

Insightful and informative

# HAMPTON Gazette



VOLUME XLVII No. 4 / MAY 2025



## Remembering Al Ameer

Well over a hundred family and friends gathered together to celebrate the life of long-time resident and first responder Al Ameer, who passed away on March 3, 2025 in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his life, in a ceremony which heart-wrenchingly started with the recording of a dispatcher stating: "After sixty years of service, Al Ameer has answered his last call."

A Vietnam veteran who enlisted in the Army in 1967, and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Valatory Service medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal, Al returned to civilian life in Hampton and spent the rest of it in service to the residents of Hampton through his tenure with the Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps, selflessly answering the call for his neighbors for sixty years. In 1995 he was recognized as the Gazette's Citizen of the Year, and in 2024, he received a proclamation from the Town of Hampton and a citation from the State Assembly for his volunteer

service to the town.

Many in attendance shared stories of Al, members of the Fire Department who remembered him as a mentor, his daughter-in-law who echoed everyone's sentiments when she said he was "always there for us", and his son. Here are his words:

My dad was my hero growing up. He was just the best and he had a hero team that came with him. I often look back and wonder how he did it.

I have countless memories of being with dad from doing firewood at the old house, tending to chickens, and playing in the most awesome tree house that he built. I still to this day can't figure out how he built that tree house so quickly. That tree house lasted until they had to cut down the tree, so it was at least 30 years old.

One day dad came home with something sticking out of the back of his truck. Looking out the window I didn't know what it was but I knew it was awesome. He had gotten me a go-kart. I probably was not really old enough for it. The first ride didn't go so well. I went full tilt across the yard, spun out and scared myself and mom. I had to wait forever to drive it again. That go-kart was for sure a "gateway drug" for me and my addiction to vehicles and fixing stuff.

As I grew and started building my own life and making terrible decisions on my own, mom and dad stuck by me and did their best to encourage and advise me to make better choices. When I found out that I liked jeeps and racing, they did not try to stop me, though mom couldn't stand to watch me compete most times. Dad came with me to so many races. Looking back I wish I knew at the time how much that would mean to me. Dad and Kari both came to all the big events, they even flew to South Carolina to cheer us

AL AMEER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## EDITOR

Dayna McDermott-Arriola

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Juan Arriola, Chair

Sulema Perez-Pagan, Secretary

Peter Witkowski, Treasurer

Patricia Boss

Angela Fichter

Diane Gagnon

Laura McCabe

Mary McMillen

June Pawlikowski Miller

## PRODUCTION

Mary Oliver, Art Direction

The Hampton Gazette is published monthly, and as a non-profit 501(c)(3) venture, it is registered with the State of Connecticut and IRS, and is supported by advertising revenues and donations. All contributions are tax-deductible.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** Editorials, articles, calendar or event information, press releases or questions: please email to [hamptongazette@yahoo.com](mailto:hamptongazette@yahoo.com) in Word format (not pdf) or to Editor, Hampton Gazette, PO Box 101, Hampton, CT 06247, by the 15th of each month. All submissions to the Gazette are subject to editing. The Gazette reserves the right not to accept submissions.

**CIRCULATION** The Hampton Gazette is available online at [hamptongazette.com](http://hamptongazette.com), and in print by request, free of charge, to every home in Hampton. Domestic subscriptions are available by requests at cost; international may be charged extra postage. To subscribe, or receive email notification of the current issue on the Web, contact the Editor at [hamptongazette.com](mailto:hamptongazette.com)

**ADVERTISING** Please contact us by email for advertising policies and rates. Payments should be mailed to PO Box 101, Hampton, CT 06247

## PHOTOS

(jpg high resolution, please) may be emailed to [photos@hamptongazette.com](mailto:photos@hamptongazette.com)

## EDITORIAL POLICIES

Each letter to the Gazette must be signed and include and address & telephone contact for verification. Signing all correspondence to the Gazette is encouraged, but at the request of the writer, a signature may be withheld. Letters written on behalf of an organization require the signature of an authorized spokesperson. All letters submitted to the Gazette are subject to editing and the Gazette reserves the right to reject any or all letters. Readers should be aware that the opinions of individual writers are not necessarily those of the Gazette. The Gazette will not print letters it regards as libelous. Photographs and articles published here are the property of the individual photographer or writer and may not be reproduced without express permission of the contributor.



**THUMBS UP** from the Conservation Commission specifically and the community at large to the Selectmen for removing the old oil tank at the elementary school, preventing possible contamination of the soil, and eventually the Little River.

**THUMBS DOWN** to the spate of vehicles stolen from driveways in the area. While flood lights and cameras are always a good idea, please at least lock your cars at night, and remain vigilant of your own, and your neighbors', properties.

## SEARCHING FOR HAMPTON'S STORIES

Over the past many years, Hampton's Memorial Day observance program has tried to focus on the extraordinary variety of perspectives the residents of our small rural community bring to the somber and sobering occasion of honoring and reflecting on America's fallen war heroes.

There have been incredibly personal, firsthand stories that recounted the horror and insights of battle...touching recollections of the comedy and sadness and humanity of shared sacrifice...as well as many poignant and deeply felt experiences of the people who may not have gone off to battle but whose loved ones served in harm's way. The last couple of years the Memorial Day Parade committee has tried to bring the actual words and recollections of WWII and Korean War era veterans to life through the letters and recorded interviews of the people who served.

This year we are attempting to tell the story of the Vietnam War in the same way... though the letters, stories and interviews with Vietnam veterans and their families. If you have a story to tell, a memento to share, or a memory to recount won't you please reach out to us at: [firstselectman@hamptonct.org](mailto:firstselectman@hamptonct.org).

Believe us that no memory is too vague, or story too short, and no account of the sacrifices that people make to try and keep the world safe for us all is too small to shed light on the value of service to our community and our country.



**Join us for Memorial Day, full schedule on page 12**

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Mary Albro, Joey Ameer, Jamie Boss, Garry Brown, Marie Cantino, Beth DesJardin, Bob Grindle, Fran Gustavesen, Sarah Heminway, HES 3rd & 4th Grade Students, Rob Rondeau, Andrew Skarzyski, Janice Trecker. **PHOTOS:** Cover, Gazette archive; page 2, Pete Vertefeulle; page 4-6, Juan Arriola.



on. Mom did her part from home base, making us famously good food to share with the whole crew. At Vermonster there were helicopter rides and every time I won I'd take the money to buy us tickets for it. Dad loved those rides. He would always hit it off with the pilot and the rides would go a little longer than they were supposed to.

My dad influenced who I am in a lot of ways...His love of animals helped Kari and I build our lives. Kari found herself working with animals and for me, it helped me find my amazing, perfect wife.

When dad started working for Amerigas it allowed him to go to more fire calls. For a long time we all joked that he would be the only one that would bring a rolling bomb to a working fire. Speaking of which, dad had been blown up not once, but twice. I learned how strong he really was during those times. Being burned like he was, staying in the burn unit, and the pain he must have endured; he had been through hell and made it back. He was the strongest man I knew and was always there for his family, friends, and the community.

I can't count the amount of times dad was top responder. The firehouse and everyone who has been a part of it has truly been dad's family. I hope that all its members here today know that. This was his rock. This was something he loved and cared for as much as his blood family, and he dedicated 60 years of his life to it.

