

Insightful and Informative

THE HAMPTON Gazette



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MAY 2024



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

At first I thought this tiny bird was the gold-crowned kinglet, but when searching through Merlin Bird ID, it came up with the ruby-crowned kinglet. I was in the process of photographing the yellow-romped warbler at the time, and periodically, this tiny bird kept coming into view. First thoughts were kinglet. When trying to photograph this tiny bird, it was somewhat difficult as it moves about ever so fast. I no sooner raised my camera to my eye and the bird was off. Yesterday I had seen the ruby-crowned kinglet at Chapins Pond in Mansfield Center, and later on, one showed itself at James L Goodwin Forest. Smaller than chickadees, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet forages through lower branches of shrubs and trees. With its brilliant ruby crown usually hidden, its constantly flicking wings are a key identification clue.

Pete Vertefeuille



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THUMBS UP: to all of this month's accolades! Though we usually reserve this space for one monthly acknowledgement, we have too many things deserving of recognition this month:

- to the members of the Mennonite Believers Church who hosted the second (hopefully annual) 'Soup and Salad' event for a crowd of 350 very satisfied customers – a perfect bridge between winter's warming soup, chowder and chili, and the fresh ingredients we look forward to this spring;
- to the Fire Department, for maintaining the tradition of the Annual Ham and Bean Dinner on May 4, another of our favorite feasts;
- to the dedicated crew of parents and children from Hampton, Brooklyn and neighboring towns who volunteered to clean, rake and till the baseball field at Town Hall – almost as rewarding to watch as the Little League games played there;
- to the Memorial Day Committee, comprised of volunteers who have been meeting for months to organize the parade, the ceremonies, and the activities that make our town's commemoration of Memorial Day memorable every year;
- to the Recreation Commission for sponsoring the Annual Arbor Day celebration, this year at the Fletcher Memorial Library; and to the elementary school students who participated with poems and songs;
- to the Senior Club for offering multiple programs, such as games and paint classes, after the culmination of the monthly luncheons that delivered scrumptious and nutritious meals and the opportunity of one another's company;
- and last but certainly far from least, to Diane Gagnon and Peter Witkowski, the kitchen wizards who planned, prepared and served luncheons we would expect at four-star restaurants for over five years. Thank you, for the delicious meals and for bringing us all together.

THUMBS DOWN: to the continual accidents on Route 6, one which recently resulted in a fatality. Please exercise extreme caution along this dangerous corridor.

FROM THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The polls will be open on May 7 from noon to 8PM in the Community Room at Town Hall to decide the question: "Shall the budget of \$7,248,460 for the operation and maintenance of the Regional School District 11 public school system (Parish Hill Middle/High School) for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 be approved?"

Registered voters and citizens listed on the October 2023 Grand List as owning at least \$1000 worth of property are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office during regular hours, Tuesdays from 9AM to 4PM and Thursdays from 10AM to 7PM, up until the opening of the polls.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola and Sulema Perez-Pagan

CONTRIBUTORS: Mary Albro, Deb Andstrom, Marie Cantino, Pat Cascio, James Connelly, John Gorman, Bob Grindle, Andrew Kaye, Jobina Miller, Daryl Perch, Rob Rondeau, Janice Trecker, Gay Wagner.

PHOTOS: page 1, Pete Vertefeuille; page 6, courtesy of the Artist; page 7, courtesy of Fletcher Library, courtesy of the Author; pages 8 and 9, Mary Oliver, courtesy Connecticut Historical Society.



and Beyond.... VILLAGE VIEW

REGIONAL DISTRICT 11 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Regional District #11 Board of Education has approved a 2024-2025 budget of **\$7,248,460**, with an increase of \$404,049. This is a 5.9% increase in the total cost of educating students at Parish Hill. Driving the increase of \$371,369 are the costs of special education and outplaced special education students. This makes up 92% of the budget increase. We have no control over this increase because we are mandated to offer these services. Unfortunately, the current reimbursement rate from the Federal and State governments for these increases is inadequate.

Other items included in the increase:

- New chrome books to boost our technology for our students
- New textbooks/workbooks to continue to provide the best education for our students
- Fully funds all current staff for 2024-2025
- Fully funds our athletic program and co-curricular activities

This budget allows us to continue with the high quality of educational programs provided by Parish Hill High School. *U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Connecticut High Schools* has us ranking 28 among the top 100 in the state.

The annual tri-town budget hearing will be held on Monday, May 6 at 7PM, followed by referenda in each of the three towns' respective polling places on May 7.

James Connelly, *Interim Superintendent*
Jobina Miller, *Business Manager*

*Editor's Note: Each member town is assessed per student enrollment. Hampton's assessment for the FY2024-2025 budget proposal represents a **\$193,000** increase despite a decrease in enrollment from 55 to 54 students. Chaplin's assessment will increase by **\$347,329**, though their enrollment declined from 123 to 118 students. Only Scotland will realize a decrease in their assessment, by **\$184,157**, due to a drop in enrollment from 76 to 60 students attending Parish Hill Middle/High School.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED STATE STATUTE

A Report of the Freedom of Information Commission has concluded that the Hampton Elementary School Board of Education violated the Freedom of Information Act after evidence and testimony was presented at a Hearing on January 3, 2024.

