

News of Other Villages

From time to time we like to share what we hear about what other Villages are up to, as we learn from the Village-to-Village Network. Northwest Neighbors Village in the Washington DC area recently celebrated its ten-year-anniversary. Like the Greater Newburyport Village they started small and have grown from the first 22 members and 30 volunteers to more than 250 members and 140 volunteers today.

Among their many programs are classes such as watercolor painting and meetings with specialists on a wide range of subjects for members and the community at large. Recent programs included coping with tax changes and a discussion about finding qualified caregivers. Members also enjoy outings to various local and regional museums and out-of-town jaunts up and down the Coast—and even to Bermuda. They have expanded their activities for younger members and volunteers, such as coffee chats about transitioning from full-time employment to other activities, including volunteering.

Meet Member Ann McCrea



Ann joined the Village after hearing about it from several friends. She finds as she gets older, it's especially important to get out and about. She has enjoyed Village outings like the Essex River cruise and the Members' Holiday BBQ: "a great way to start the holidays!" She appreciates having a community of people who help each other in various ways, and though she has not yet used these opportunities, she looks forward to ways she may become more involved, both as a recipient and a provider.

A resident of Newburyport since 1980, she taught Kids Art programs in her Pleasant Street studio for 30 years, and through CLAY WORKS combined storytelling with teaching kids sculpting at area libraries.

Now retired, she participates in several groups at the Unitarian Church, an ongoing poetry workshop, and a poets' support group. Her poems have been published in several journals, and she reads regularly at area open mics. She has produced a book of light verses about animals, with drawings by Nina Tanis (available at Jabberwocky), and another of her collages and haiku.

Ann likes to walk and enjoys travel, especially to visit family—two great nephews in Baltimore and her sister-in-law in Albuquerque. She finds that visiting exhibits of artists, new and old, at galleries and museums, inspires her art.

A show of her cards and artist's books, combining her poetry and photos, will open at the Tiny Gallery of the Unitarian Church with a reception on March 10, from 12 to 3 pm, to which Village members and the public are invited.

Editor's Note: In our January newsletter we invited members to a members-only haiku workshop Ann is giving on Feb. 7 from 1 to 3 pm at the Central Congregational Church, Newburyport. Learn more at the Village's website—and don't forget to register soon, as space is limited.

Upcoming Events

See Website for more info!

Village Talks Open to the Public at Newburyport Senior/Community Center:

February 20, 1-2 pm.

"Exploring Alaska: Nome, Denali, and the Kenai Peninsula" with Bill Gette (see story, page 2).

March 20, 1-2 pm. "Newburyport's Irish Community: A Film" by Jean Doyle.

For Village Members and Volunteers (and guests):

February 12, 1-2:30 pm, Village Lunch at Park Lunch, Newburyport. (Separate checks as usual.) RSVP by Feb. 10.

March 12, 6-7:30 pm, Village Dinner at Family's Chinese Restaurant, 139 Elm Street, Salisbury. (Separate checks as usual.) RSVP by March 8.

For Village Members Only:

February 7, 1-3 pm, Haiku Workshop.

February 28, 4:30-6 pm, Village Going Deeper Series Session Two (see story, page 2).

To Contact the Village

For information:

call 978-206-1821

email:

info@greaternewburyportvillage.org

visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org

For member services:

call 978-206-1821

email a service request to:

services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

February 20 Village Talk: Exploring Alaska: Nome, Denali, and the Kenai Peninsula

Bill Gette has led seven travel programs to Alaska for Mass Audubon. On one of his most recent trips, he and his participants visited the Anchorage area, the gold rush town of Nome on the Seward Peninsula, world-renowned Denali National Park, and the Kenai Peninsula. Bill will take you on a photographic adventure through the Seward Peninsula where he will show us photographs of historic gold mining operations, musk ox, long-tailed jaegers,

short-eared owls, and red-necked phalaropes. In Denali National Park, he'll take us for a hike across the tundra and show us magnificent wildflowers, caribou, and brown (grizzly) bears. On the Kenai Peninsula, Bill will share his close encounters with whales, sea otters, and bald eagles.

Bill is the Founding Director of Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport (1996 - 2015).



Our Village's Mission

To promote living well and independently for a lifetime through community engagement and a network of neighborly support.

Village Going Deeper Series: Session 2: Talking to Loved Ones About End-of-Life Wishes

Our Going Deeper Series explores in depth a variety of issues and concerns on the minds of Village members. This second session will be on February 28, 4:30-6 pm at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center.

Talking to loved ones about their and your end-of-life wishes can be a challenge for a wide variety of reasons. Please join us to explore ways to make it work better for you and for those you love. The session will be facilitated by Rev. Joel Grossman, Director of Spiritual Services at Constellation Hospice, Newburyport. Please RSVP, as space is limited, and be sure to cancel your reservation if you are unable to attend.



The Member Connection

Margo Casey writes, "Is anyone interested in playing a slow game of chess with me for fun? I learned chess in my teens and would like to try it again." To reply to Margo, go to the Member Directory for her contact information. If you forgot how to use the Directory, call the Village Concierge. If several people express interest, we can look into forming a chess group.

The Member Connection is a place to ask other members about sharing interests and suggesting meet-ups. Send similar notices to membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org

We Want To Know If you know a member or volunteer who is facing surgery, a loss, or an important milestone, let the Village know so we can acknowledge it appropriately and offer help as needed. Please call 978-206-1821 or email membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org.