Growing up, mom and dad treated our friends like family. If any one of them needed a safe place, food, a ride, or an advocate, mom and dad had them covered. We always felt safe at home and I will never be able to thank them enough for that. I have a small family but a strong and loved one. Having memories of being together, camping as a family, surrounded by friends. Charlestown Beachway was such a special place for our family. We intend to spread dad's and mom's ashes there together.

Later in life I met Penny and realized that I wanted to spend forever with her and dad was so supportive. Even though he was going through one of the hardest parts of his life, this was when mom was sick. I had never seen my dad cry or show weakness until mom passed. So much had happened in his life but he had handled it all with grace. Losing mom was harder than any physical pain. I remember being with him one day just trying to find some way to help, not too long after she was gone, and the tones went off for a fire in Chaplin requesting mutual aid. Dad hadn't left the house in a few weeks at this point and was just so sad. I said, "Come on They need help. Let's go." And that got him going. We headed up, hopped in one of the ET's and headed to Chaplin. Dad refocused and his fire family took over. I'm pretty sure he was top responder for many years after that. Thank you, Hampton Fire Department. My dad needed you and to this day you took care of him, too.

As time moved along, dad found Holly. Friendship grew into love and marriage. Holly was a big change of pace for us. That was just what dad needed. They got to travel and go on adventures together. They took care of each other, and are awesome grandparents. We became a new family. Thank you to Holly for filling dad's life with love, and caring for him. He loved us all. He was the best dad and an amazing friend to all of you.



Joey Ameer

## and Beyond.... VILLAGE VIEW



### HAMPTON SENIORS ON THE MOVE!

Happy Spring! The Hampton Seniors Club is still growing! We continue to enjoy our regular weekly activities:

- Bag lunch (if you wish) and game/craft day on Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30/4 in the upstairs community room at the Town Hall
- Mexican Trains on Fridays from 9 to 12 also in the upstairs community room at the Town Hall.
- We are working on the technical issues in order to resume the watercolor class via YouTube.

All are welcome at any of these activities -- the more the merrier.

On May 2nd a group is going to the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster, MA to enjoy this fascinating presentation about Samuel Slater and his influence on the Industrial Revolution in this country. We are also going to have a Hampton Seniors Club lunch during the month of May. Date is yet to be determined, but it will be held in the downstairs community room at the Town Hall and we'll keep you informed as it gets closer.

The Club is participating in the Hampton Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 21st. Our tables will be in the downstairs community room of the Town Hall, so weather will not be an issue. If you are interested in participating, please email: ([hamptonseniors01@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonseniors01@gmail.com)) We have lots more activities in the planning stages, and look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like more information about our upcoming plans or have ideas or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact the Hampton Seniors Club at [hamptonseniors01@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonseniors01@gmail.com).

## PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 11 FY2025–2026 REFLECTS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT LEARNING

The proposed school budget for the 2025–2026 academic year is \$7,386,184 and represents a 3.66% or \$261,013 increase from the current year, reflecting our district's continued commitment to student success, academic innovation, and fiscal responsibility. This modest increase supports key priorities while addressing rising operational costs. The assessment for Hampton in this budget is \$1,639,196.

The most significant portions of the budget increase are tied to contractually obligated wages, magnet school tuition, health insurance, special education, (including speech and language services), athletic transportation, and diesel fuel. Recently settled contract negotiations have yielded a 3.5% increase in salaries and wages. Additionally, increased special education costs reflect our ongoing commitment to meeting the diverse needs of all learners with the appropriate resources, staffing, and support. Transportation costs have also risen, and this budget ensures continued safe and reliable service for all students. We are appreciative of the efforts of our health insurance broker who has worked with our tri-town Boards to minimize cost increases for the upcoming year.

A core emphasis of the 2025–2026 budget is the continued implementation and expansion of Advanced Placement (AP) and Early College Experience (ECE) courses, providing students with the opportunity to pursue rigorous college-level coursework and earn college credit while still in high school. At the same time, the district is expanding career readiness programs to prepare students for success after graduation—whether they choose to pursue college, technical training, or enter the workforce. These initiatives include new partnerships with local industries, internship opportunities, and enhanced vocational programming.

This budget reflects the district's mission to offer every student a pathway to success, whether academic, technical, or career-based. We are proud of the progress we continue to make and remain committed to transparency, accountability, and community engagement. We encourage all residents to learn more about the proposed budget and participate in the upcoming budget vote.

There will be a Tri-town hearing relating to the proposed (BOE-approved on 4/1/25 for assessment) 2025-2026 Regional School District #11 on Monday, May 5th at 7PM in the Parish Hill Middle/High School Library. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Together, we can ensure our schools remain a place where every student has the opportunity to grow, achieve, and thrive.

*Andrew Skarzynski, Superintendent*

*N.B. Despite a decrease from 54-50 students, Hampton's Assessment for the FY2025-26 RD#11 Budget is a \$191,255, or 11.67%, increase over the current year.*

**The polls will be open from Noon to 8PM on May 6** to vote on the Regional District #11 budget. All registered voters and those listed on the October, 2024 Grand List as owning \$1000 worth of property are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are available through the Town Clerk up until the opening of the polls, and curb-side voting is also available during polling hours.

## ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

On April 25, staff and students from the Hampton Elementary School, members of various town and state organizations, and several residents gathered together to celebrate Arbor Day. This was the town's sixth annual commemoration.

This year's event took place at the Hammond Hill Preserve, a parcel of over 50 acres in the Little River Valley which the Town purchased a few years ago for open space. Bruce Spaman, a member of the Recreation and Conservation Commissions, served as Master of Ceremonies and spoke of the preserve, encouraging everyone to visit. The preserve offers trails to hike, a viewing platform, and ample opportunities to fish in a pond and in the Little River.

All of the elementary school students participated in the ceremony, starting with the first and second grade students singing "This Land is Your

ARBOR DAY, NEXT PAGE







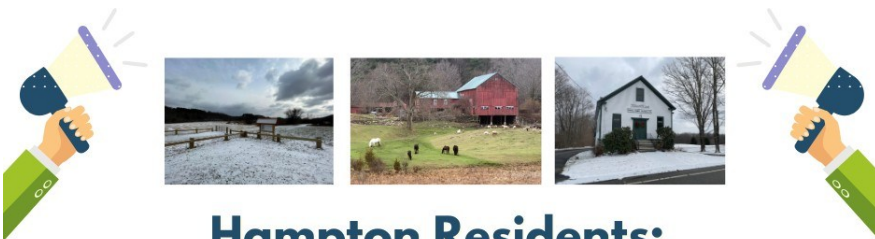
Land". The pre-school students shared ways that even little people can make a big impact on trees and on the environment. Their suggestions included planting trees, planting gardens, and

planting flowers for the bees. The kindergarteners recently explored Hampton's trees and wrote a collective letter to a tree. Students in third and fourth grade wrote essays on the importance of trees, and the fifth graders wrote poems on trees. Sixth grade students were at Nature's Classroom all week, where they undoubtedly celebrated plenty of trees.

Sugar maple trees were planted at the preserve in honor of Randy Thompson, a life-long resident of Hampton who was a member of the Conservation Commission and instrumental in the town's purchases of many parcels to preserve as open space, including the one at Hammond Hill. Conservation Commission Chairman Mark Samios explained to the children that Randy wanted to protect nature and the rural character of the town for future generations, and expressed hope that this and other preserves will be protected for years to come.