The Hearing was conducted in response to a complaint filed on July 10, 2023 by board members Juan Arriola, Diane Gagnon and John Russell, who alleged that the board invited Superintendent Samantha Sarli into an Executive Session at a June 28, 2023 meeting without soliciting the testimony or opinion necessary to permit inclusion of anyone other than a school board member. Connecticut General Statute 1-231 states that: "At an executive session of a public agency, attendance shall be limited to members of said body and persons invited by said body to present testimony or opinion pertinent to

matters before said body provided that such persons' attendance shall be limited to the period for which their presence is necessary to present such testimony or opinion".

Arriola, Gagnon and Russell alleged that the Superintendent attended the entire executive session without providing any testimony or opinion, which was confirmed at the Hearing by Board of Education Chairman Rose Bisson, member Maryellen Donnelly, and Sarli herself. The Report concluded that "the respondents violated the provisions of CGS1-231(a) when they permitted the superintendent to remain in attendance at the executive session for the entire duration of such executive session, without providing any testimony or opinion during such executive session." The report recommends that "Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the executive session provisions of CGS1-231(a)."

At the June 28 meeting, Arriola objected to the superintendent's inclusion in the executive session, which he has questioned many times, though the Minutes fail to mention this or any other of his objections.

This is the second complaint this year against the Board of Education alleging violations regarding executive sessions. An earlier complaint alleged that the Board of Education failed to post with sufficient specificity an executive session on the Agenda of a June 21, 2023 Special Meeting. The matter was resolved with an October 5, 2023 correspondence to the complainant from Chairman Bisson who acknowledged that the Agenda item of the June 21 executive session "did not meet the requirements of Freedom of Information," adding that Agenda items "will be more descriptive to allow the public to know why the Board is entering executive session" in the future.

While Arriola represented the three complainants at the January 4 Hearing, the Board of Education was represented by their attorney. An FOI request for the legal expenses incurred has been sent to school officials.



hampton happenings

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Pancake Breakfast at Congregational Church
8 – 9:30AM

Parade 9:30AM from Congregational Church
Grand Marshals—Angelika Hansen and
Louise Russell

**Ceremony, Speakers and Recognition
of our Veterans** at Town Hall 10AM

Burnham-Hibbard Museum Open House
11:30AM – 2PM

Chicken BBQ at the Community Center
11:30AM -- 2PM

Barstool Diplomats in the Pavilion
11:30 – 2PM

Little River Naval Ceremony at the
Hammond Hill Bridge NOON

HAMPTON PAINT PARTY!

Paint, create, and blossom! Come to a Paint Party on May 19th from 2 --5PM in the Town Hall Community Room. The class is led by "Paint with Pammy," Pamela Munkelt. You'll receive a 14x14 canvas, paints, everything needed to create your masterpiece of glowing poppies in spring grass, and a fun time with friends and neighbors. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring your own refreshments as well.

Tickets are \$30 per person. Mail your registration and check to: Hampton Recreation Commission, Town Hall, Box 143, Hampton 06247. Or register in person with Jennifer in the Selectmen's Office. *For additional information, please contact Andrea Kaye at 203.506.3567.*

Hampton Seniors Club Presents

WHITE ELEPHANT EXTRAVAGANZA

Welcome to warmer weather and outdoor fun. We invite you to the White Elephant Extravaganza. It's like a flea market concept. Trash, Trinkets and Treasures. Remember, one man's trash IS another man's treasure, or as recently stated to me, one man's treasures are some woman's trash....lol.

The event is on June 8, from 10AM to 3PM, in the Pavilion at Town Hall. Tables for rent are \$7 for a half table and \$10 for a whole. Whatever you bring you are responsible to remove. Reserve by May 25, and indicate whether you want a half or whole table. Make checks payable to: Hampton Seniors; Hampton Town Hall; Box 143; 164 Main Street; Hampton, CT; 06247. First come – first

serve. There are only two tables left – one under the pavilion and one outside the pavilion. All proceeds from table rentals support the Hampton Seniors Club and we thank you.

Sell your unwanted items. Have nothing? Come sell your baked goods! Email: hamptonseniorsclub@yahoo.com with any questions.

SMOKE, MIRRORS AND SPOTLIGHTS: APHRODITE

During the month of March members of Hampton Fire Company logged 125 man-hours responding to 14 emergency dispatches:

3/3 -- 7:30AM – Lift assist

3/4 – 9AM -- Back Pain/Injury

3/5 – 6:16PM -- Structure Fire

3/12 –9:45AM – Stroke/CVA

3/16 – 8PM – Fire alarm

3/17 – 5:30AM – Lift assist

3/17 – 3:45PM – Vehicle Accident

3/17 – 5:30PM – Mental Disorder

3/18 – 8PM – Mental Disorder

3/19 – 6PM – Smoke in Building

3/21 – 10:30AM – Sick Person

3/22 - 9:15PM – Sick person

3/26 – 3:15AM – Sick Person

3/29 – 12:15PM – Sick Person

An additional 60 plus man-hours were logged on training and other undocumented individual services.

Aphrodite is the Greek goddess of chaos, mischief, trickery, distraction and destruction. She is, as one might expect, the middle sibling of three sisters. Her older sister, Athena, is the goddess of wisdom – her younger sister, Eros, the goddess of love and sex. Aphrodite delights in casting her spells, tricks and distractions on drivers traveling along Route 6 and its various connecting country lanes. In the past twelve months Aphrodite has struck travelers 25 times in Hampton and its border areas, causing a tremendous amount of material destruction as well as injury and occasional death to individual. Not overly partial to where she strikes, she strikes wherever opportunity presents. The intersection of routes 6 and 97 is apparently a place she has found to be rich in opportunity as she struck there six times in the past year alone.

