

# NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 3, No 7

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

July 2014

Article by;

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## Why I

## Love Cemeteries

Every night, weather permitting, our family climbed the hill to Stoneham, MA's Lindenwood Cemetery, swung open the green, wrought iron gate, & descended the rough macadam to the Civil War Memorial. There, eight, monstrous, black siege guns, scabbed with rust, faced the South in an imposing arc.

The Memorial Day Parade came past our house. Vets as far back as the Spanish-American War rode in convertibles. Admiral Byrd, the Artic explorer, was often in one of them. Kids raced alongside the cars to the memorial where we'd get grape popsicles.

On the evening walks my sisters & I shinnied to the cannon ends, & our father, smoking his nightly cigar, lifted us down. Sunday afternoons we visited St. Patrick's Cemetery, on the road to Winchester, where Dad's parents & our infant brother were buried. We'd stand & pray, as Dad said, "Nobody knows you're gone except your family."

Visiting Aunt Marion in rural NH, we explored the small graveyards, often adjacent to the barns. At 3 I rode my father's shoulders in the dark to see one. The marble stones glowed at night, as if lighted from within.

Lindenwood Cemetery bordered the Unicorn Golf Course. I walked the fence, retrieved the errant golf balls & sold them, 5 for a dollar at one of the tees. The neighborhood kids skied the graveyard's hills in winter & raced our Radio Flyers in summer. Nobody ever bothered us except the older kids, who scared us with stories of corpses coming to the surface & people being buried alive.

I struggled for a long time with



*Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road  
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being & non-being, here & not here. Poe's stories didn't help. I made peace with Death in college classes with George Creeger, whose time draws to a close at Cobalt Lodge. We studied Life & Death with Byron, Thoreau & Emerson, & my fears evaporated.

Nancy Geisey died recently. We met at the Hadlyme North School, introduced by Joan Holbrook. Nancy, outgoing, vibrant, her husband George, quiet, thoughtful. Soon they were at St. Stephen's, the land trust, the historical society, the Senior Center. A decade ago, she suffered a stroke. Deb & I sent her postcards of town sites, to keep her connected to what she loved. For years Nancy saved the NYT's crossword puzzles for Deb because Nancy had an innate sense for the small things that enrich our lives.

I visit cemeteries as places of celebration. In Old Lyme is the Duck River Cemetery. Ted Etherington, who handed me my college diploma, is buried there with his family. Many of the artists from the Florence Griswold Museum have flush, polished, black marble markers on "Artists' Hill." Mountain Laurel surrounds painter William Chadwick's stone, & the blossoms cover it like snow, sometimes deep enough to shovel. Ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson's headstone is at the back. It has a hollowed birdbath, & talismans across the top.

In East Haddam's Rose Farm Preserve, just south of Ray of Light Farm, is the Second Burying Ground. (As a child I visited Boston's Old

Burying Ground often—Sam Adams, Paul Revere, & James Otis reside there.) The preserve's colonial brownstones have eroded to dinosaur teeth buried in the forest.

I bike to the Hungerford & Parker Cemeteries on Mill Rd. They occupy hillslopes overlooking streams that empty into Whale Bone Cove. Henry Parker & his wife are buried within sight of the house & mill that were their lives. Mrs. Parker was the daughter of the mill owner & married Henry when he came to work for her father, who is also in the cemetery.

The Hamilton Sisters, famous for their contributions to education & medicine, are buried in the Ferry Road Cemetery, which looks out over Whale Bone. I sit on the stone bench by the sisters & watch the redwing black birds & swallows alive across its waters. Thomas Nason, who illustrated many of Robert Frost's first editions, is just inside the stonewall, with his wife Margaret.

Ever since we bought Rose Farm in 1970, two blank marble headstones lay on the cellar floor. Roger Straub & I turned the 300-pounders over this winter & found they were carved. One for "Sarah Eliza, wife of Caleb F. Rose, Died May 7, 1866, AE 20." The other for "John S. Hallock, Died April 27, 1873, Aged 47."

