

Haston Highlights

Preserving Our (Pandemic) Memories

How have you been dealing with the pandemic? Have you worked from home? Were you laid off or furloughed? Did you have to oversee your kids' schoolwork while the schools were closed? Have you been getting more exercise or less? And what about face masks?

As part of our Preserving Our Memories grant project, the library is making a video record of the ways that North Brookfield citizens have been coping with changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. With CARES Act funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the library was able to purchase a video camera and lighting equipment for creating videos.



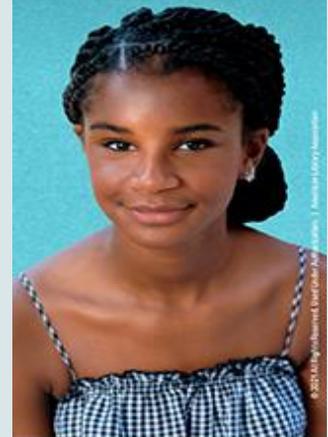
Library Director Dawn Thistle is behind the camera, asking questions like the examples above. The resulting short videos, generally no longer than 15 minutes in length, will be archived, and we'll compile a "highlights" video from excerpts from the individual videos.

All North Brookfield residents are invited to participate. Naturally, we would like to involve as broad and diverse a group as possible: different ages, ethnic

[See Interviews, p. 3]

**LIBRARY
CARD
SIGN-UP
MONTH**

**Celebrate
with
Marley Dias!**



ALA American Library Association

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday:	1 PM—7 PM
Tuesday:	10 AM—5 PM
Wednesday:	9 AM—7 PM
Thursday:	1 PM—6 PM
Saturday:	9 AM—12 PM

Haston Highlights

Dawn Thistle, Editor

REMARKABLE REPTILES

On August 17 the library was visited by some remarkable reptiles from Rainforest Reptile Shows from Beverly, Mass. Thirty-four people of all ages learned about the habits and habitats of four large reptiles, as well as several smaller reptiles and amphibians. Kristen, Rainforest Reptile's presenter, used humor as she told us about each animal. First we met a tortoise named Daisy, who loves brussels sprouts. Next up was Pluto, a black and white tegu lizard almost 4 feet long. Kristen invited a couple of children to touch Bella, the boa constrictor. They were surprised to find that Bella was not at all slimy! The fourth star of the show was Peanut, an alligator. To our surprise, Kristen removed the safety tape from around his jaws and showed us how he only opens his mouth when sensors around his mouth are touched by something. After replacing the safety tape, everyone in the audience was invited to pet Peanut (carefully, of course!)



In addition to teaching us about these remarkable reptiles, Kristen also made the point that they are all rescue animals that had been abandoned by their owners. Rainforest Reptile Shows is a reptile conservancy with more than 1500 animals that they have rescued and now care for.

We all had fun meeting these awesome reptiles and hope to have them visit again soon!

This program was supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



[Interviews, cont. from p. 1]

groups, family and work situations, as well as different roles within the North Brookfield community. The interviews held so far have illuminated a variety of coping methods and attitudes toward the changes of the past year and a half. If you'd like to share your experiences on video, please call Dawn at the library number: 508-867-0208.



Summer Reading activities

Summer Reading Wrap-Up

The children's summer reading program wrapped up on August 21 with a fun-filled party. Games like ring toss, and "Pin the Tail on Pete the Cat" were available for the kids, as well as some summer themed crafts. At the end of the party, we chose the winners for our summer reading prizes, which included Barnes and Noble e-gift cards, a Brookfield Orchards voucher, an Old Sturbridge Village pass, and Subway vouchers. Congratulations to all of our lucky winners: Lily Nydam, Penelope Piazza, Ryker Hubacz, Emma Holmes, Penny Oumette, Marley Shea, Henry Howarth, Gracey Dufresne, and Sofia Carreiro!

We truly have some reading superstars in our midst. Thirty-six children signed up for the program, with 20 regularly visiting the library with their book logs. 200+ books were read by our participants this summer! Wow! We thank all of those who signed up this year, and we can't wait to see you next summer for even more reading fun! And even though summer reading is over, story time is sticking around! Join us in the Children's Room every Tuesday at 10:30 for a story and a craft.