Whenever and wherever she strikes, Soteria, the goddess of safety, salvation, deliverance, and preservation from harm, calls her followers to action and the members of Hampton Fire Company answer her call. PSA: Whenever you are traveling in a one, two, three ton metal box (or a Bike) be constantly aware that Aphrodite is watching, waiting, creating. She watches, tapping her fingers together in eager anticipation and a mischievous gleam in her eye. Don't be her next victim. Be especially watchful at the intersection of 6 and 97 – It's one of her favorite "local fishing holes."

Get there safe. Get home safe. **Be ever on the lookout for Aphrodite.**

Firehouse Dog

GROWING & LEARNING

SCOUTING NEWS

What a busy month we have had in Scouting! On March 26th, we held a Court of Honor where several scouts were awarded merit badges as well as rank advancement for all the work they have been doing. On April 7th, we had a group of hard working Scouts and leaders clean up the Hampton transfer station. In attendance were Emily and Sealy Nunn, Lila and Euan Aldrich, Donovan Grenier, Jacob Woodruff, Stacey Travis, and Sophie, Tessa, and Lucien Sanchez. Leaders helping that day were Sam Gailey, John and Jenna Aldrich, and Sam Nunn. If you've been to the dump, I'm sure you noticed! Many thanks to Ralph Brand for assisting with this project. Finally the food drive held on April 6 and 13 was a great success. All in all we collected approximately 1,455 items to stock the food pantry at the church, and the rest to be donated to the Regional Covenant soup Kitchen in Willimantic. Thank you for all the donations we received.
Scouts meet on Tuesdays at the Hampton Congregational Church at 7PM.

Rob Rondeau

KIDS RUNNING CLUB

Do your kids have a lot of energy? Love to run? Hampton Recreation is sponsoring a one-mile training run for kids in Grades K-6 with Hampton resident Marlies Thomen, a school teacher and parent with 40 years of competitive running experience. The club will start on Saturday, May 4, and run through Saturday, June 15, from 8:30 to 9:30AM. Check in and out at the Town Hall Pavilion.

Children will keep a running journal, and learn warm up and cool down skills, have timed one mile runs and running games. Parents, please plan to stay the first few times your child participates. There is no fee. Children need to wear clothes for running, shirts that cover them appropriately, shorts or running tights. Sneakers are a must. Bring a water bottle.

Please email Marlies to sign up at: jmarlies@yahoo.com with your information and any questions.



ARBOR DAY 2024

Town and school officials and staff, students, parents and residents gathered together to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a new tree on the lawn of Fletcher Memorial Library. *Amelanchier 'Canadensis'*, also known as "June berry", "service berry" and "shadbowl" is a native tree with snow-flake like flowers in the spring, summer fruits, and brilliant autumn foliage.

Bruce Spaman was once again the "Master of Ceremonies" of a program which included stories and poems from elementary school students, speeches from representatives of Eversource and Goodwin State Forest, and a Proclamation read by Selectmen Bob Grindle and John Tillinghast. Mr. Spaman thanked Fletcher Memorial Library, the Recreation Commission, the boards of Selectmen and Education, the Conservation Commission, and the Department of Public Works for their contributions to the program, and the Willimantic Food Co-op and North Windham Walmart for their donations to the children's "goodie bags" which contained tree-related items. Each child also left with a *Kousa* dogwood sapling to plant.

MONTHLY EVENTS

May & June **Top Shelf Gallery: *Natural Beauty*, by Stacey Gendreau** featuring landscapes, florals and figurative pieces by Hampton resident Stacey Gendreau. Stop by the library during open hours to see Stacey's beautiful work, Wednesday noon –7PM, Thursday & Friday, 9AM --noon, and Saturday 9AM—3PM.

May 8 **Book Discussion Group** 6PM
We will discuss *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim, the 2024 Quiet Corner Reads author, who will speak at the Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock on May 14 at 7PM. Tickets for this event are available at our library for \$20. Call to reserve a ticket, or stop by to pick one up. We have copies of her books to borrow, and there will be copies available to purchase at the event for the author to sign.

May 18 **Book & Bake Sale and Silent Auction** 9AM – 3PM
We will be holding our Book & Bake Sale and Silent Auction on May 18 during library hours. For more details, or if you would like to bake something to contribute to the bake sale, contact the library, 860-455-1086 or email fletchermemoriallibrary@gmail.com

May 25 **Book Signing, Author Talk & Art Demonstration by Lula Mae Blocton** 11AM
Hampton resident Lula Mae Blocton will be at the library on May 25 at 11AM to talk about her recently published book, *Lula Mae Blocton: African American Experience Through Color and Pattern*. Copies of the book will be available for sale. She will also present an art demonstration. Wednesday Afternoons **After School Story & Craft** 4-5PM. Join us for a story and a related craft every Wednesday during the school year.

Thursday Mornings **Tai Chi at the Hampton Town Hall** 8:30AM. Tai Chi takes place in the Town Hall Pavilion, weather permitting.

Mah-Jongg 101 10 – NOON. Mah Jongg is a popular tile game currently taking a foothold with older people. It's a terrific brain teaser, it's addictive, it's fun, and it's social. Try it out, all skill levels are welcome.

Friday Mornings **Mexican Train** 9AM -- NOON.
Join us for free classes on a modern version of Dominoes on Friday mornings.