Sarah, who lived in our house, is buried with all the other Roses, Holmes & Daniels behind the Hadlyme Congregational Church. Caleb married Sarah's sister, & both lived well into the last century. John, from 3 houses south, lies in Bridgehampton, LI, with his wife who died the same day. No one has as yet explained how the stones arrived in our cellar. When the ground softened, Roger & I installed both at the back of our orchard. I have my own cemetery now.



## July Birthdays

- 1 Mary Halish
- 2 Millie Michalski
- 4 Kaleen Fazekas
- 6 Ann Garrity
- 7 Helen Soja
- 8 Sara Maena
- 9 William Welton
- 10 Jean Burdette
- 12 Vicky Riley-Pach
- 16 Vicky Graham
- 19 Hazel Kiner  
Kay Novinski
- 20 Eleanore Gauvin
- 21 John Paardenkooper
- 22 William Shaw
- 23 Rosalie Hoffman  
Gary Piehl
- 26 Norman Jamieson
- 31 Jeanette Clark

## Birthday and a Movie

Is it your birthday this month? If so, come celebrate with us...on us...for free. Our birthday party includes lunch, home-made birthday cake, and a movie.

Birthdays are not meant to be a secret, but, they are meant for surprises. Our surprise every month is the flavor of the cake and the movie selection. This month's birthday party is: **Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.**



## DOOR PRIZE

Sign in every time you come to the Center to be included in the drawing.

**May Drawing:** Suzanne Bostelman \$10.00 gift card to Hilltop BBQ Steakhouse  
Drawing is held on the last day of each month.

## Did you know.....

Jansky Rubbish Removal of East Haddam has been one of the Senior Center's most ardent supporters. Since 2005, Jansky has been providing their services "free of charge" to the Senior Center. We encourage all our members to support this business.

**THANK YOU, Jansky Family!**



## Shopping Schedule Changes

Beginning in July, the bus will go **shopping on Tuesdays only.** Wednesday is being discontinued.

If ridership is not high enough, the schedule will be revised to every other Tuesday. Fee: \$3.00. East Haddam Food Bank will be included each week. Please see the schedule below. Note that there are 5 Tuesdays in July; a trip to Willimantic has been added.

### Tuesday Bus Schedule:

- July 1: Glastonbury Shop-Rite
- July 8: Saybrook Walmart,  
Stop & Shop,  
Ocean St Job Lot
- July 15: Glastonbury Shop-Rite
- July 22: Cromwell Walmart,  
Xpect
- July 29: Willimantic Price-Rite,  
Ocean St. Job Lot;  
lunch Royal Buffet

## Game Night is NOT just for TV

Game night is back! Join us at the Senior Center for our own version of Game Night. Come alone or bring your own group. In the past, "gamers" have enjoyed a variety of card and board games. Billiards table is available as well as horseshoes. Better than the television version: we will have food and there will be no commercials! **Free & open to all. Tues, July 15. Pizza will be served. Tuesday, August 19th. Make your own sundae. 6 pm – 8:30 pm.**

## Bingo



**Bingo** will be held this month on **Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Lunch and bingo for \$5.00 or just bingo for \$3.00. Please sign up in advance.

### Senior Services Coordinator: Brad Parker

Assistant: Susannah Griffin

Café Manager: Peg Ziobron  
Program Coordinator &  
Trip Coordinator: Alice Sabo

Ed Gubbins; Bus Driver & social  
media guru

Medical Car Driver:  
Mickey Pear

Noises Newsletter Editor:  
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Brad Parker

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Kitchen; 860 873-5197

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### Center Hours

**8 am - 3 pm weekdays**



Thank you to.....

Joe Sina for conducting the Photography Discussion on June 9. Fourteen people are now on their way to taking better photos.

Joe has graciously offered to meet with anyone who would like a "one-on-one" consultation. Just give us a call at the Senior Center if you would like a tutoring session!



A VERY BIG.....

Thank you to Darlene Dunbar for driving us around while Ed was goofing off on vacation!

Darlene is an excellent driver. We all enjoyed her outgoing personality and her dedication to having fun! Her continued support of the Senior Center is greatly appreciated!

