN AND PLAN FOR  
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE TODAY

Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Foundry's Financial Securities, LLC  
Member FINRA, SIPC and Registered Investment Advisor

# Shutesbury's Lake Wyola offers varied recreational options

continued from page 27



Shutesbury's Lake Wyola hosts summer homes and, to the left out of view, a beach with swimming, picnic area, and fishing.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

Other businesses included boot and shoemakers, a gold pen factory, and a basket shop. Manufacture of palm leaf hats thrived in Shutesbury until the 1860s, when competition from hat factories in Amherst superseded most home businesses.

In the nineteenth century Shutesbury was renowned for mineral springs that attracted tourists and people who sought treatment for ailments. Built at the site of a spring discovered in 1808, the Old Pool Tavern hosted visitors from New York City and Boston. A large resort hotel operated at Mount Mineral from the mid nineteenth century to 1876, when a fire destroyed it.

Originally called Lock's Pond, Lake Wyola provided power for industries on Sawmill River in Leverett during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The lake became a popular resort destination during the early twentieth century when cottage developments attracted many tourists and seasonal residents. On the north shores, Lake Wyola State Park encompasses a beach, picnic area and fishing sites, and the historic Bennett House, an eighteenth-century home that served as an inn for many years.

Decline of industries and lack of railroads led to a prolonged decrease in population that continued through the 1940s, when Shutesbury had less than two hundred residents. The state took over homes and productive farmland along Swift River during Quabbin Reservoir's construction in the 1920s and 1930s. Expansion of the University of Massachusetts and Hampshire College in Amherst and improvements in transportation and telecommunications prompted rapid residential growth in the late twentieth century.

Photographer and writer John Burk lives in Petersham.



Orange MA

# shop locally at

Local Art & Crafts Market Place

# Stage on Main

Visual & Performing Arts Space

In downtown Orange, MA <sup>®</sup>



stuffed animals  
many more items  
holiday shopping  
hand crafted



scarves  
soaps



jewelry  
local artists  
paintings



quilling



sculptures



**MARKETPLACE** at Stage on Main  
• Over 30 Local Artisans • Shop for art and hand crafted items

Stage on Main **FREE** Performance Space and Art Gallery  
• A space for people to gather and enjoy the arts



17 South Main Street, Orange MA 01364  
1-413-272-8639 • [www.facebook.com/stageonmain](http://www.facebook.com/stageonmain)

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





Three snow buntings make themselves at home on a Petersham wooden gate.

photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere

A black outdoor wood furnace with a gabled roof. The front panel has the text "WoodMaster CleanFire 500" and "TITANIUM STAINLESS STEEL". To the right, a QR code is displayed in a white circle with the text "Scan to shop WoodMaster Furnaces!". In the background, a woman is visible on a porch of a house with yellow autumn foliage.

# A Heat Source That Does It All

You deserve to feel comfortable in your home without breaking the bank. Discover the WoodMaster CleanFire Outdoor Wood Furnace - a game-changer for those who want exceptional warmth, convenience and safety all at once. Available now at Higgins Energy in Barre, MA.



140 Worcester Rd. Barre, MA | 978-355-6343 | HigginsEnergy.com | Open Tues - Sat

# The Day in the Life of a Beagle Bagel

dawn



early morning



midday



afternoon



early evening



dinner time



late night



the two seconds you looked away

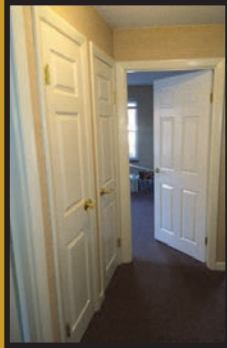


©E. Boughton

## Love Your Home Again!



BEFORE



AFTER



### Interior/Exterior Residential & Commercial Experts

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

License# 163620, Fully Insured, Workmen's Comp



## Quality Painting & Restoration

508-713-4913



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



# FREE TUTORING FOR ADULTS!

**LEARN TO READ.  
LEARN TO WRITE.  
LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH.**



## CHANGING LIVES . . . ONE SYLLABLE AT A TIME

Providing free, confidential and individualized tutoring in basic literacy and ESOL for adults in the North Quabbin area since 1975.

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW COULD BENEFIT  
FROM TUTORING, PLEASE CONTACT US.**



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS  
*of* ORANGE/ATHOL



978.249.5381



LVOA01331@GMAIL.COM





The setting sun shimmers through clouds over Quabbin seen from a field lightly snow-coated at Hillman's Orchard, New Salem.  
photo © by Sue Cloutier