Baby Story Time Song & Play 10:30 – 11:30AM. An interactive program for birth to three-year-olds using a variety of musical instruments, rhymes, songs, finger plays, puppets, as well as a story or two. Our goal is to encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Senior Delivery Service
The library is happy to provide a delivery service for library items (books, audio CDs, and DVDs). Please call or email the library with your requests and/or questions on this and all listed programs at 860.455.1086 or fletchermemorial-library@gmail.com

Fletcher Memorial Library

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: 1924-2024

NEW BOOKS

New mysteries and thrillers from Steve Barry, A.J. Finn and Tana French among others, plus new novels from Tommy Orange and Amitava Kumar. Non-fiction this month features Francis Ford Coppola and what happened to Andy Warhol's work after his death. DVDs, too!

ADULT FICTION

Eliot Ackerman	2054
Steve Barry	The Atlas Maneuver
Cara Black	Murder at la Villette
C.J. Box	Three-inch Teeth
David Downing	Union Station
A.J. Finn	End of Story
Tana French	The Hunter
Matt Gallagher	Daybreak
Amitava Kumar	My Beloved Life
Freida McFadden	The Teacher
Anne Michaels	Held
Heather Morris	Sisters Under the Rising Sun
Tommy Orange	Wandering Stars
Anna Quindlen	After Annie
Camilla Trichieri	The Road to Murder



ADULT NON-FICTION

Richard Dorment	Warhol After Warhol: Secrets, Lies & Corruption in Art World
Sam Wasson	The Road to Paradise: A Francis Ford Coppola Story

DVDs

The Color Purple, Priscilla, Poor Things, Wonka

BOOK SIGNING BY HAMPTON ARTIST

Fresh off her well received solo show at the Skoto Gallery in New York City, Lula Mae Blocton will be at the Top Shelf Gallery May 25 at 11AM for a book signing, author talk, and art demonstration. The lavishly illustrated *Lula Mae Blocton: African American Experience Through Color and Pattern* provides a comprehensive account of her artistic career and development, along with a memoir that includes her experiences on the cutting edge of abstract art and civil rights activism in New York City in the 70's and 80's.





TOP SHELF GALLERY AT THE LIBRARY

The May- June Show at the Top Shelf Gallery will be “Natural Beauty” featuring landscapes, florals and figurative pieces by Stacey Gendreau. Gendreau was raised on a dairy farm in Ashford, and has retained a love for the outdoors, which she expresses in both painting and wood-working. She first came to love art through high school art and wood-working classes. Later she received a more formal education, first from Pat Donahue and later from Virginia O’Brien, both local artists.

Although she started out in acrylics, Gendreau now works mostly with oil on canvas and particularly enjoys painting the natural world. She works primarily from her own photographs, carefully considering the base colors and then building layer upon layer to capture images in a photo realistic style.

Gendreau worked for many years at both Windham and Backus Hospitals and has for 27 years been a volunteer EMT for Hampton and Chaplin. She sees attention to detail as key “whether in dealing with a medical emergency or creating a work of art”. As emergency medicine is a high pressure job, she finds peace in art and nature. “For me my small art studio is at times a place to focus on my art and other times a spiritual sanctuary. When in my studio, working on an art project, the stresses and worries of daily life can gradually fade into the background.”

Besides painting, Gendreau builds furniture to her own designs, using many traditional hand tools. She sees both her painting and her furniture as a way to connect to the natural world. “When I paint images of Native Americans and nature,” she says, “I feel a closer bond to Mother Earth, and a more harmonious way of living. Long walks alone in the woods ground me and allow me later on to feel one with the wood when working with it.”

JANICE TRECKER: *Fletcher Memorial Library’s Public Relations Powerhouse*

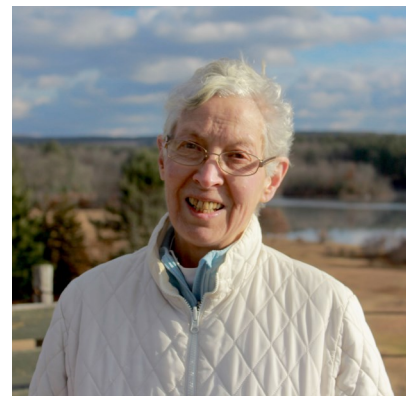
Meet Janice Trecker, a dedicated long-term volunteer at the Fletcher Memorial Library who handles 95% of the library’s Public Relations efforts. From creating posters to sending out press releases to various media outlets, Janice ensures that the community is well-informed about library events and services. Her responsibilities also include maintaining the library’s website, which she built, and its social media presence.

Janice’s journey with the library began when Louise Oliver was the librarian. Although Louise assured her this would entail minimal effort, Janice wound up serving as the board’s secretary for nine years. She was also part of the team that affixed barcodes to each book, a necessity for digitizing the library’s collection.

In addition to her volunteer work, Janice is a talented mystery novelist and short story writer, with an impressive 20 plus books to her name. As a newer Hampton resident I found her book: *Discovering Hampton—A Connecticut Town*, for the Hampton Antiquarian & Historical Society-- a very interesting read.

Janice earned a BA in Philosophy from Syracuse University and her doctorate in English Literature from UConn. She was an adjunct in the UConn English Department for 20 years and wrote a number of scholarly papers as well as contemporary fiction and mysteries.

Now that she is retired, Janice can paint, play her violin, garden, and bird watch. She has stopped writing novels, but still publishes short stories and mystery blogs. Writing runs in the family. Her husband Jerry covered sports for the *Hartford Courant* for fifty years, many of those while teaching high school English. Their son Jamie, currently managing a brewery, has worked as an editor and sports writer and, like his parents, is a published author.



Janice’s move to Hampton 36 years ago was a serendipitous event for the library and the community at large, as her talents and dedication have significantly enhanced the library’s outreach and impact.