Mr. Spaman thanked all participants, including the Department of Public Works for preparing the site for the planting of the trees, and introduced guest speakers. A representative from Eversource spoke of the history of Arbor Day, a forester from the Department of Environmental Protection fielded several questions from the students, and Selectman Bob Grindle read the annual proclamation. A well-known "star gazer", Mr. Grindle also encouraged families to visit the preserve at night, explaining that there are few places in Hampton as spacious for viewing constellations.

Students were given bags of tree-related gifts, and Kousa dogwoods to plant at their homes.



## Hampton Residents: What is the Future of Our Town?

The Hampton Planning & Zoning Commission is in the process of updating its 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development. This Plan is important to the Town in setting new policies and regulations, making investments in open space, roads, trails, and municipal facilities. The Commission and the Town work diligently to implement the priorities of this Plan – and they need your input!

**Your participation and thoughtful responses to this public input survey will greatly assist the Commission in determining priorities over the next decade.**



<https://surveymonkey.com/r/HamptonPoCD2026>

*Dear Old Friend,  
You get cold in the howling wind,  
but still you shelter over me.  
You are hungry, but you still give me  
your fruit.  
You are sore, but you still lend me  
your wood.  
You are out of breath, but  
you still give me your air.  
You are hot in the blazing sun,  
but you still provide me  
with shade.  
Dear old friend, thank you...*

Finn

## MEMORIAL DAY DOCUMENTARY CENTERS ON G.I. VIETNAM LIFE AND SACRIFICE

Fifty years ago, the United States pulled out of Vietnam, and the conflict in Southeast Asia came to an end. The Second Vietnam War concluded with the unification of North and South Vietnam. During the ten years of American participation, the news concentrated on combat footage of the conflict, which seldom told the entire story of the American soldier in-country. To provide a broader overview of a soldier's stay in Vietnam, during the Memorial Day celebration in Hampton, the Town will show a documentary video produced by a Hampton resident in the Town Hall.

The movie takes viewers from stepping on the plane to get to Vietnam to returning home using 125 photographs the residents took during 1968 and 1969. The narration highlights the people, customs, children, G.I. living conditions, work conditions, base camps, and thoughts of home. The movie will be shown in the Community Room at Town Hall after the ceremonies conclude. There will be multiple showings, and all are invited to gain a different perspective on spending 365 days in Vietnam during that period. Showing times will be announced during the ceremony.

## VETERANS' ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Did you know you can request a copy of your military records just by filing a simple form? See <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/> for details.

# I'm From Here



## THE OLD BARN

It stands witness to the traffic and affairs of everyday life. It is older than I. Yes, I believe older than us all.

Its exterior is clad with diagonal shingles, calling to mind the scales of a fearsome dragon, but the vision is deceptive. As I, it is showing its age.

Its interior beams, weathered and checked, can be seen clearly in the daylight that enters it through missing east and west doors and windows. Its cupola sits crookedly astride its unevenly sagging ridge pole. It bears the scars of appendages removed, for usefulness or necessity. Its neighbor is a faithful companion, a massive Chinese chestnut that shades it from southern sun in summer while letting the fleeting winter sun warm its old timbers.

The barn has begun to list in recent years, now leaning decidedly northward. Its eastern side has buckled outward, an interior post or two having given way. Without repair the decay will continue until the barn succumbs to the forces surrounding it: wind and water, snow and ice and rain, or simply gravity.

What a structure it must've been in its early years! Not as large as some of the town's other barn owners could boast, but a beacon signaling the change from Hampton to our southern neighbors to travelers utilizing the nearby road.

Each time I approach the barn, I feel my breath halt rounding the corner as I wonder to myself, is it still standing? These old structures don't die easily, mortised and tenoned together. My father spoke of his friend, Joe White, owner of a Dutch gambrel home nestled in the woods of town. Joe had an old barn, likely contemporary to his home, that he wanted removed. My father with reluctance helped

him in the task: "What a shame! We had to hook a chain around the corner post and use a tractor to break it to get the barn down."

Yes, my father understood the beauty of ancient and lasting craftsmanship, and that each demolition diminished our own history, a beam and a trunnel at a time.

The National Weather Service has advised us that tomorrow will bring perhaps our first snow storm of the season. Yes, I enjoy snow. While I could go out and play, I prefer to truly enjoy it from inside my snug home as it dances down, changing my view of my world.

I am expectant that I will survive this storm, as I have so many others.

I don't know about the barn. Perhaps it, too, will survive to greet me once more, a welcome friend, as I drive by.

June Pawlikowski Miller

*This was the first barn we featured in the series "Our Rural Heritage", originally intended to record the stories of our town's old barns "while they're still standing". That was 7 years ago. These words and the photograph were recorded this winter. Spring has finally sprung; we've survived another winter, and so has the barn.*

## DOWN THE FARM

I grew up nearly in the shadow of the big red barn. I remember from an early age the sounds and sights and smells of that old barn with its two, then one, then no standing silos. It was a great comfort to go outside and see the cows going into the barn to be milked. To hear Nanny calling to them, "Come Boss! Come Boss! Come Bossie!" They'd come running. They knew it was time to eat the sweet grain and be milked. In the afternoon some of us kids -- there were eight of us so we didn't all go in a crowd -- would head down to the barn to get our pail of milk and carry it home. It was cold and rich and sweet, fresh from the cows, many of whom we'd named and treated like pets. There was Charlie -- she was a sweet and gentle cow. Georgie the bull -- you didn't want to go in the field with him -- he didn't like people.

The barn was full of adventure and fun for my siblings and me. A perfect place to play cops and robbers, hide and seek. And of course, the hay mow was wonderful for tunneling in the hay, swinging from a rope from the big wooden beam to the sweet hay below. Nanny didn't like us playing up there as we'd scatter the hay about. We'd be quiet as the barn mice but she always knew when we were up there. She'd holler "You kids, get out of that hay loft!" But didn't care if we continued to stay and play. During the summer months, we'd be down the farm more than at home. We'd play in the barn, pet the animals, look for new kittens. The barn was home to many animals, including some infamous mousers, who went by the names of Hunter, Zorba, Starsky and Hutch.

In later years, the dairy cows were all sold. There were still a few beef cows, goats, chickens, and of course the barn cats. Then they all too were gone from the barn. But the echoes remained. Of the sounds of the cows moving their noses about in their grain bins, the banging of the stanchions as they moved about when the flies were bothering them. The smell lingered in the wooden beams and walls of Timothy hay, milk and manure. I can still picture Nanny's sweet, tired smile as she finished up her barn chores and headed for the house to fix supper.

Becky Burelle Gagne

Reprinted from "Our Rural Heritage", February 2018

# Fletcher Memorial Library

## NEW BOOKS

Books for nearly everyone in the family this month, with a good selection of adult fiction with the likes of Chris Bohjalian, Jayne Ann Krenitz, and Jo Nesbo; and non-fiction ranging from WW2 Special Operations, and John Singer Sargent and his favorite sitters to *Integration*, *Bird Watching* and more. New popular juveniles, too.