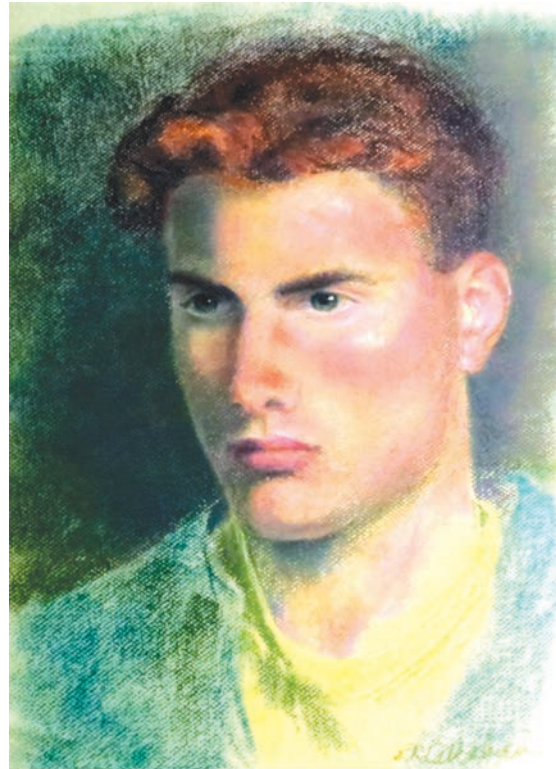
# ELIZABETH CALLAHAN

## *Portrait of a Young Man*

pastels on paper by Elizabeth Callahan



sitter for portrait class conducted by  
Charlotte Wharton  
photo courtesy of  
Elizabeth Callahan



*Portrait*  
pastels on paper

The handsome young man pictured served as the sitter at a portrait class offered by Charlotte Wharton, my very favorite artist and art instructor of many years. Other than a few sketches here and there, I had never before attempted portraiture. Also, I worked uncharacteristically in pastels and chose it because I love the softness it offers for skin tones. Truth be told, I felt very reluctant to use my favorite medium of watercolor, as it is most unforgiving.

A valuable art instructor like Charlotte can bring out the best of talent as opposed to teaching how to paint exactly like them. Think the television art teacher Bob Ross, and I'm not disparaging him, as I believe he succeeded at bringing art and creativity to many.

Painting portraits goes far beyond creativity. It involves intensive observation and different methods of measuring from a particular distance. It requires making comparisons of size, shape, color, shadow, and highlights as they interact with one another and determining how to translate all of them to paper or canvas. I found it a stressful class and also rewarding. It stands as my first and last attempt at portraits, and I was fairly happy with the end result.

Many people think that artists find relaxation and peace in working. It could not be any further from the truth. An artist starts with a vision and very few of their paintings come close to that vision. The entire process of creating involves trying so hard to reach that vision. Ironically, we don't appreciate our work until we have stepped away from it for a while.

Elizabeth Callahan, the first Home Stager and Staging Realtor in Massachusetts, creates art using pastels, oil, pen and ink and watercolor. She lives in Rutland.



# The Athol Historical Society, Inc

Athol, Massachusetts 01331



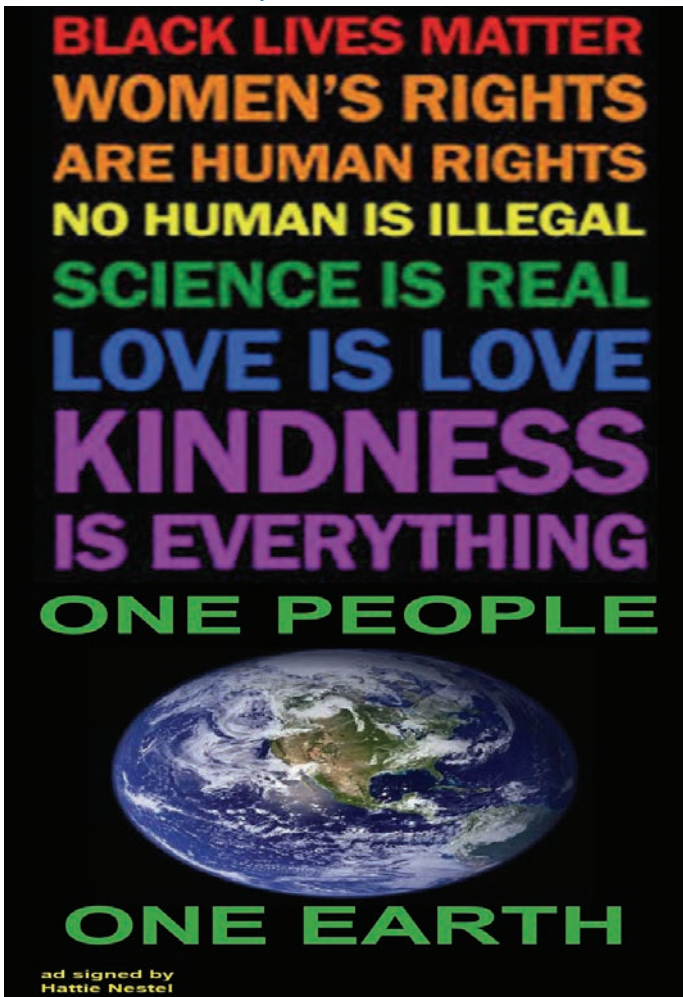
## From our Collection Atholians and their beloved pets.