Haston Art Club Needle Felting



On August 9 ten people furiously poked wool over and over again to create awesome little owls. Brianna Lamb guided the group in this needle felting technique



Denise Pontbriand, Claudia Forgit and Hannah Forgit



Shelley Fullam, Kathy Pasierb, and Nina Koksansky

until everyone had completed a bird.

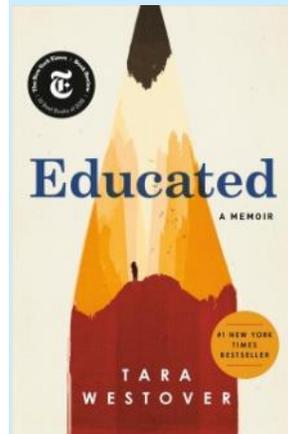
The Haston Art Club's next meeting will be on September 13 at 5:30 pm. Lou Meierdierks will return to the library to show us how to make a simple sewing kit. A \$5 registration fee will cover all materials. Please call the library at 508-867-0208 to register.



BOOK GROUP NEWS

This month the Haston Library Book Group is reading *Educated* by Tara Westover. "Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". *Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention... With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-

age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it." *Good-Reads*



We'll be discussing the book on September 28 at 7:00 in the library and via

ZOOM. Copies are available in the library, so come in and get one! Call the library (508-867-0208) for more information and/or the ZOOM link.



Henry the Juggler, July 31



VOTER REGISTRATION

September 28 is National Voter Registration Day. Are you registered to vote?

There are 4 ways to register:

1. In Person —Just go to the Town Clerk’s office!
2. By Mail—The library has Mail-In Voter Registration forms available.
3. Online—If you have a Massachusetts driver’s license or ID, go to: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> to fill out the online application.
4. Automatic registration—If you are a U.S. citizen applying for or renewing a driver’s license or state ID at the RMV, or applying for health insurance through MassHealth or the Commonwealth Health Connector, you will be automatically registered to vote, unless you opt out of registering.

Register, then exercise your most important right as a citizen: VOTE! For more information, go to: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm>

LEARN TO PLAY UKULELE!

On September 21, at 7:00, Julie Stepanek returns to the Haston Library with her collection of ukuleles to teach us all how to play!



Join Julie as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You’ll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you’ll be able to play songs! No experience is necessary. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of Julie’s.

Registration is required as

space is limited. Please call the library at 508-867-0208 to sign up.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

BOOK SALE, ETC.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the



Friends of the Haston Free Public Library Book Sale on August 28. It was quite a day, thanks to the helpers and everyone who stopped by to browse and buy books! If you missed it, the Book Sale continues on the lower level of the library for the next few weeks. Please stop by!

The North Brookfield Cultural Council’s plant swap of houseplants and fall-planted perennials was enjoyed by many area gardeners. The Friends of the Town House offered arts activities, and the music provided by the DeeGees really added to the festive atmosphere.

It’s great when different groups can come together to offer a special event for North Brookfield!

September Programs: “Preserving Our Memories”

September 9 at 7:00 pm in the library:



Find Your Ancestors—And Become a Good One Yourself! With Seema Kenney, Genealogist

Finding where our immigrant ancestors came from is exciting and important. Learn how to start building your family tree: where to research, how to track your research, and questions to ask living relatives.

And, while you may feel there's nothing important or noteworthy about your own life, sometime within the next 100 years, someone who is researching their own history is going to want to know more about you, too!

September 14 at 7:00 in the library and via ZOOM:

A Private View of the Past With Amy Hietala, Old Sturbridge Village Research Librarian

We will examine communication between families, courting couples, and friends across the 19th century landscape. What did our predecessors discuss about their daily lives? How do their thoughts help us to understand history today? What do we learn about the private thoughts of individuals? Come, see and learn about some special items from the Old Sturbridge Village collections.



To register for either (or both!) of these programs, please call the library at 508-867-0208. Space is limited. To receive a ZOOM invitation for *A Private View of the Past*, please send an email request to illnb@cwmares.org.

These programs are part of our Preserving Our Memories project, part of the Virtual Programming for Distance Learning grant program paid for with CARES Act funding to the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.