## ADULT FICTION

Chris Bohjalian	The Jackal's Mistress
William Boyle	Saint of the Narrows Street
Melody Carlson	Welcome to the Honey B&B
Emma Donoghue	The Paris Express
Jayne Ann Krenitz	Shattering Dawn
Gilian McAllister	Famous Last Words
Jo Nesbo	Blood Ties
Graham Norton	Frankie
Joseph O'Connor	The Ghosts of Rome
Paraic O'Donnell	The Naming of the Birds
Amanda Peters	Waiting for the Long Night Moon ( short stories)
Steve Wick	The Ruins

## ADULT NON-FICTION

Shannon Monaghan	A Quiet Company of Dangerous Men, (UK Special Operations WW2)
Douglas J. Preston	The Lost Tomb: & Other Real-Life Stories of Bones, Burials & Murder
Bonny Reichert	How to Share an Egg: A True Story of Hunger, Love & Plenty
Noliwe Rooks	Integrated: How American Schools Failed Black Children
Rick Steves	On the Hippie Trail: Istanbul to Kathmandu (travel writer)
Jean Strouse	Family Romance: John Singer Sargent & the Wertheimers
Amy Tan	The Back yard Bird Chronicles



## LIBRARY EVENTS

**Top Shelf Gallery:** The May show features Gail Miller's Nature's Bounty, consisting of natural images in paint, embroidery, collage and photographs.

### Special Programs:

May 14 Book Discussion Group 6 –7PM. The group will be discussing *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly. We have copies of the book available to borrow at the library.

May 21 Jamie Boss Author Talk and Book Signing 5:30PM Jamie will be discussing his book *Coming of Age in Vietnam: A Memoir of War* and sharing slides of his time in Vietnam.

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

### Wednesday Knitting Group NOON

Informal fiber arts group meets most Wednesdays. Please contact the library to make sure they are meeting.

### Thursday Mah Jongg 101 10AM – NOON

Join us in the Community Room for free classes on Mah Jongg, an ancient Asian game played with tiles. All skill levels are welcome!

### Thursday or Friday Tai Chi 9 – 10AM

**(at the Hampton Community Center):** Tai Chi takes place in back of the Community Center or in the Pavilion at the Town Hall, depending on the weather. Call the library for updated information and current day.

### Friday Baby Story Time with Miss Deb

10:30 – 11:30AM Join us for an interactive program for birth to three-year-olds using a variety of musical instruments, rhymes, songs, finger plays, 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, audiobooks, and DVDs). Please call or email the library: 860.455.1086 or [fletchermemorial-library@gmail.com](mailto:fletchermemorial-library@gmail.com).

## Volunteers Needed

The library is in need of a couple of dedicated volunteers. If you are interested and available to commit to a 2-3 hour shift weekly, please contact Beth at 860.455.1086 or by email at [fletchermemoriallibrary@gmail.com](mailto:fletchermemoriallibrary@gmail.com)

## BOOK & AUTHOR PROGRAM HOSTS MEMOIRIST

Hampton author Jamie Boss will discuss his Vietnam memoir, *Coming of Age in Vietnam*, on May 21, at 5:30PM. Boss will accompany his remarks with some of the many slide photographs that he took during his 1968-69 tour of duty.

Although Boss recalls keeping extensive notes during his time in Vietnam, they did not develop until about ten years ago when he says, "I was concerned with the lack of info out there about Vietnam. My presentation will be about the Vietnam no one ever told you about, how we lived day to day and the types of jobs." His particular job was tank repairman. A mechanic in civilian life, Boss was trained to handle tracked vehicles at the Aberdeen Proving ground. He notes the considerable responsibilities given to teen age mechanics like him and the difficult adjustment they had coming home, where no one cared about the war and where employers were skeptical of their abilities.

Boss has been active in the local music and has worked in graphic design. As a result of his graphics training, he can put a book together from writing through production and has chosen to self-publish. *Coming of Age in Vietnam* is his third book, following his earlier memoir, *Growing Up in Milford and Other Far Away Places*, and a volume on self-publishing.



The sacrifices of our townsfolk during wartime are evidenced in our cemeteries, where an impressive amount of markers identifying veterans flank a multitude of gravestones. Currently, many men and women from our town are serving in the military, a commitment that dates from the French and Indian War.

Connecticut sent five thousand men to fight in the French and Indian War, from 1754 to 1763, and though our town wasn't incorporated until 1786, according to Susan Jewett Griggs' *Folklore and Firesides*, Windham "furnished seven companies", and two of these were from our parish, Windham's Second Society. Hampton's troop of cavalry, under Captain John Howard, included fifteen men, and under Captain Durkee's Company, twelve were enlisted.

Mostly what locals recall of that era is the story of "The Frogs of Windham", for which the town is famed. There are several different versions of the "The Frog Fight", or "The Frog Fright". According to legend, a deafening sound awakened Windham villagers one night, and fearing enemy attack, scouts were sent to investigate. All accounts concur that at dawn, hundreds, if not thousands, of dead bull frogs were found in a Windham pond. Historical records verify that there was a drought the summer of 1758, and that the frogs were probably in search of water. Whether the bull frogs fell victim to the scouts' muskets, fought with one another, or were diseased is unknown. But the frog became Windham's mascot, and the folktale, Windham's most famous.

Similarly, the story most remembered from the American Revolution is "The House the Women Built", the tale of the intrepid and determined Sarah Hammond, who decided to build a home for herself and her fiancé, Uriel Mosley, when he was called to service, enlisting many other women for the raising. The couple were married on September 15, 1788, and lived in the house, which still stands sturdily today, for half a century.

There was much notable involvement in the War for Independence. According to Griggs, "Captain Ebenezer Mosley led a company to Bunker Hill", Captain James Stedman "was at the battles of White Plains and Harlem Plains, marched with Washington in his retreat through New Jersey, crossed the Delaware with him, and suffered the bitter winter at Valley Forge", and Lieutenant Calvin Munn "was with Lafayette in Virginia, and was at the evacuation of Yorktown, and the taking of Cornwallis". There were seventeen Fullers from our village on the muster roll, including Abijah, who served under General Israel Putnam, and "had charge of throwing up the earthworks the

# Our Rural Heritage

## OUR VETERANS

night before the battle of Bunker Hill." Hampton, or the Second Society of Windham at the time, sent many soldiers to war. In *Discovering Hampton*, Janice Trecker wrote "Some idea of the number drawn from villages such as ours...can be seen in the fact that at the fifty year celebration in 1826, no fewer than forty-two revolutionary veterans were still alive, and hearty enough to squeeze into their old uniforms for the celebratory parade."

Trecker writes of the Civil War that Luther J. Burnham was the first Hampton recruit in April of 1861. Twenty-seven men followed him that year and twenty-one in 1862, "a fair percentage from a town of only 937 people". She writes of those who returned home "wounded and disabled", and others who never returned, the stone in their family's plot inscribed with 'buried where he fell'. Hampton has a primary source in the letters of Sergeant George Hammond, who fought under General McClellan's Union Army. Starting in April 19, 1863, he penned detailed missives while "the misquitoes hummed around (his) head", conceding "we would be really lonesome without them". His letters include information on rations, "the Rebs", marching orders, "good news from Vicksburg", dysentery, and the "mercy of the all supreme power".

The memorial stone at the town's center, dedicated on July 4, 1920, lists the names of 47 veterans of World War I. According to the memories relayed in Alison Davis' *Hampton Remembers*, the American Legion Post was initiated a few years later, and sponsored the Memorial Day Commemorations. At that time, it was more of a Community Day: a parade with a Brass Band and a Ladies Band, both with resident musicians, intramural races between the various one-room school houses, picnic lunches and concerts. It was estimated that 98 percent of Hampton's inhabitants attended.