1. Alvin Goddard and his Shetland Pony  
Rutherford 1926
2. Man and his Dog Circa 1945
3. Mary Sawyer Bradley and her dog Rufus
4. Levi B. Fay and his Tabby Cat 1915
5. Mrs. Lawton and her German Shepard
6. Mr. Earle & Prize Horse
7. Carrie I. Rice and her Cat Martha 1938





*Historic North Leverett Sugar House  
Chestnut Hill Road, North Leverett  
acrylic on panel by Louise Minks*



## *baseball shines from the region to the major leagues*

*continued from page 21*

Not to be outdone, a group of area women established an athletic organization known as the Orange Devils about 1935. Shirley “Porky” Zani and Kathy Paluilis, among others, led the Devils. The Devils fielded formidable basketball and softball teams competing against foes primarily from western and central Massachusetts.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Orange and Athol sported teams such as the Orange Atlantic Coast team and Orange Peals along with the Athol Atlantic Coast team and Athol Vikings. They competed against area teams.

Baseball was truly America’s game from the 1920s until the mid- 1970s, but when you pass local playgrounds today, you seldom see youngsters playing baseball or any other sport.

Some schools have been hard pressed to field junior varsity, and in some cases, even varsity teams. In the late 1990s, the number of participants in Little League Programs, started to significantly decline in some places.

As interest in baseball has declined, major league baseball has taken steps in recent years to speed up the game. Towns like Athol and Orange have combined their assets in order to keep Little League baseball alive. The A-O Little League program supports successful softball, baseball, and minor league teams. The directors acknowledge outstanding support they have received from parents, key volunteers from both communities, and Legion Post 102.

When spring comes around, baseball fans will still hear those immortal words, “Play Ball.”

Charles R. “Rocky” Stone Jr. taught science at Athol High School for twenty-one years. He served twenty years in the US Army, retiring as lieutenant colonel in 1996. He enjoys traveling with his wife, the former Leanne Aguda.

Rocky Stone’s father, Charles “Chuck” Stone, was one of the founders of the Athol Little League in 1951. His brother Greg lettered in baseball for four years at Boston University from 1967 to 1970. Rocky’s Uncle Clarence “Winks” Woods managed the Orange Peals from 1936-1946. Athol’s Little League program is named Chuck Stone Little League.

# clearing snow from roads before snowplows

continued from page 13

teams of horses. Early motorized plow tractors had no cab. “They would roll the roads with a roller pulled by horse teams,” according to Keith Newton, retired director of the Royalston Department of Public Works. “The roads would then be packed further as horses and sleighs traversed them.”

Jimmy Putney of Royalston also remembers his grandfather Roger Putney telling of packing snow. “They had big rollers behind a team of horses, and they would pack the snow. It worked as long as it was cold. It was miserable in the spring with ruts and holes,” Putney said.

Newton said his grandfather Leon Newton, co-owner of Newton Davis Mill on Lawrence Brook in Royalston, had several teams of horses hired by the town to pull the roller. “The town had a highway sexton as boss, and he hired people as needed,” he said.

“They hired teams to roll certain sections of roads. If there were deep snows or drifted snow, they would shovel them by hand and then roll the road,” explained Newton. “Horses wore horseshoes with caulkins, with spikes on the shoes that allowed the horse to walk even when it was icy going.”

The next innovation around 1916 was the Cletrac tractor. A motorized machine made in Cleveland, Ohio, the Cletrac resembled a small bulldozer with tracks and a wooden v-shaped plow.

Putney said his grandfather might plow for three or four days using the Cletrac, which also had no cab. “He stopped at houses that provided gas. He’d get something to eat and take an hour-long nap. Royalston had a Cletrac named Big Bertha. My grandfather said if the tractor got stuck, they would have to shovel it out by hand.”

“I remember my dad Willard Newton saying if Roger Putney was tired after several days, he and my Uncle Harold Newton would help run the machine. Anyone available helped with plowing.”




Shovel brigades helped clear roadway snow along with horse-drawn rollers.

photo courtesy of Carla Charter

Putney remembers his father David Putney recalling Roger coming down the road. “You wouldn’t see the tractor—just a wall of snow with the exhaust pipe sticking up.”

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




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

*Strengthening the Foundations of Community*  
Great programs for the entire family

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

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




Membership is easy. . .  
Monthly bank draft or credit card draft with no contract and  
financial assistance available!  
Membership fee eligible for insurance reimbursement (not all insurance applies)

**ATHOL AREA YMCA**  
545 Main Street, Athol • OIC building, 131 West Main Street, Orange  
**978-249-3305**  
[www.ymcaathol.org](http://www.ymcaathol.org)

A United Way Member Agency

Find Us On Facebook



# *Atholl Highlanders to lead River Rat Parade and participate in River Rat canoe race*

The Atholl Highlanders of Atholl, Scotland, have planned a tour of the United States for April 2025. They will participate in the tartan wheat parade in New York City, visit Washington, DC, and finish their tour in their sister city Athol, Massachusetts.

They will arrive in Athol on April 9 to meet host families who live throughout the Quabbin region.

The regiment will visit the Massachusetts State House on the morning of April 10. On that evening, there will be a ceilidh—a dance—at Athol Town Hall. On April 11, the men will visit local schools, healthcare facilities, and businesses.

The Highlanders and their world-renowned bagpipe band will lead the River Rat Parade on Saturday morning, April 12, and some Highlanders plan to participate in the 5.2-mile canoe race from Athol to Orange later that day.

The men will head home to Blair Atholl, Scotland, following the weekend's activities.