## Friends of the Center

This month we thank:

Barb & Elliot Borent:

cash donation

Wilson Brownell:

cleaning products

Deb & Charlie Farrow:

cash donation

Nancy Geysen: tablecloths

Bob Mather: quilting materials

Pat & Jim O'Brien: coffee

Corrie & John Paardenkooper:

printer

Dave Van Cedarfield: coffee

Elaine Woods: yarn



## Medical Equipment Lending Closet

Are you, or someone you know, in need of a cane, commode, walker, wheelchair, etc.? If so, contact the Senior Center. We may have just what you need. There are no fees of any kind for these items. Keep what you need for as long as you need. If you have medical equipment that you no longer need, we will happily take it off your hands to include in our community "lending closet".

## Walking Club Update

For the months of July and August, the *Walking Club* will walk at 9:00 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at Heritage Park. All ages are welcome and all levels of ability and speed.



Along the path, there are 3 benches for resting and 4 "exercise stations", each one focusing on different parts of the body. Walking is "good medicine" – helps to lower blood pressure, shed pounds, decrease stress, and reduce the risk of heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. Plus, walking is free, takes place outdoors with nature, and is a social affair.

Just show up and help us wear out the walking path!

## The Senior Center is air conditioned!

Our hours are 8 am – 3 pm, Monday through Friday. If, or perhaps we should say when, there is a heat wave, we will stay open later because we are a community "cooling station". Keep in mind that we serve lunch every day (just reserve yours by noon the day before). So, come on down to stay cool.

## Senior Center Trips



Two fabulous trips that take advantage of the great outdoors. Call for more information. All trips are open to the public.

**Buttonwood Farm Road Trip** No, they do not grow buttons! They grow sunflowers.....fourteen acres full! July is the peak month of sunflower explosion, specifically the week of July 20th. The farm is located in Griswold, CT. We are going to check it out. Walk one of the many trails or hitch a ride on a tractor-drawn hayride or just sit and marvel at the sight. Since opening in 1998, this family-run farm has been making more than three dozen signature ice cream flavors. Also on the menu: yogurt, sorbet, homemade waffle cones, and hotdogs. The trip will include a restaurant stop (to be determined that day) for lunch. Admission is free; bus is \$5.00; lunch is dutch. **Wednesday, July 23. Bus departs the Senior Center at 10:30 am.**

**Pumpkin Festival Keene, New Hampshire** Spend the day enjoying nature. Outdoor band shell with live entertainment. Food & Craft Court. Street performers. Grand Pumpkin Illumination of 30,000 pumpkins....you can even bring your own carved pumpkin to include in the "tall tower of pumpkins"! Lunch at Chandler's Restaurant. **Saturday, October 18.**



## Are You Prepared?

A representative of the *Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley* will be at the Senior Center to lead a discussion on "Medical Decisions – When They Count the Most". If faced with a health crisis, would your family know your wishes? We know someone who can help: Deborah Ringen, RN, MSN, Faith Community Nurse, will lead an interactive session to explore the process of healthcare decision making. Techniques will be offered to encourage conversations about healthcare wishes. This program is free and is open to the public. **Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm.**

# Nathan Hale Pharmacy



During the next 3 - 4 months, the entire pharmacy will be undergoing renovations, but will remain open, "doing business as usual".

The old bank will be the temporary location for the following items: Hallmark Dept. – all cards & all gifts, candles, jewelry, picture frames, clearance department.

## Flea, Tag, & Bake Sale

The Senior Center will be hosting a town wide yard sale at Heritage Park. **Vendors are needed.** Space will be available for \$10.00. Tables not provided. Contact the Senior Center for information.

The Senior Center will be selling baked goods, hotdogs, & beverages. Those wishing to volunteer the day of &/or wish to bake for the sale, sign up or call. **860-873-5034. Heritage Park, Sat, Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>am</sup> – 2<sup>pm</sup>.**

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4<sup>th</sup>  
of  
July



The Red Hats spent a lovely day at the Barker Animation Art Gallery, Cheshire, CT.