

# Voice of the Village

March 2020

Volume 5, Number 3

Building a network of neighborly support

# Member Care Team Launches *Villager Voices* – Recordings from You!

Everyone has a story to tell, a loved one to memorialize, a remarkable event that is worth sharing. Now Village members and volunteers can record a story, a poem, or a remembrance, and share it on the Village website with other Villagers and distant family members.

Every month the Village Member Care team meets to discuss ways to reach out to Village members, asking questions such as Who is having a birthday? Is someone sick, hospitalized, or in need of a little extra attention? Might someone whom we have not heard from in a while need a call? The idea of hosting a tea party for Village members born in the 1920s came out of one of these meetings. After that event, one of the team members commented on what interesting lives these members have led and what wonderful stories they told. Thus came the idea to record Villagers' oral stories and post them for all to enjoy.

Our website now has the first three stories available for your listening. Hugh Kelleher explains how the Greater Newburyport Village got started. Shirley Gabaree recalls the early days of her marriage when her fiancé returned from WWII and she worked at the M.I.T. Instrumentation Labs. Bill Franz talks about Hurricane Carol that struck the east coast in 1954 and how his family evacuated Hampton Beach. You can find these stories on our website at www.greaternewburyportvillage.org. Open the About Us tab, scroll down to Villager Voices, and select the story you would like to hear.







If you are a Village member or non-member volunteer who wants to share a memory, story, or poem you have written, call the Concierge at 978 206-1821 or email membership@greaternewburyportvillage.org and someone from the Member Care team will get back to you about recording your story.

#### 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

#### To Contact the Village

For information:

call 978-206-1821

mail:

info@greaternewburyportvillage.org visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org
For member services:

call 978-206-1821

email a service request to:

services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

## **Upcoming Events**

See Website for more info!

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

Wed. March 18, 1-2 pm. "Ten Myths About Medicare and Medicaid" with Margot Birke, Elder Law Attorney. (See detail on page 2.)

Wed. April 15, 1-2 pm. "An Afternoon with Theodore Roosevelt" with Lee Thomas.

For Village Members and Volunteers:

Tues. March 17, 6 - 7:30 pm, Village Dinner at The Black Cow, 40 Merrimac St., Newburyport. (Separate checks as usual.) RSVP by March 13.

For Village Members Only:

Wed. March 4, 12 noon, Candlepin Bowling at Gametime Lanes, 84 Haverhill Road (Rt. 110) in Amesbury. RSVP no later than March 1. (See detail in February newsletter.)

Village Going Deeper Series: (See details on Village website.) Wed. April 1, 4:30 – 6 pm "Minimalism Workshop: How Decluttering Can Create Space for More Life"

Wed. May 6 and May 27, 4:30 – 6 pm Two-Session Workshop: "When It Comes to End of Life Care, Talking Matters"
Wed. June 3, 4:30 – 6 pm
"How to Talk with Your Doctor"

### Save these Dates:

Tues. April 21 Village Dinner Thur. April 23 Village Town Hall Tues. April 28 Museum Trip Tues. May 12 Village Potluck See website for more info.

### Thank You, Volunteers!

(A new newsletter feature sharing comments from Village members who have received volunteer services.)

Our experience with the volunteers has been excellent. I am the only driver in the family now. There was a period last year when, due to various problems we faced, primarily medical, I was hard pressed to deal with all of the normal household chores and deal with shopping and other off-site matters. I talked with Bill Franz and Elizabeth de Grenier, and they arranged for volunteers to bring us a dinner every week. The volunteers were marvelous, the food excellent, and they helped us through a difficult time. I will not hesitate to call for such help when I need it next – and, approaching age 90, I'm sure there will be a "next." Thanks again!

### **News from Members**

Village members John and Florence Mercer are volunteers for the Wilson Music Series and wanted to let everyone know about the upcoming last concert of the season. The



Craft Ensemble with oboist Nancy Dimock will perform a program entitled "London Calling: Music for Strings and Oboe," including works written from 1927 to 2001 by composers Benjamin Britten, Elizabeth Maconchy, Emily Doolittle, and Arthur Bliss. This program, the final concert in the 2020 Jean C. Wilson Music Series, will be presented on Sunday, March 8, at

4 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 26 Pleasant St., Newburyport. Suggested donation: \$20 general admission, \$10 seniors, students and children free. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.frsuu.org/jean-c-wilson-music-series/">https://www.frsuu.org/jean-c-wilson-music-series/</a>

If you are a member or volunteer of the Greater Newburyport Village, we'd like to hear and share what else you're up to! Send a brief description to services @greaternewburyportvillage.org and as space allows, we'll include it here in our monthly newsletter.

## **Village Drop-In Center**

The Village has been making progress toward opening a Village drop-in center where members and volunteers can gather. We have found a potential site, raised over half of the necessary funding, and started building a cadre of volunteers to staff the center. But we need your support to make it a reality!

If you can help in any way—volunteer a few hours or contribute a few dollars or some furnishings—we would like to hear from you. Please visit our Village website, or call us or email us at info@greaternewburyportvillage.org. And be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming town hall meeting on Thursday, April 23 at 4:00 pm at the Senior Center, where we will update you on our plans. All members and volunteers are welcome. Please join us!

## Margot Birke to give Village Talk



In March, elder law attorney Margo Birke will guide us through complicated long-term care myths and realities of Medicare and Medicaid. Margot founded Elder Law Solutions in 2002 to focus on the intricate legal needs of older adults and disabled individuals. She has extensive experience as an advocate, mediator, and volunteer and speaks frequently about aging and disability in order to empower people with the information needed to make informed choices.

# Our Village's Mission

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

Some of the 62 Villagers at the Village's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brunch