## **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Athol Savings Bank  
Girardi Distributors  
History Expo, Inc  
The Whipps Family  
Whipps Inc

**SILVER SPONSOR**  
Kessler Investments



The Atholl Highlanders assemble in front of Blair Castle in Atholl, Scotland.

photo © by David Brothers

## **GOLD SPONSORS**

Athol Credit Union  
Athol-Orange Rotary Club  
Seamans Paper  
Witty's Funeral Home

## **SPONSORS**

Bank Hometown  
Cornerstone Insurance  
Faceology by Jen  
Kimball-Cooke Insurance  
Mack Family Funeral Homes  
Gordon and Judy Shaw  
Target Marketing Worldwide

## River Rat Race Anticipates 60th Anniversary on April 12

continued from page 19

time trialed,” McIntosh said of the unusual beginning. “I believe we’re the only race in North America with a Le Mans start where all the recs and pros line up together with a cannon start.”

Spring said there will be multiple incentives for race participants from the nine-town North Quabbin region so that they will have more access to the prize pool, including an award for the first finishing local team and different cash prizes. Another prize will go to the team that draws the sixtieth post position, and the team that places sixtieth at the finish line will receive sixty dollars and a commemorative plaque. Other prizes will be awarded to top-placing racers in different divisions.



Stationed near the finish line in Orange, the late Jeannette McIntosh, chairperson of the 2023 River Rat Race; Lurene Hall, and Toni Phillips, from left, judge the 2014 race.  
photo by Kathy Chaisson

The River Rat Race committee will meet frequently prior to the race to plan and troubleshoot areas and make improvements. Spring also noted that the Athol Lions Club welcomes volunteers to help with race preparations, assistance during the race and clean-up. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact her at [alcriverratrace@gmail.com](mailto:alcriverratrace@gmail.com).

Spring said after the first of the year the race registration web site, [riverratrace.com](http://riverratrace.com) will go live with updated rules and information. The Athol Lions Club Facebook page will also feature race updates.

In 2025, the Athol Lions will celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary as a chartered club. More information will be available in the future.

Writer Kathy Chaisson, a member of the Athol Lions Club, has volunteered for many years with River Rat organizers. She lives in Athol.



Spectators line the Orange shore near the River Rat finish line.  
photo © by Kathy Chaisson

*Celebrating 55+ Years in  
the North Quabbin!*

**We're your local headquarters for:**

**Motorcycles**

**Offroad Vehicles**

**Honda Power Equipment/Generators**

**U-Haul Rentals**

**Parts, Service, and Accessories!**

**CYCLE DESIGN**



*In the clean, fresh air of Phillipston, MA*

*[www.cycledesignonline.com](http://www.cycledesignonline.com)*

*(978) 249-2244*

# Beyond Genocide series receives annual funding for juried call-for-competition by Ami Fagin



The art series *Beyond Genocide*—on permanent display in the Keene, New Hampshire, College library and in the University of Manitoba, Canada, Mauro Institute—comprises a collection of contemporary illuminated manuscripts that examine regions of the world that have experienced large-scale episodes of genocide and mass annihilation. In the early 2000s, I began the series in my New Salem studio.

Narrating a visual synthesis of genocide, annihilation, and their aftermath, the illuminations offer interpretation of the complex legacy of genocide worldwide. Through a multi-faceted lens, *Beyond Genocide* delves into socio-cultural and political implications of the tragedies while offering an avenue for understanding the impact of genocide on humanity as well as willingness and ability to prevent genocide in the future.

The unifying element of the series is inclusion of the Mourner's Kaddish, with visual representation of the traditional Jewish liturgical blessing honoring memory of the dead. The ancient Aramaic prayer, rendered for victims of mass atrocity, expresses compassion and empathy, offering collective remembrance and blessing. I attempt to bring the prayer to life while imbuing it with visual language that enhances its emotional resonance and complexities of religious expression but also adds layers of paradox and meaning to challenge and enrich underlying themes of the works.

*Beyond Genocide* comprises a visual art opus that develops thematic currents of narration examining a pan-historic chronology and geography of mass atrocity events. Advancing awareness and scholarship at the intersection of genocide and the arts contributes to deeper understanding of human behavior, according to critics, while promoting empathy and social change and can serve as a tool for preventing future atrocities. *Beyond*



Among *Beyond Genocide*'s illuminated manuscripts, one remembers those lost in 1970s Cambodia. image courtesy of Ami Fagin

*Genocide* is structured to shed light on many facets of inquiry and critical reflection of pivotal mass atrocities around the globe and throughout history which traditional academic studies may not capture.

## New Vision

In 2024, *Beyond Genocide* received generous annual funding to expand and complete the series through a juried call-for-competition for individual pieces annually to add to and converse with the existing works.

As project organizer, I will work with an arts advisory council

whose members have expertise in genocide studies, art expression, exhibition practices, communications, and international outreach. The team has undertaken consideration of structure of the competition and jury criteria for artworks that might be included in the *Beyond Genocide* series. The competition will integrate new works that respond to and correspond with the interactive experience of the original series while maintaining the highest standards of artistic excellence and public engagement.

## Judging

A panel of jurors will award individual commissions based on artistic merit, adherence to the theme, relationship to previous works in the series, technical skill, and service to the objective of “thinking through art.”