The Fletcher Memorial Library board of trustees extends heartfelt gratitude to Janice for her time and talents in promoting the library’s services and programs. She is not just a volunteer; she is a treasured asset to our community.

THE BURNHAM-HIBBARD HOUSE

The series this last year has centered on our village's treasures, our churches, our schools, the General Store, Fletcher Memorial Library, the Little River Grange, and the stately homes which reflect historical and architectural times, from colonial New England to the Victorian era, and have served as residences for ministers and a governor, as year round small farms and summer homes. One of these houses might not be as grand as some of its neighbors, but its importance is in its contents.

The Burnham-Hibbard House is our town's museum. With the exception of a few donated period pieces, the museum displays items exclusively from Hampton, such as the original Town Clerk's desk, or with some connection to Hampton. As such, it serves as "Hampton's Attic." It is a virtual treasure trove of history, and of generosity.

Our earliest records show that the empty lot where the museum is situated was purchased in 1834 by Charles C. Button. Born in 1788 and admitted as a "freeman" in Hampton in 1814, Mr. Button was a prominent citizen and business man in town. In 1835, Thomas Neff, Jr. built a house on the property for Mr. Button to rent to tenants. Button himself lived in the home across from the Congregational Church which we know as "the parsonage", remaining in Hampton for the rest of his life and passing away in 1877. The property was rented, and then owned, by Hampton native Joel Searles and his wife Lydia Flint, whose money was principally used to purchase it, from 1853 to 1882. Mr. Searles practiced his trade as a harness maker here, the small building in back of the museum serving as his shop. After the couple's death, the property passed to their heirs from 1882 to 1897.

Significant changes to the house occurred during the ensuing years and ownership of the Burnham family, starting with Mary Estelle Burnham who owned the property from 1897 to 1904. Her estate passed to William H. Burnham, who owned the property from 1904 to 1918. In 1912, the addition on the south side of the house was built to accommodate a dining room for the boarders, the residence serving as a boarding house year round and particularly during the era of "the summer colony", when Hampton was a summer destination for wealthy families living in cities like Hartford and Providence. Many of the "summer" homes were on Main Street, with its easy access to Bigelow Lake and its recreational activities. The more modest Burnham home housed folks less affluent than the summer visitors who could afford to stay at the Chelsea Inn,

Our Rural Heritage THE VILLAGE MUSEUM



teachers, for example, and those who worked for the wealthy families. The property was owned by Mary A. McMahon from 1918 to 1945 and by Mildred Burnham Hibbard from 1945 to 1974, when she donated it to the Hampton Antiquarian and Historical Society.

The Society itself was organized in 1967 with charter members to include almost everyone in town – Burr, Curry, Davis, Estabrooks, Fuller, Halbach, Loew, Moon, Ostby, Rodriguez, Stone, Teale – the list of members represent the surnames of some of the town's "founding fathers", families who still live here, and many people we remember. With the acquisition of the Burnham Hibbard House, the Society was able to expand its mission: "... to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of the Hampton area; to discover and collect any material which may help to establish and illustrate the history of the area, its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war; its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufacturing, trade and transportation; to provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine and study it..."

The Burnham Hibbard House is a Sturbridge-Village style display. The original home was small and modest. The front room, which serves as an entrance for visitors, would have been the kitchen as evidenced by its fireplace. The walls are beautifully stenciled, based on a design at the Arkell's house, often referred to as the Jaworski's, and for the oldest generation, the Burnham's. The stencil design in this dark red colonial at 131 Main Street represents the right period for the Burnham-Hibbard house. The stenciling could have been the work of an itinerant artist who was boarding there. The southwest room at the rear now presents as a "modern" kitchen with a wood-burning cast iron stove and stone sink, and a pantry with crockery and china.

The two downstairs rooms on the north side of the house represent a parlor, where Mark and Bev Davis serenade visitors at Christmas time, and a bedroom with a rope bed and a quilted banner which was stitched to commemorate the nation's bi-centennial celebration in 1976. Artist

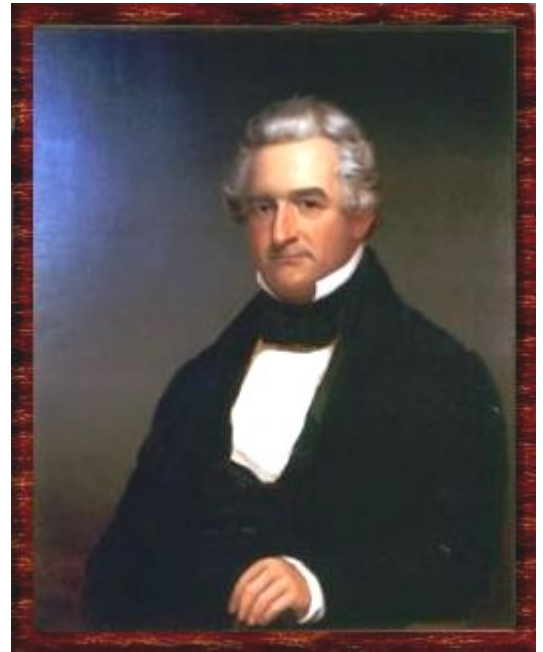
Pat Donahue created the picture of the Pearl Farm on the Little River, and her mother, Alice Dino, selected the material, piecing the cloth together with Jeanne Kavanagh, who transported it to individuals and quilting groups over the course of the year it took to complete; their signatures are embroidered on the back. The banner was part of our 4th of July parade and the State parade, and was displayed at the Willimantic Textile Museum before returning "home".