After World War II, the American Legion Post #106 was named for Leslie Jewett, Hampton's only son lost in the war, one of the first to storm Omaha Beach at Normandy on June 6, 1944, and one of the 47 veterans of World War II, born and raised here, whose names are engraved on the Memorial Stone at Town Hall. His story has been the subject of a number of Memorial Day Addresses, including 2023, when the passing of Clarence Thornton and Tom Gaines, the last two veterans of World War II prompted us to commemorate those who served in the war with their own words, recorded in letters, newspaper clippings, and speeches, and read by their sons and daughters and grandchildren: Clarence Thornton's most memorable moment of running into his brother, who needed bullets, and emptying his own gun and "giving them all to him"; Richard Schenk's story of building a pontoon bridge across the Moselle River, of soldiers replacing those killed by enemy shellfire, their bodies floating down the river, a scene "repeated over and over until the bridge reached the other shore"; Bob Jones' description of his capture and imprisonment at Stalag Luf, in a 12 X 12 cell with 24 men for ten months, though "sometimes you thought you'd be there forever"; Wendell Davis' accounts of a "pile of dead men, stacked like cord wood, waiting for the graves registration unit to clip their dog tags before burial...the stench of rotting flesh on a tropical beach...a young sailor sewed up in a length of new white canvas, slipped gently over the side... voices always full of hope, dreams of the future,



plans, full of excitement, voices of young Americans, 'when I get home''; Ernie Loew's letter relaying the liberation of a concentration camp, "of dead bodies...all over the place, piled up head to feet...two hundred of them lay there, unburied, simply starved to death"; and Tom Gaines, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, and simply spoke of the importance of peace.

The Memorial Stone at Town Hall also lists those who left their homes here in Hampton to serve during the Korean War. Last year's Memorial Day Address shared the stories of these veterans, collected from previous interviews, Memorial Day speeches, and those living still among us. We were honored to have one, George Miller, as our first speaker. Many of our Korean War veterans were stationed elsewhere -- Germany, Greenland, France, Japan, Puerto Rico, the North Pole, on the seas transporting cargo from Norfolk, Virginia to Portsmouth, England and to Casablanca, and in the air, engaged in an airborne rendezvous to refuel planes transporting atomic bombs from the United States to the Sahara Desert.

One of our veterans, Gordon Hanson, shared his experiences serving two years on the front lines, where it was so dark one could cross enemy lines and not even know it, and where he dispelled the warning that the front lines were the worst with the words: "those guys really took care of each other." He ended one of the three Memorial Day Addresses he delivered with the reminder: *"The collective breadth and depth of our experiences, the sheer weight of the collective number of experiences assembled here together, provide the most powerful and enduring memorial. So before you leave, turn around and thank your friends and neighbors for being here, for remembering, for making this truly a Memorial Day"*.

After our tributes to the veterans of World War II and of Korea, it only follows that we honor our Vietnam veterans this year. As we have for the last two Memorial Day Addresses, we'll share their stories. They were not as easy to collect. The Vietnam veterans really didn't talk of their experiences for a very long time. It wasn't just the veterans though who didn't speak of the war, no one really did. Unlike World War II, when the town published a newspaper reporting on all of the men and women who were serving, there was no special publication. Couched in political controversy, there was no memorial stone, no "Welcome Home" dinner, no "Welcome Home" parade. I had already researched and written an article for "Our Rural Heritage" titled "On the Home Front" which chronicled all the war efforts and support for our troops during those prior wars. And then realized -- that won't do this year.

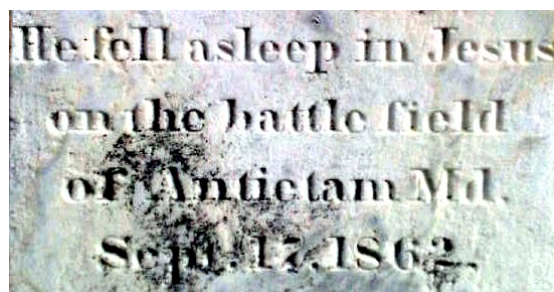
In 1995 Art Osborne, a veteran of World War II, delivered the Memorial Day Address. "I still remember being part of the war in Europe, the struggles, the mud and cold, the fearfulness, the longing for home, my buddies being brought in wounded and dying, not ever knowing what was coming next," he wrote. "And then the good news, Japan had surrendered! Our ship was turned around and put into Newport News, Virginia. What a welcome we received! All over the country people were rejoicing. How I wish that our boys coming back from Vietnam could have received a welcome like we had." Our nation failed miserably in giving the soldiers returning from Vietnam the recognition they deserved.

Much as the music fueled the anti-war sentiment, art, eventually, instructed us: books like *The Things They Carried*, Ken Burns' documentary series: *The Vietnam War*, movies, such as *Platoon*, and performances as in *Born on the Fourth of July*. Our country started the process of trying to comprehend what we couldn't possibly; and we learned, and grew, and repented.

And some of the soldiers started to talk. Decades after the war ended, two of our town's Vietnam War veterans delivered Memorial Day Addresses, four veterans granted the *Gazette* interviews for the series "Those Who Serve", and one veteran even published an important memoir. Our front page this month pays tribute to a Vietnam War veteran who spoke little of his experiences there, yet taught us commitment and courage on his return, when he continued to give unfailingly of himself for the rest of his life.

This year the nation commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Across the country, in large cities and small towns like ours, we express gratitude for those who served, apologies for the belated recognition, and publicly proclaim, at long last, a collective and sincere "thank you" on Memorial Day, when the presence of each and every one of us assembled shall "provide the most powerful and enduring memorial."

## REMEMBERING...



June 16, 1863

Dear Father,

Now like others I have seen enough of battle. Men lie dead, shot through the head and everywhere some are barely alive. We see a man wounded & all we can do is give him a cheering word & some water, fix his wound & see someone takes him to the hospital. A Major & Col. were all tore to pieces. No one but soldiers could stand the sight... It seems a miserable useless slaughter. Though some think the Rebs have but little ammunition left, little food & few men, I think they have enough to last 3 months if they get reinforcements from the rear. Don't expect us home soon. Some say they will not write until it is all over. But when it is all over I may be gone. This will give you my account.

Give my love to all,

Your Son,

*George A. Hammond.*

## HES STUDENTS DELVE INTO HISTORY.... & HERSTORY

### From the Hampton Elementary School

*Students in the third and fourth grades at Hampton Elementary School recently wrote essays to commemorate Black History and Women's History.*

The impact Jackie Robinson had on Civil Rights was he was the first black Major League Baseball player in baseball history. Although he was black he was terrific at baseball. He was also a hero to black baseball players. Some of the players on the other team threw the ball at him on purpose. This shows he was very brave. When he retired in 1969, he helped end segregation. The white people hated him to death. In conclusion, when he died he was very remembered and nobody could wear his number.

*Garrett*

Martin Luther King Jr. made an impact on Civil Rights for African Americans by becoming a Civil Rights leader. Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Prize at 35 years old. So this means he was the youngest person to win the Nobel Prize. Martin Luther King Jr. joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This means that would help Martin Luther King to become a Civil Rights leader. Martin Luther King Jr. faced racism at a young age. So this means that Martin Luther King Jr. got encouraged to become a Civil Rights leader. In conclusion, Martin Luther King Jr. made a big impact on Civil Rights.