## Exhibition and Publicity

The competition will result in public exhibition of the awardee's artists' work with an awards ceremony or exhibition. The commissioned artwork will be donated to a permanent collection of the hosting institution.

The competition officially opened on December 1, 2024.

The same QR codes at the top lead to information about submission criteria and the online portal.

Creator of the series *Beyond Genocide*, artist Ami Fagin, lives in New Salem and may be found at [ketubahindesign.com](http://ketubahindesign.com), [beyondgenocide.net](http://beyondgenocide.net), and [visualhaiku.graphics](http://visualhaiku.graphics).



# NATURE'S NUANCES

by Clare Green with photo of white-tailed deer © by Dale Monette

During the season of winter, may you enjoy reading the following story with the children and grandchildren in your lives. May you feel the joy and playfulness in the heart of you and within the hearts of the children. May you be reminded of the simple love and beauty of nature.

## *Gentle as a Deer*



Listen, as nature speaks softly to your being.  
Do you know I love you?  
I think you do, but . . .  
Let me tell you.  
Gentle, loving feelings come  
not only from Mom or Dad  
but also from the many wonders of nature  
surrounding us,  
come night or day,  
come moon or sun.

Now we've begun.

Delicate as a butterfly, I think happy thoughts for you.  
Sweetly as a bird sings, I hold your hand.  
Quiet as a mouse, I whisper in your ear.  
There is only one you in the whole wide world.

Jumpy as a frog, I play with you.  
Soft as a kitten, I hold you.  
Frisky as a rabbit, I tickle you.  
Slithery as a snake, I surprise you.  
Silly as a puppy, I laugh with you.

Do you remember how I showed you that I loved you today?

Clare Green from Warwick is an educator and naturalist who invites folks to visit her woodland labyrinth and fairy cottage.

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

Furry as a bear, I hug you.  
Free as a horse, I gallop with you.  
Strong as a tiger, I protect you.  
Huge as a whale, I watch you grow.  
Big as an elephant, I snuggle with you.  
Gentle as a deer, I love you.  
Bright as a rainbow, we share smiles.  
Angry as a storm, we share tears.  
Blowing as the wind, we let go our fears.  
Sparkling as the sun, we sing together.  
Twinkling as the night stars, we close our sleepy eyes  
in prayerful joy.  
Cozy as a cloud, we dream golden dreams.

Remember how  
in springtime my love grows for you,  
in summer my love ripens for you,  
in autumn my love overflows for you,  
in winter my love sits quietly for you.

In every season and in every day, my love grows pure  
and strong for you.

# musings on a blend of yesteryear and today

continued from page 4

and today. I thought about lost times and how I contain all the moments of my life.

The book I had picked up lay on my lap.

When I was fifteen, my father took a job in Paris, and we moved there. I was enrolled in a bilingual school at the Lycée de Sèvres, a French town famous since the mid eighteenth century for its manufacture of porcelain.

I had a long commute to the end of the metro line and then a bus. Sèvres is just outside of Paris proper. The school day went from about 8:30 to 4 or 5 pm, and lunch lasted two hours. The lycée canteen—the cafeteria—had assigned seating and no room for me, so my father found a lady in town who would take me in. Other pensionaries were silly younger boys.

I can picture the walk up the hill to her house. She was short and plump with a bowl haircut. Her house was full of birds. Household birds were common in France in the 1960s. A friend of mine had a talking mynah bird who called out “Au secours!” or “Help!” and chased away a burglar.

The bird woman operated at another level. She had birds in the closets with wire doors, in the fireplaces, in cages, and two parrots on stands. The place was always noisy and smelly.

She served a typical three-course lunch of soup, meat, and vegetable, cheese, and fruit. The lycée gates were locked during lunch, so I had to wait to return. By February, signs of budding trees and early bulbs appeared.

I begged my parents to give me money for lunch and set me free for those two hours. They gave in.

Versailles was a short bus ride away. On many a day, I picked up a sandwich at a café and rode out to the château famous as the palace of the eighteenth-century Bourbon kings and queens of France. A post-revolution peasant girl seeing royal splendor, I remember walking down the cobbled street of the village, through the golden gates of the château to grounds free and open to the public.

I strolled the paths and eventually became familiar with Marie Antoinette’s hamlet where she and her cohorts pretended to be peasants. Where are those snows of yesteryear?