The addition on the south was recently redecorated to reflect more accurately the period and its use. Originally displayed as a formal, Victorian parlor, replete with dark, brocade curtains, it has been refurbished to represent its probable appearance in 1912, simple and informal: this is where the boarders dined. Sunday morning breakfast, for example, consisted of "codfish balls and maple syrup".

The upstairs rooms, which were originally the boarders' small bedrooms, now contain displays of period clothing and children's school books and toys. One room is dedicated to paintings of Hampton artists, and the staircase and hallway are lined with old photographs of Hampton and a glass case displaying different exhibits. At Christmas time, for example, the case has contained antique and vintage bells, ornaments, and Santa Clauses on loan from Hampton neighbors. Christmas trees decorated by residents once graced the museum during its annual Open House; now Santa comes to visit every year.

Exhibits are not limited to the house. The building which we commonly call "the barn" was actually a carriage house and home to two horses. It is now used to display "domestic industries" -- farm equipment, a broom making machine, a threshing machine, spinning wheels, and a recent treasure, a two-hundred-year-old loom, generously donated by Peggy Fox's daughters, Dorothy and Carolyn. Relocating it required a community effort, and the Society has photographs documenting every step of the process. The loom was originally assembled inside the attic of the home. Stan Crawford and Peter Witkowski painstakingly disassembled the loom, which was held together with wooden pegs instead of nails. Vernon King, Noah Copp, and Eric Martin carried it down the narrow staircase, and Stan, Peter, Jo Freeman and Sue Hochstetter put the loom together again in the carriage house.

Both the carriage house and the museum will be open on Memorial Day from 11:30AM to 2PM with curators present. Please visit. Take a moment in our commemorations of veterans and those who lost their lives at war, to step into another facet of Hampton's past, another example of community, to appreciate the generosity, in the items and the efforts, of our neighbors in their preservations and gifts to us.



REMEMBERING...

A BURNHAM-HIBBARD HOUSE TREASURE

On this fourteenth day of July in the year of nineteen hundred and sixty-four, I wish to present to the Town of Hampton a portrait of Governor Chauncey Cleveland to be placed on a wall in the town office building, or any other suitable town building if occasion arises to make it necessary to remove it from present building.

I present this on above date as a loan exhibit to our town, from the Allen Jewett Collection where it hung, in Mr. Jewett's Hall of Fame, for over sixty years.

It is my wish that said portrait shall be removed from the town building at any future time if Hampton shall establish an Historical Society, and at that time it shall become their property forever.

Given by Allen Jewett's daughter,
Viola Jewett Clapp (Mrs. Leon H. Clapp)

Dear AUNTIE MAC

I love the advice you gave that Dad last month on assisting his daughter with the selection of a swim suit. We could all use a little help in that department! I have another teen-aged related question. One of my daughter's friends calls my husband and me by our first names. We are not all right with this, but we don't want to hurt her feelings. Junior High is such a sensitive age.

Mr. and Mrs.

My Dear Neighbors:

Auntie Mac's first response is to congratulate you for having such youthful appearances that your daughter's friend finds it natural to greet you as peers. Assuredly this would not be the case, no matter how casual her parents may be, if you seemed weathered, frail and feeble. But that may be cold comfort to you, as you wish to establish some sort of boundaries between children and adults. Auntie Mac wonders if there is not some deficiency in the family boundary-setting department if at the first friendly "Hey Becky and Steve, how's it going?" you did not disabuse the young woman of this practice on the spot, and so through no fault of her own she believes that this form of address is perfectly fine with both of you. There are many ways in which people can show respect, fondness, and a degree of separation all at the same time, and it is not too late to share with the young woman how you'd like to be addressed. Auntie Mac would suggest something that acknowledges the special relationship that you have with her, as opposed to other teens who are not your daughter's friends. "Mr. G," for example (substituting your last name for an initial) implies respect as well as closeness. Similarly and in many cultures, your first name preceded by your title ("Mrs. Becky") is quite commonly used.

These, after all, are the days when nearly all conversations open by making sure that preferences are acknowledged; this is especially true of the younger set, who seem to show a great deal of sensitivity to this issue. You can also enlist your daughter in this

endeavor; few teens relish hearing their parents' first names spoken by their friends, and she might very well be willing to go to bat for you. Or you may say to the young woman in a private moment, "Would you do me a favor and call me Mrs. B.? I think I'd feel a lot more comfortable with that." Auntie Mac assures you, dear, that her ego will remain intact. You are, after all, just a couple of adult blips on the radar that is her expanding social life.

The way we address people changes over time: as we become more (or less,) familiar, as we transition from a formal, professional relationship to a friendly one, as we change the relationship from outsider to in-law (which presents its own small mine-field: first names seem too intimate, and "Mom and Dad" can be a stretch depending on one's affections. Auntie Mac's cousin married a man whom everyone, small children and wife included, addressed as "Colonel." But I digress.)

I myself have side-stepped this conundrum with those outside my circle of family and closest friends by always being known as . . .

Your Auntie Mac

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN: *The Farm Girl*

I met Doris a bit over a year ago and was immediately taken by her charm and generosity. A born and bred farm girl, clean through to the bone. A bit on the plump side, her loose limbs would sometimes fly wide from her body as she hustled from task to task on her farm, her purposeful stride giving a certain come hither sway to her hips. Her mouth is slightly narrow with lips perpetually pursed. Her full firm breasts were of the sort that excites the appetite of growing boys at the dinner table. During breaks between her various tasks around her farm she has a habit of preening – she IS, after all, a girl. It matters little if she is the sort that poses by the patio pool or plunges into the pasture pond, a girl is still a girl.