*Camden*

The impact Ruby Bridges had on Civil Rights for African Americans is she helped end segregation. On May 17, 1954, the federal court ruled segregated schools were against the constitution. Ruby Bridges was one of six kids to pass an examination to go to an all-white school in Louisiana. On November 14, 1960, she started at an all-white school for a better education. Her mother and Ruby were escorted into school by federal marshals. This means they protected her from angry white people. In conclusion, if it wasn't for Ruby Bridges, schools would still be segregated.

*Audrina*

Mary Ellen Prescott made a massive impact on civil rights and helped slaves escape slavery. She made safe houses for slaves. she used her status and money to support social justice campaigns and law suits to end slavery. In conclusion, Mary Ellen Prescott had a lasting impact on civil rights for African Americans.

*Neymar*

Amelia Robinson was an African American that helped thousands of African Americans get their right to vote in 1965. In 1965 a state trooper killed a civil rights activist during a peaceful protest so Amelia took action. Amelia with other civil rights leaders agreed to march from Selma, Alabama to the state capitol. In conclusion, she was one African American that worked together to allow all people to vote.

*Savannah*

George Washington Carver found out how to help African Americans be self-sufficient. George Washington Carver discovered over 300 uses for peanuts. This means that he could make a lot of things. He told people to rotate crops to give nutrients back to the soil. He was known as the plant doctor. He will be remembered as an icon of every garden and for the work he did for African Americans.

*Elliott*

Rosa Parks helped end segregation in 1955 by starting a bus boycott. Rosa refused to give up her seat because she said she was tired of giving into the white people. The white people got so angry they bombed Reverend King's house. They were mad because they didn't think it was fair that the black people got rights. In conclusion, Rosa is one reason why we have fair rights on buses.

*Finn*

Alvin Alley impacted Civil Rights for African Americans by including eight black dancers in his company. He performed dances around the country where he learned many different dances. As a result he shared his new learning with others. He taught jazz, hip hop and ballet. This means he helped others learn how to dance. To sum it up, his decision to help young dancers find their dreams helped all races.

*Callie*

Frida Kahlo was a female artist that inspired other females around the world and made an impact on women's rights. Frida had polio when she was six and got hit by a bus when she was eighteen. This showed that she is positive and strong. Frida embraced painting and did not stop. Painting was a way for her to express her feelings. This is because she was a female painter and this was a time when women did not paint professionally. Frida became famous. This is because she traveled around the country, the USA, then the whole world noticed. Frida Kahlo died at 47 and her home got transformed into an art museum.

*Ariana*

Mary Anning grew up in poverty. She grew on the Great Britain Shores. She found the fish lizard skeleton. She made some money off of it. Next she helped many women become Geologists and inspired women. After that she found the plesiosaurus skeleton. Scientists thought it was fake. They later found that it was real. Later they got put in a museum. Lastly, she died in 1994. She later became an iconic woman.

*Neymar*

Jane Goodall discovered behavior by studying chimpanzees. She had no training when she started studying. This shows that she was smart enough and worked hard. She was the first woman to study chimpanzees. This means she persevered to get there. She spent her late teens and early twenties saving money to go to Africa. This shows she really wanted to go to Africa.

*Audrina*

Helen Keller faced challenges and made an impact on women's rights. Helen became blind and deaf because of an illness when she was a baby or around one and a half years old. Her mother hired a special teacher. That teacher was Annie Sullivan. Annie helped Helen spell words with bumpy letters. As Helen grew older she began writing and helping people like her. She traveled the country giving money for her foundation. Helen encouraged wounded army soldiers to not give up.

*Savannah*



Eugenie Clark studied shark behavior and the oceans. Eugenie Clark was a very successful fish biologist. She was a scuba diver who found sleeping sharks in Mexico. She has been very successful and found several types of fish and one is called Mosal sole. Eugenie Clark moved to Florida in 1955. Then she became founder of Cape Haze Marine Laboratory. Even at 92 she is still a diver.

Ava

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly a plane in 1939 and inspired other women. She wasn't sure what to do. So this means she can get an idea about being a pilot. She then decided to go do medical research that involved planes. So this will give her experience for flying planes. When she graduated from high school she wanted to fly a plane. This can help her become a pilot. Amelia would have a lot of experience for flying planes. Amelia Earhart accomplished a lot in her life. Amelia inspired a lot of women in her life. This means that other women would fly planes. She broke lots of records in her life. She was the second person to fly across the Atlantic Sea. This would cause other women to also try to break records. Amelia was a great pilot. After her last flight she went missing. Then after she was declared dead. Amelia Earhart inspired a lot of women in her life.

Camden

Michelle Obama was a role model for women in the late 1990's. Her father had survived multiple sclerosis which had affected her early life as a child. She did not quit when she and her father had problems. Overall, she was a brave little girl. She helped a lot of people to make them do the right thing with their lives. She was on the National Honors Society and she was a student council treasurer. That's hard to get into in the 1990's. Because she was an African American. Overall she was very accomplished to be able to be accepted into the clubs when she was growing up. She was the first African American first lady. She was a leader to African American women when she was the first lady. In conclusion, she is one of the most important first ladies to this day.

Garrett

Eleanor Roosevelt traveled the world to help people in need. First, she helped her husband when sick. Roosevelt volunteered to many organizations. She helped poor children and women. Roosevelt was helpful, giving. This shows she was caring. Roosevelt was determined to make a difference. Next Roosevelt helped around the world to places to help wounded, sick, she helped write the Universal Declaration. This document insured all humans around the world should be treated right. No government can take rights away. Everyone should have rights to vote and have people have better lives. In conclusion, she wrote books on women's rights, she fought for equal rights for women, black people. This supports people and women's rights. Women need equal rights as men do.

Olivia

Danica Patrick was the fastest race car driver who made history. The Indianapolis 500 is a very famous race where you drive 500 miles. When it started women weren't even allowed to watch. Around 1970 women were finally allowed to compete. Danica Patrick was one out of four women who ever completed the Indianapolis 500. She came in third place and made history. Because of her many women got inspired to start racing cars.

Nora

Malala Yousafzai got the right to education in Pakistan for girls. Malala was exposed to the importance of education at a young age. When she was not allowed to go to school she spoke out. Eventually her father spoke out as well. They became a father-daughter duo. While they were doing that the Taliban got terribly upset because of this she got shot in the head. She will always be an icon of schools all around the world.

Elliott

Marie Curie discovered two medicines and won two awards in physics. She had a very sharp memory and was raised by two teachers. She was a very intelligent women who in 1924 met Pierre Curie.

Callie

Frida Kahlo made an impact on women's rights by showing that women can do anything including painting. Frida started painting in the hospital after she got in a bus accident. She had to have her leg amputated and had to use a back brace. She got hurt many times but still embraced painting. Frida became famous quickly for being a female painter. This shows she worked hard and was brave because at the time in Mexico women didn't professionally paint. It encourages other females and Mexicans to never give up. Frida Kahlo is a symbol of Mexico and feminism. She would have never become a famous artist. But she never quit. That's why people look up to her passion and persistence for painting even though she was sick.