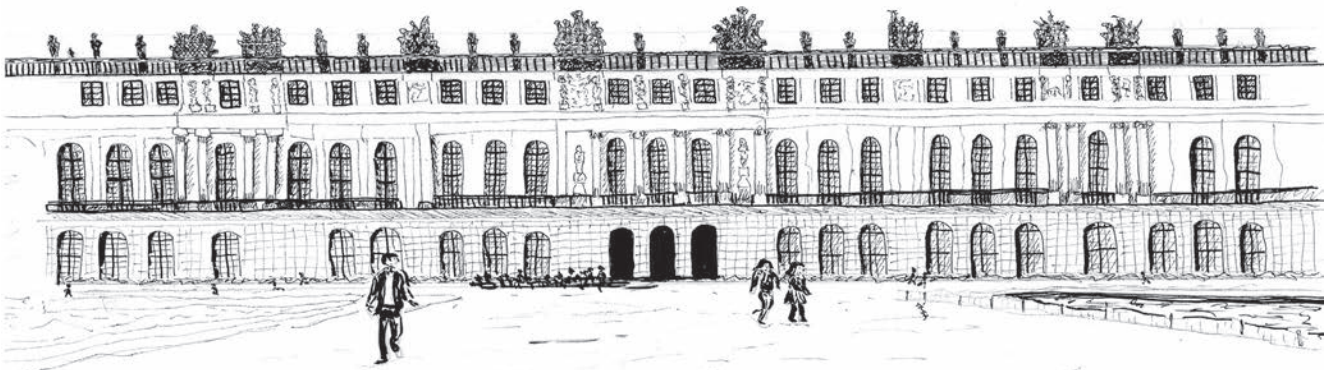
I loved the long basin where Louis XIV had mock navel battles staged for an evening’s entertainment, including destruction of ships. I wandered down the many paths that twentieth-century gardeners kept groomed. The trees were pruned and flowers in season. I felt so free and independent.

Penny candy was a real thing back then. I stocked up before the lycée grounds opened at 2 p.m. and quickly made friends by sharing candy. It was a lovely time. Then in May, a spot opened up at the lycée cafeteria, and I was sequestered behind locked gates. The following year I transferred to the neighborhood Lycée Jean de la Fontaine and went home for lunch.

That snowy day I hunkered down at home, a log broke and tumbled. The noise drew me out of my reverie to tend the fire and sip lukewarm tea. The snows of yesteryear blended into the snows settling outside the window.

We live integrated with the past, whether it be Quabbin history or our personal experience.

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



Where are the snows of yesteryear at the Palace of Versailles?

pen and ink drawing © by Brian Fournier

## Belchertown's McCarthy's Pub features Irish theme

continued from page 45

Completed roughly ten years ago, the layout encompasses a bar and dining areas with Irish themed décor such as landscape paintings of Blarney, Lismore, and Leap castles.

McCarthy's Pub appropriately offers shepherd's pie, corned beef with cabbage, and other Irish fare as well as chicken wings, pizza, and other favorite pub foods along with entrées such as bourbon steak, stuffed shrimp, and maple pecan salmon. A choice of burgers includes the Leprechaun topped with bacon, pepper jack cheese, and thousand island dressing. Salads, soups, fresh baked bread, sandwiches, and appetizers round out the menu.

Located at the intersection of East Walnut Street and Route 202, the site boasts a long history. In the 1800s, the building became the Belcher House and then the Park Lane Inn. A designated National Historic District, Belchertown center makes a picturesque setting for visitors to McCarthy's Pub. A longtime sponsor of the Springfield Shriner's Hospital, McCarthy's Pub hosts events and raises funds for other beneficiaries such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Relay for Life, Rays of Hope, Belchertown Education Foundation, youth and high school sports, and the annual Belchertown Fair.

Open Monday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m, Sunday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Find specials and other information at [mccarthys-pub.net](http://mccarthys-pub.net) and on Facebook. (413)-323-6420.

Photographer and writer John Burk lives in Petersham.

## annual bird count provides useful data

continued from page 7

Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency use information to assess the health of birds, plan conservation actions, and evaluate effects of factors such as climate change and use of pesticides.

More than three hundred publications, including a 2019 article in *Science* magazine that reported an overall loss of nearly three billion birds in North America since 1970, have utilized CBC data. The Audubon Society said total numbers of birds counted decreased substantially over the last thirty years despite significant increases in participants and geographic coverage.

"The real benefit of the count is that it's part of a global effort that gives us a sense of the big picture related to birds and our changing environment," said Small.

Find results, resources for participants, and other information at [audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

Writer and photographer John Burk lives in Petersham.