Not just a striking figure, Doris is a disciple of the small independent family farm and possesses a soaring knowledge of diet and nutrition. And when she got started on the subject of duck eggs there was no stopping her.

Ewww. Yuck. Duck eggs.

Not so fast there, Pilgrim, said Doris. We're not talking about balut here. We're talking about an egg with a major nutrition and flavor advantage over both commercially produced and organic free-range chicken eggs. I was caught. I just had to get comfortable and let her impromptu lesson take flight:

The first difference you will notice, says Doris, between commercially farmed and free-range eggs is the color and texture of the yoke. Yokes from free-range eggs are thick and have a bright yellow to orange color and are rich in antioxidants. In contrast, waste products in the grains used in commercial farming result in a watery pale yellow yoke with a much lower antioxidant content. How's that for yuck?

The list of nutritional advantage of free-range over commercial eggs is extensive.

Then consider the fact that duck eggs are nutritionally superior in almost all categories to even organic, free-range chicken eggs-- providing nearly three times more iron and *Omega-3*. Duck eggs are nutritional superstars -- true winners. There are few, if any, commercial producers of duck eggs, which means, if you can find duck eggs they are in all likelihood organic free-range. Duck eggs are, in my opinion, a super food available almost exclusively at your local farm stand.

Concerned about cholesterol? Cholesterol only comes from meat. As a rule of thumb every ounce of meat you consume contains 25 milligrams of cholesterol. Red meat, chicken and fish, organ meat, shell fish, and dairy products (full fat) are all significant sources of dietary cholesterol.

Blood cholesterol - the cholesterol your doctor wags his finger at -- is produced in the liver and triggered by consumption of saturated fats and transfats. Dietary cholesterol (consumed cholesterol) has very little effect on blood cholesterol levels. The natural way to manage cholesterol is to limit your intake of saturated fats and transfats. Omega 3 is highly **unsaturated** fat. Omega 3 is also a natural anti-inflammatory. How's that arthritis doing anyway? If you're concerned about cholesterol, that porterhouse, not the egg, is your enemy.

"Well," I asked, "If duck eggs are so awesome, why aren't they more readily available?"

There are a number of reasons duck eggs fell out of favor after WWII, including the slow decline of the small independent family farm and victory gardens. My favorite, though, is ducks can be an unruly mob with the personalities of sugared-up teenagers. Rather than in a nest, like children and laundry, they are prone to dropping their eggs wherever the mood and convenience strikes them. This creates a contest between the farmer and the fox as to who's having eggs for breakfast. Perhaps that's how the tradition of the Easter egg hunt got its start.

As always, use moderation in all things. Variety is the spice of life. Maintain a balanced diet for good health. Excessive consumption of any particular food item is unwise. Likewise avoiding a highly nutritious food item because it

sounds icky, well, that just quacks me up.

I don't think Doris took a single breath through the entire course of her impromptu lesson. Having sat through her lecture I felt duty-bound to at least try one of her sacred eggs. I now love duck eggs. I didn't know I loved duck eggs until Doris laid down the gauntlet and I tried one last year. I now eat duck eggs on a regular basis when they are available.

I may regret sharing my current source but I get my duck eggs from the same place I get my maple syrup -- The farmer in the dell, and a duck named Doris -- on the corner of Old Kings Hwy and Hemlock Glen. Better get there early.

Disclaimer: This interview was intended for information only. It is neither dietary nor medical advice. For your particular genetic, metabolic, nutrition and health, issues and questions consult your doctor... unless your doctor is a quack.

Uncle Grampus



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: RHUBARB CAKE

For the last few years we've published rhubarb recipes in the May issue -- Rhubarb Bread Pudding, Rhubarb Upside Down Cake, Strawberry Rhubarb Pie, Rhubarb Crisp. This one comes to us from a former resident, originally from a former mayor of Coventry, Rose Fowler, the first recipe in a cookbook titled "Exclusively Rhubarb".

½ cup shortening or oil
1 ½ cups sugar
1 egg
½ tsp. salt
1 cup sour milk (1 tsp. vinegar in 1 cup milk)
1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups flour
3 cups diced rhubarb
sugar
cinnamon

Mix first seven ingredients together until creamy. Add rhubarb and mix well. Bake in greased and floured oblong pan, after sprinkling the top with sugar and cinnamon, at 350 for 45 minutes.

Daryl Perch



FOREST&FIELD

CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY

Grassland Bird Conservation Center

218 Day Road, Pomfret Center

May 17 **Concert: Cindy Kallet, Grey Larson & Will Brown** 7:30PM

June 1 **Bats: Winged Wonders** 2PM

Tuesdays **Early Morning Bird Walks** 8AM

May 3 **Virginia Rail Bird Walk** 6PM

May 4 **Beginners Bird Walk** 8AM

May 10 **Friedman Forest Bird Walk** 8AM

May 11 **Gellert Preserve Bird Walk** 8AM

May 12 **Mother's Day Bird Walk** 8AM

May 15 **20 Warbler Day** 6AM -- 2PM

May 16 **Cabbage Hill Bird Walk** 8AM

May 18 **Bird Banding Demonstration** 9AM

May 19 **17th Annual 90 Bird Day** 6AM – 4PM

May 23 **Pumpkin Hill Bird Walk** 8AM

May 26 **Boston Hollow Bird Watch** 8AM

May 30 **Chaney Preserve Bird Walk** 8AM

May 31 **Nightingale Forest Preserve North Bird Walk** 8AM

Trail Wood

93 Kenyon Road, Hampton

May 1 **Trail Wood Troubadours** 6 – 9PM

Join our casual group the first Wednesday of every month to play music written during the time the Teales lived at Trail Wood. Songs can be viewed in advance on a PDF. Chords and words will be projected on screen so all levels can follow along!