Finn

## SCOUTING NEWS

March was Cabin Campout month for our Troops. March 21 – 23 was spent at JN Webster scout camp in Ashford. Here the Troops work on improving scout skills such as knot tying and fire building. Also, a camp wide activity was planned to teach the kids how to navigate using GPS to locate hidden golden eggs full of candy. On Saturday evening, a cross over ceremony was held near Goss Pond to welcome in the Arrow of Light Cub Scouts moving up to our Troops. The food drive held on April 5 was a great success, bringing in 1015 items. *Thank you*

### TOWN WIDE YARD SALE

It's that time of year again to encourage "Unity in the Community" with our annual Hampton Town Wide Yard Sale! Friday, June 20th and Saturday June 21st For further information please call: Terri Warner *Deadline is May 23, 2025.*

Land line/ no text messages  
860.465.9166  
Thank you!



# HAMPTON'S MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

May 26, 2025

Grand Marshal—Jamie Boss

- Pancake breakfast (8-9:30 am)—Hampton Congregational Church
- Assembly in front of the Hampton Congregational Church....9:00am
- Step off from the Hampton Congregational Church....9:30am
- Program, Speakers and recognition of our Veterans—Town Hall...10:15am  
(In the event of rain, the program will take place at Hampton Elementary School)
- Video Presentation: My Year in Vietnam 1968-1969....11am—1pm  
Hosted by Grand Marshall Jamie Boss in the Town Hall Community Room...  
*rain or shine*
- Horse show will follow the Memorial Day Program at approx....11:00am
- Complementary Ice Cream will also follow the Memorial Day Program
- Little River Bridge Naval Ceremony (bottom of Hammond Hill)....12 Noon
- Chicken BBQ at the Community Center....11:30am-2pm
- Concert: Bar Stool Diplomats....11:30am-2pm

## **ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ** **at the Community Center**

**Adults \$17, Vegetarian \$12**  
**Kid size \$10**

**Includes: Chicken or Veggie option,  
potato salad & coleslaw, dessert & beverage**

**Preorder by May 19th 959.242.4442  
or [hamptongazette@yahoo.com](mailto:hamptongazette@yahoo.com)**



# Auntie Mac Dear

What a blast we had at the karaoke event! How can we get some more stuff like that going in town?

*Love to Party!*

My Dear Neighbor:

While Auntie Mac can neither confirm nor deny that she was at the recent well-attended and much-praised karaoke night, it was reported by many, including Lars, that the event was an overwhelming success. At first resembling a high-school dance, with wallflowers aplenty eyeing the empty stage, after a few brave souls bared their vocal chords to friends, neighbors, and complete strangers, the musical floodgates opened and it was a rare party-goer who did not eventually succumb to the lure of the microphone. Be that as it may, some wished for additional genres (Beatles, Metal, 50s, punk, etc.) and demonstrated enough interest to hopefully spur the re-invigorated rec commission to schedule another night in the near future.

But make no mistake—these events don't spring effortlessly and fully formed, Athena-like, from the heads of their creators; they take planning, dedication, and no small amount of volunteer time. That said, if you are indeed interested in having more such activities be available in town, as well as additional entertainment (theatrical events, movie night, talks from far-away mystics who promise salutations from long-dead aunts), by all means join a committee and volunteer to help out.

Auntie Mac remembers that not too long ago...well, maybe it was indeed long ago—she is easily misled by the passage of time—the Community Center hosted Saturday Game Night, organized not by an official “committee” but by average citizens like yourself, in which anyone could come to the Center from let's say 5pm to 8pm on Saturday night, games in hand, and rustle up a round of competitive Scrabble, cutthroat Risk or Monopoly, calming but hilarious Apples to Apples, a few hands of Hearts or Texas Hold 'Em, or, if it had been invented then, perhaps a little Cards Against Humanity. In other words, dear, you don't have to wait for a committee to inject another several doses of levity into the Hampton social scene—you are perfectly free—and encouraged—to do so yourself.

But do reach out to the Hampton Rec Committee—they have a very informative Facebook Page and recently hosted a meeting on March 13 to share ideas. Auntie Mac urges you to step out of the line of appreciative but demurring wallflowers and belly up to the karaoke machine of entertainment leadership. Hampton needs more cheerleaders—you may have found your calling.

*Your Auntie Mac*



## RHUBARB CUSTARD CAKE

*Unsurprisingly, even people who are not fans of rhubarb tend to love this cake.*

Preheat oven to 350°F, grease and flour 13"x 9" pan.

Ingredients:

- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 4 Cups chopped rhubarb, rinsed and drained, unpeeled
- 1 Cup granulated sugar
- 1 Pint heavy cream

### Instructions:

1. Prepare cake batter according to package directions and pour into the prepared pan.
2. Spread the chopped rhubarb evenly over the top of the cake batter.
3. Sprinkle sugar evenly over the rhubarb.
4. Pour heavy cream (unwhipped) over the sugar.
5. Bake 50-60 minutes; till cake springs back when lightly pressed.

### Notes:

- i. The cream, sugar and rhubarb sink to the bottom, forming a custard layer.
- ii. If you prefer to make a favorite “from scratch” yellow cake, pretty much any 3-egg recipe will do, but having done it both ways it is difficult to taste the difference.
- iii. Rhubarb can be harvested in season and frozen—do it in 4 cup batches...then thaw overnight in the fridge, drain (it will be a little mushy at this point, avoid the urge to squeeze it dry) and let it sit a while to get rid of some of the extra moisture. Frozen rhubarb works very well.
- iv. Have tried this recipe with other fruits and nothing works quite as well as rhubarb, though well drained home-canned peaches and fresh berries perform okay...just okay.

*Bob Grindle*



 **American Red Cross**  
**Blood Drive**  
**Sponsored by**  
**Believers Mennonite Church**  
**at Hampton Town Hall**

Meeting room - Lower level  
164 Main Street, Hampton

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**



# FOREST & FIELD

## CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY CENTER AT POMFRET

218 Day Road

May 2 **Peter Mayer Folk Music Concert** 7PM

May 3 **Nature Journaling: Observing Spring**  
1:30–3PM

May 4 **Beginners' Bird Walk** 8AM

May 8 **Tree Pests and Pathogens** 6:30PM

May 9 **Freidman Forest Bird Walk** 8AM

May 11 **Mother's Day Bird Walk** 8AM

May 11 2 **Pumpkin Hill Bird Walk** 8AM

May 14 **Gellert Preserve Bird Walk** 8AM

May 15 **16<sup>th</sup> Annual 20 Warbler Day** 6AM – 2PM

May 17 **Long Pond Bird Walk** 8AM

May 19 **19<sup>th</sup> Annual 90 Bird Day** 6AM – 4PM

May 23 **Hillandale Bird Walk** 8AM

May 24 **Bird Banding Demonstration** 9AM

May 25 **Union Bird Walk** 8AM

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

May 31 **Boston Hollow Bird Watch** 8AM

## AT TRAIL WOOD

93 Kenyon Road

Fridays **Trail Wood Walking Club** 1 – 3PM Weather and trail conditions permitting, join us on Fridays for a walk through the trails. Contact us if you would like to be on the reminder list.

May 7 **Trail Wood Troubadours** 6 – 9PM Join a group of acoustic music lovers to play popular songs written when the Teales lived at Trail Wood, 1959–1993. Registration is required; space is limited to 10 participants.

May 11 **Mother's Day Walk** 2 – 4PM Registration is requested for this special walk along the trails with mom.

May 16 & May 28 **Trail Wood Bird Walks** 8AM Come hike the trails at the Nature Sanctuary and look for, listen to, and identify birds.