**LOOKING FOR A  
KNOWLEDGEABLE  
REAL ESTATE  
AGENT?**

**CALL US TODAY**

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

Office: 978-544-5100

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



**LIZA MELO**  
CELL: 508-395-4028



**AMANDA ROBERTS**  
CELL: 978-317-7370



**SUSAN APTEKER**  
CELL: 413-768-1119



**TRACIE WRIGHT**  
CELL: 978-413-6847



**HEATHER LeBLANC**  
CELL: 978-790-5458



**LYNNE WHITE**  
CELL: 978-340-1939

# region's varsity basketball schedules

games begin at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

## Boys Varsity Basketball

Amherst Pelham Regional High School

Home

February 3 • South Hadley High School

Away

February 7 • West Springfield High School

February 10 • Minnechaug Regional High School

Athol High School

Home

February 3 • Palmer High School

February 4 • Hampshire Regional High School

February 7 • Mount Greylock Regional School

February 12 • Mahar Regional School

Away

February 11 • Smith Academy

Mahar Regional School, Orange

Home

February 4 • Lenox Memorial Middle & High School

February 10 • Chicopee High School

Away

February 7 • Greenfield High School

February 12 • Athol High School

Narragansett Regional High School, Baldwinville

Home

January 28 • West Boylston Middle/ High School

February 3 • Bromfield School

February 11 • Ayer Shirley Regional High School

Away

February 7 • Murdock High School • 6:30 pm

North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School

Home

February 3 • Monson High School • 5 pm

Away

February 5 • Sizer School • 6 pm

February 7 • Trivium School • 6 pm

Quabbin Regional High School, Barre

Home

February 3 • Leicester High School

February 11 • Littleton High School

Away

February 7 • Hudson High School

February 13 • Belchertown High School • 5:15 pm

Ware High School

Home

January 21 • Granby Jr. Sr. High School

January 28 • Hoosac Valley Middle/High School

February 2 • Quaboag Regional Middle High School • 5:30 pm

February 5 • David Prouty High School

Away

January 31 • Palmer High School

February 7 • Hopkins Academy • 7:30 pm

February 10 • Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

## Girls Varsity Basketball

Amherst-Pelham Regional High School

Home

February 5 • Holyoke High School

February 6 • Hoosac Valley Middle/High School

Away

February 10 • Monson High School

Athol High School

Home

February 6 • Mohawk Trail Regional School

Away

February 3 • Putnam Vocational/Tech High School

February 13 • Pioneer Valley Regional School

Belchertown High School

February 3 • Frontier Regional School • 7:30 pm

February 7 • Chicopee Comprehensive High School

February 13 • Quabbin

Mahar Regional School, Orange

Home

February 12 • Hopkins Academy

Away

February 3 • Palmer High School

February 10 • Greenfield High School

Narragansett Regional High School, Baldwinville

Home

February 7 • Murdock High School

Away

February 5 • Montachusett Reg/ Voc Tech High School • 6:30 pm

February 11 • Ayer Shirley Regional High School • 6 pm

North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School

Away

February 7 • Trivium School • 4 pm

Quabbin Regional High School, Barre

Home

February 7 • Hudson High School

Away

February 11 • Littleton

February 13 • Belchertown High School

Ware High School

Home

February 2 • Quaboag Regional Middle/ High School

February 3 • Mohawk Trail Regional School

Away

February 6 • Franklin County Tech. School

February 11 • Palmer High School • 7 pm

February 13 • Putnam Vocational/Tech High School • 7 p.m.

schedule compiled by Carla Charter

*Find schedules for other sports, along with junior varsity, middle school, and unified schedules at [arbiterlive.com](http://arbiterlive.com)*

please consider a donation to  
*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine  
with a check mailed to  
Debra Ellis, business manager  
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue • Athol, MA 01331



In the mid twentieth century, the Orange Devils women's basketball team competed with women's teams from other towns. Marge Ballou, Shirley Zani, Kay Paluilis, and Kathy Murphy are from left, front. In back are Shirley Fournier, manager, and Sandra Lewis, Janet Wilson, Vi Goodnow, Barbara Galenski, Mary Ann Orsdarski, Virginia Dresser, and Roberta Ballou.

photo courtesy of Charles R. "Rocky" Stone



Snow transforms the beach, trees, a beaver dam, and Silver Lake in Athol.

photo © by Rick Flematti

# Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

*February 4, Tuesday*

Adult Craft Circle  
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
Woods Memorial Library  
19 Pleasant Street  
Barre  
Crafts, conversation and camaraderie!  
Bring your crochet, knitting,  
needlepoint, sketchbook, or any craft  
project to work on and meet others  
with similar interests.  
barrelibrary.libcal.com

*February 8, Saturday*

Prison Camp Hike  
10:00 am  
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

Nu-Blu

7:00 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
Bluegrass sound straight from the  
Blue Ridge Mountains of North  
Carolina.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

*February 14, Friday*

Love Letters  
7:00 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
A relationship examined through  
letters exchanged. Presented by  
Gilbert Players and Center at Eagle  
Hill.  
\$20 General Admission.  
Tickets include dessert and a drink.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

*February 20, Thursday*

Author Talk with Judith McIntosh  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Wheeler Memorial Library  
49 East Main Street  
Orange  
Local author Judith McIntosh will  
speak about her newest book,  
*Swift River Secrets*.

*February 22 and 23*

*Saturday and Sunday*

NorthFolk Winter Night Market  
3:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Red Apple Farm  
455 Highland Avenue  
Phillipston  
Red Apple Farm and FaeGuild  
Wonders presents the inaugural  
winter festival NorthFolk Night Market,  
a space for those who enjoy history,  
fantasy, and the magic of storytelling.  
redapplefarm.com

*March 2, Sunday*

Mardi Gras 2025  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Workshop 13  
Church Street  
Ware  
Big Band jazz presented by the  
Weir River Jazz Band.  
workshop13.org



*March 8, Saturday*

Craft Supply Swap  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Share and swap with other creatives  
and let go of unused materials. Bring  
in yarn, fabric, markers, stamps,  
scissors, thread, patches, and similar  
items to swap and then start anew.  
Registration required.  
atholibrary.org

Good Acoustics

7:00 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
An acoustic tribute to James  
Taylor and Simon and Garfunkel.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

The SuperGroup

7:30 pm - 10:00 pm  
Workshop 13  
Church Street  
Ware  
Moose, Michael, Scotty, Billy, and  
CJ of the Eagles tribute band  
7 Bridges Road join forces with  
Neil Diamond tribute artist  
Charlie Lask for an acoustic show.  
workshop13.org