May 9 & 20 **Trail Wood Bird Walks** 8AM

Walk the paths with Andy Rzeknikiewicz looking for Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Veery, Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and many more.

May 11 **iPhone Insta Imaging** 9 – 11AM

Bring your smartphone for a photography workshop and walk with @trailwoodjournal's Laura Tedeschi. Discuss image settings and making observations to achieve the best compositions or details.

May 11 **Nature Sketchbook Journaling** 1 – 4PM

Roxanne Steed teaches the practice of the "10-minute-sketch-walk." Bring a water-color sketchbook, permanent markers, a

portable watercolor kit, a small cup to hold water, and paper towels.

May 12 **Mother's Day Walk 2 – 4PM**

Treat Mom to an enjoyable afternoon outdoors, weather permitting.

May 16 **Frog and Toad Calls** 6:30PM

Learn to identify who is calling in your backyard with an evening walk around the pond to see if we can hear Spring Peepers, Green Frogs and Pickerel Frogs.

The following walks require registration and have participation limits. Email arzeznikiewicz@ctaudubon.org, or call 860-928-4948 to register and receive information on fees and directions.

JOSHUA'S TRUST

May 1 **Wednesday Walk at Allanach-Wolf Woodlands** 9AM

We'll stop to view the pollinator garden before heading to the bird blind on Lake Marie in Windham. Length of walk will be determined by the water levels over the trail but will not exceed three miles; bug protection strongly advised.

May 4 **Maypole Celebration at Atwood Farm** 2 – 4PM

Come welcome spring at this Mansfield farm while we dance around the May Pole accompanied by the Mansfield Middle School String Players.

May 15 **Wednesday Walk at Tinkerville Brook Preserve** 9AM

Tinkerville Brook in Ashford boasts a beautiful two mile loop through wetlands, mountain laurel thickets and by a historic mill site.

May 19 **Tree Identification Walk at Iron Mine Valley Preserve** 3 – 4:30PM

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology PhD candidate, Michael Lascaleia, will help us identify common trees and discuss their importance to our native ecosystems as we hike the trail beginning at 31 Sand Hill Road in Ashford through Iron Mine Valley Preserve.

May 29 **Wednesday Walk at Wolf Rock Preserve** 9AM

Beginning at 62 Crane Hill Road in Mansfield, Wolf Rock Preserve is a fairly hilly, 2-3 mile loop with spectacular views and a trip to the marsh along the Nipmuck Trail.

Be sure to visit <https://joshustrust.org/events/> for details, directions, updates and cancellations.

THE 10TH ANNUAL TRAIL RUN GOODWIN STATE FOREST: COME AND ENJOY

Goodwin's 10th Annual Trail Run will take place on Sunday, June 2, starting at 9AM. Registration is now open and the fees are as follows:

Registration fees -- \$25

Seniors (age 50+) -- \$20

Youth Fee (under age 17) -- \$15

Registration Fee is Non-Refundable -- Cash or Check. Make Checks Payable to: FGF/CFPA and Mail to 23 Potter Rd, Hampton, CT 06247.

Those who wish to register for the Run can obtain a hardcopy of the Registration form or register on line with Webscorer from the Friends of Goodwin State Forest at <https://www.friendsofgoodwinforest.org/> There is no registration the day of the race and all registrations must be received by May 31st. Questions? Please contact Bill via e-mail at WHMARS@cox.net or hard-copy to Bill's attention at the Goodwin Conservation Center at address above. AND Tee Shirts are available. Please check colors, sizes, cost at <https://www.friendsofgoodwinforest.org/>

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Pancake Breakfast at Congregational Church 8 - 9:30AM

Parade 9:30AM from Congregational Church
Grand Marshals—Angelika Hansen & Louise Russell

Ceremony, Speakers and Recognition of our Veterans
at Town Hall 10AM

Burnham-Hibbard Museum Open House 11:30AM - 2PM

Chicken BBQ at the Community Center 11:30AM -- 2PM

Barstool Diplomats in the Pavilion 11:30 - 2PM

Little River Naval Ceremony at the Hammond Hill Bridge NOON



MEMORIAL DAY BARBECUE

MENU

Adult: \$15, includes 1/2 chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, cornbread, dessert & beverage

Vegetarian: \$12, includes all sides with veggie burger on a bulkie roll & beverage

Kid size: \$10 includes 1/4 chicken, raisins with chips, dessert & beverage

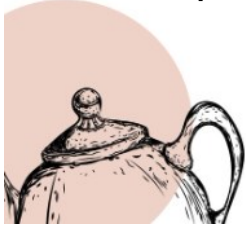
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2024 Town Wide Yard Sale: Unity in the Community!

June 21st & 22nd, no cost to participants;
a \$5 donation fee is welcome, though not obligatory,
to help defray advertising expenses, signs, etc., all of which
are provided.

Participate one or both days, 8AM to 3PM, rain or shine.
Deadline: May 24th



Please contact Terri Warner
at hamptonyardsale2022@gmail.com,
or via land line (no texts or leave a message)
at **860.465.9166**

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Vintage in the Village!

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