May 18 **Opening Reception: Art in the Balance** 2 – 4PM Inspired by Big Read book selection, *The Bear*, ECSU students and alumni were challenged to create pieces made of natural materials to blend with the surrounding environment. Meet the artists and enjoy the beauty of Trail Wood.

June 1 **Edwin's Birthday Celebration** 2 – 5PM Take a tour of Edwin Way Teale's study and his writing cabin, and enjoy some birthday cake in celebration of the Pulitzer Prize winning naturalist.

To register, or for additional information, please call 860-928-4948 or email [trailwood@ctaudubon.org](mailto:trailwood@ctaudubon.org).

## JOSHUA'S TRUST

May 3 **Maypole Celebration at Joshua's Trust Atwood Farm** 2–4PM

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

May 10 **Contemplative Walk at Joshua's Trust Knowlton Hill Preserve** 10—11:30AM

Join Debra Pallatto for this guided walk in Ashford, stopping for contemplative reflections along the way.

May 17 **Nature Walk at Joshua's Trust Rankin Preserve** 9 – 11AM

Registration required for this 1.5 mile hike with Master Naturalist Deb Field which winds through forest, wetlands, and swamps and provides a glimpse into how Nature reclaims lands formerly farmed and mined for gravel.

May 18 **Opening Day at the Joshua's Trust Gurleyville Grist Mill** 1 – 5PM

Guides will be available to give tours of the mill and the extant machinery used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century water-powered mills. The grist mill will be open from now until mid-October on Sundays from 1 to 5 PM.

Join us for a visit to the site of a recent Joshua's Trust forest management project, with discussions of the benefits and challenges of reestablishing a healthy ecosystem in a preserve stressed by disease and human impacts, and stewardship issues. Visit <https://joshuatrust.org/events/> for registration, details, updates and cancellations.

## PEST AND PATHOGENS

Pests and pathogens are ubiquitous in Connecticut woods, but their impacts vary greatly. Frank Cervo, State of Connecticut service forester for our region, will discuss some of the most significant insects, fungi, and diseases plaguing our trees on May 8 at 6:30P at The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Road. The program is presented in collaboration with the Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association (ECFLA). Admission is free for CAS and ECFLA members and \$5 for non-members. While registration is requested (call 860-928-4948), it is not required.

Connecticut Audubon Society's interest in the forest ecosystem is explained by its mission to protect birds and other wildlife and to conserve habitats. It's in the trees that the lives of birds and those of insect pests intersect. In the short term, there may be immediate benefits for some birds. Bay-breasted, Cape May, and Tennessee Warblers eat spruce budworms, a native tree pest. Cuckoos are one of the few birds that eat the hairy caterpillars of spongy moths, a non-native pest, which a few years ago, killed so many oak trees in our area. Eventually, however, many habitat changes caused by pests and pathogens are detrimental to the breeding success of forest songbirds.

Pests and pathogens are factors in determining forest structure and composition. Tree species are a key variable in bird species distribution, i.e., certain birds prefer to forage, nest, and shelter in some trees more than others. For example, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers are among a group of bird species associated with hemlocks. What becomes of them as our trees are decimated by hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect native to Japan? Will they breed only north of us, where winters might be cold enough to slow down or kill the pest? Or will they utilize non-native Norway spruce trees?

The presentation will include a description of what we can expect in the aftermath of insect pests and diseases, many of which are not native to North America. When that is the case, our trees often have little resistance to them, since they did not evolve together. Frank will cover potential pest management strategies to deal with the woodland disturbances and prepare for the future. One of these has been used at the Center at Pomfret, where hemlock trees along the ravine trail are threatened. The Center has purchased and released a beetle that preys on the woolly adelgid. There has been some success in managing the infestation with this biocontrol approach.

Sarah Heminway

*The Connecticut Audubon Society protects Connecticut's birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy.*



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**Judy & Richard Schenk**  
46 Old Kings Highway  
Hampton, CT 06247  
860-455-9654  
brightacresfarmct@gmail.com

**Bright Acres Farm**  
**SUGAR HOUSE**  
HAMPTON, CT

Self-Serve Stand  
Open 7 Days a Week  
Maple Syrup  
Maple Products • Eggs

Find us on Facebook @BrightAcresFarmSugarHouse

## NIKKO OIL, LLC

High Quality Heating Oil & Dyed Kerosene

**ORDER ONLINE**  
**NIKKOOIL.COM**

**860.822.1188**

**860.564.9746**



**LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE**  
**Robin Thompson, RN**  
Integrative Health Coach  
Mindfulness Teacher  
Seasonal Workshops & Events

[www.eastandwestoftheriver.com](http://www.eastandwestoftheriver.com)  
**860.942.9046**

Accepting...  
ACCESS & TVCCA



Low COD Prices  
Senior & Large Quantity  
Discounts

HOD #1089 Canterbury, CT



**COUPON**

**\$5 OFF\***

**A PURCHASE OF  
25 GALLONS  
OR MORE!**

\*\$2000 OIL • Can Not Be Combined  
Pleasee Read the Coupon When Redeeming



**WEDDINGS - BRIDAL SHOWERS - BABY  
SHOWERS - REUNIONS - ANNIVERSARIES -  
HOLIDAY PARTIES AND MORE...**

**CALL OR EMAIL US TODAY**  
**860.377.4816 or stonehursthv.com**



**119 Providence Tpke, Hampton CT • [www.stonehursthamp顿valley.com](http://www.stonehursthamp顿valley.com)**



## Vintage Revisited



Spring is a great time to add some unique pieces to your home decor! We are open for the season May 16, 17 and 18, 9:00 - 3:00, here

at the farm. Come on over & browse our collections of vintage glassware, textiles, toys, farmhouse, kitchenware, paper ephemera and wall art. You must need a new bird-house or feeder too. Always something new and trending. 45 Station Road; follow signs.

The Hampton Gazette  
PO Box 101  
Hampton, CT 06247

PRESORT  
MARKETING MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WILLIMANTIC CT  
PERMIT NO 37

### DONAHUE GENERAL CONTRACTORS

RESIDENTIAL ♦ COMMERCIAL

PROVIDING QUALITY AT A COMPETITIVE PRICE  
SINCE 1954

Excavation Specialist ♦ Underground Utilities  
Grading ♦ Land Clearing ♦ Demolition  
Driveways ♦ Drainage ♦ Site Work  
New Septic Systems & Repairs

*Licensed and Insured*

P: 860.423.0618 / F: 860.455.9670

[office@donahuegc.com](mailto:office@donahuegc.com)

93 Windham Road  
Hampton



### DAVE GARCEAU EXCAVATING, LLC

FREE ESTIMATES - FULLY INSURED

- Video Pipe Inspection
- Septic Inspection
- Driveways
- Trenching
- Septic Systems
- Oil Tank Removal
- Drainage
- Site Work



**860-455-0432**

[d.bgarceau@yahoo.com](mailto:d.bgarceau@yahoo.com)

Chaplin, CT

Lic. 005261/564902



Quality ♦ Expertise ♦ Service

860-753-2200

Owner: Vernon King Email: [kingsonr2020@gmail.com](mailto:kingsonr2020@gmail.com)

Keeping our community  
warm since 1930



**POTTER'S**  
Oil Service, Inc.

Oil Fuel, Propane Cooking Fuel  
& Heating System Services

**860.423.1684**