*March 9, Sunday*

Tea Tasting  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Wood House  
Rutland Historical Society  
232 Main Street  
Rutland  
Teas to taste, and pastries to sample.  
rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org

**events compiled by Emily Boughton**

**Please submit listings for the next issue**

**before March 20, 2025 to UQCalendar@gmail.com**

# Uniquely Quabbin listings

*continued from previous page*

*March 20, Thursday*

Outdoor Cannabis Gardens and Pollinator Plants with Ronnie LeBlanc  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Wheeler Memorial Library  
49 East Main Street Orange

*March 25, Tuesday*

Author Talk with Hattie Bernstein  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Registration required.  
athollibrary.org

*March 27, Thursday*

Theatrical Performance  
*Meet Mrs. Hamilton:  
A Woman In History*  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Anne Barrett will portray Mrs. Hamilton and share her story. The daughter of a Revolutionary general, the wife of a founding father, and the independent and indomitable woman who survived and thrived for nearly a hundred years. A one-woman production. Registration required.  
athollibrary.org

*March 30, Sunday*

Second Annual Community Expo  
Rutland  
More info to come!

*April 3, Thursday*

Abnormal America with the GeekGal  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Spooky stories and unsolved mysteries: alien abduction, Bigfoot, the Jersey Devil, the Mothman. This presentation will address strange things that can be "found" across the USA. Registration required.  
athollibrary.org

*April 8, Tuesday*

Soaring with Christa McAuliffe  
7:00 pm  
Rutland Free Library  
280 Main Street  
Rutland  
Judith Kalaora will share Christa McAuliffe's spirit and chronicle the story behind the incredible teacher and American pioneer.  
rutlandlibrary.org

*April 9, Wednesday*

Viking Wire Weaving with Castle Nitor  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
A presentation about one of the techniques Vikings used to decorate themselves and their weapons. The staff of Castle Nitor will offer a lesson on Viking wire weaving with a take-home example. Registration required.  
athollibrary.org

*April 12, Saturday*

BroadwayVox  
7:00 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
Broadway stars journey to Hardwick for one night only!  
thecenterateaglehill.org

*April 25 and 26*

*Friday and Saturday*

Mini Game Con  
Friday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
The library will be transformed into a game lovers delight. Sign up for one-shot role playing sessions and trading-cards games or drop by to try party games and classic board games. More details to come. Registration required.  
athollibrary.org

*April 26, Saturday*

Grow Great Gardens: Q and A  
Seeds of Solidarity  
165 Chestnut Hill Road  
Orange  
Q and A followed by optional self-guided tour. Free. All welcome! No pre-registration required. It's also the Seeds of Solidarity farmstand's grand opening day!  
seedsofsolidarity.org

*continued on page 72*



Please tell our advertisers

you saw them in

*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

# Uniquely Quabbin listings

*continued from page 71*

*April 27, Sunday*

No-till Gardens and Farms  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Seeds of Solidarity  
165 Chestnut Hill Road  
Orange

A learning-packed afternoon suited to farmers or enthusiastic gardeners seeking to learn and use no-till methods. Led by Seeds of Solidarity farmer, co-founder Ricky Baruc, known and published for his no-till farming successes and invigorating teaching style.

Pre-registration required. Sliding scale: \$35 to \$60. Email [deb@seedsofsolidarity.org](mailto:deb@seedsofsolidarity.org) to register. [seedsofsolidarity.org](http://seedsofsolidarity.org)

Needle Arts Display

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Wood House  
Rutland Historical Society  
232 Main Street  
Rutland

The display will showcase items created using needlework techniques. [rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org](http://rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org)

*May 1, Thursday*

Jimmy Stewart: His Was a Wonderful Life with Frank Mandosa  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol

A one-hour film lecture with slides, video clips, and movie trivia looking at the life and career of Jimmy Stewart, a sentimental favorite of the twentieth century. Registration required. [athollibrary.org](http://athollibrary.org)

*May 3, Saturday*

Free Comic Book Day  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol

Free Comic Book Day returns to Athol Public Library on the first Saturday of May with eight free comic book titles available on a first come, first serve basis. Grab a comic, get a temporary tattoo, try a special scavenger hunt, play a game, and explore the library. Registration required. [athollibrary.org](http://athollibrary.org)

*May 4, Sunday*

Reconnect Retreat  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Seeds of Solidarity  
165 Chestnut Hill Road  
Orange

In a restorative, uplifting day in community with others, those attending will experience techniques for reiki/energy healing, forest meditation, and yoga, with teas for nervous system health, grounding, and nourishing recipes. Pre-registration required, space limited. Sliding scale: \$50 - \$90. Email [deb@seedsofsolidarity.org](mailto:deb@seedsofsolidarity.org) to register. [seedsofsolidarity.org](http://seedsofsolidarity.org)

*May 10, Saturday*

Bus Tour of Rutland Historical Sites  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Leaving from the Wood House  
232 Main Street  
Rutland

This tour will bring you to various historical sites and also will include a short presentation about the history of each site. [rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org](http://rutlandmahistoricalsociety.org)



A placid otter hangs out at a Quabbin region lake.

photo © by Nancy Lagimoniere