

Haston Highlights

Welcome Library Director, Amy Vessella!

On March 1, we will welcome our new Library Director, Amy Vessella! Before coming to North Brookfield, Amy was a reference librarian at the Gale Free Library in Holden, and prior to that, she enjoyed several different roles in public libraries. She has been a children's librarian (2007-2013) and a library technician (2013-2021). She writes newsletters, communicates via social media and loves to keep library collections up-to-date with judicious weeding of outdated materials! She is also currently working towards completing an accelerated Master's degree in Library and Information Science through the University of Southern Mississippi.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling the world with her husband, spending time with her daughter, cruising in her 1978 Ford F-150, and attempting to befriend the crows in her backyard.

"I am looking forward to working at the Haston Free Library because, as a former resident of North Brookfield,

[Vessella, cont. on p. 3]



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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



The Softer Side of Celtic **with Jeff Snow**

Join us on **Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00** to get ready for St. Patrick's Day with a delightful program of traditional and original tunes, songs and stories!

Celtic Culture is woven deeply throughout the fabric of America and especially so in the Northeast. ***The Softer Side of Celtic*** combines the music, stories and a wee bit of history from Scotland, Ireland and England into a program that will keep you on the edge of your seat. There will be singing, laughing, clapping and perhaps a bit of foot stomping. The concerts are interactive; questions and input from the audience are encouraged and become part of the event. The typical concert features music on the guitar, bouzouki and autoharp.

Growing up as the son of a drummer in a bagpipe band and in a home where older Celtic songs were the everyday sounds, Jeff developed a love for the music of Scotland, England and Ireland. His concerts have been described as "quiet and relaxing" and much of it is, but sometimes he'll break out and the foot stomping begins.

Jeff Snow is a talented multi-instrumentalist who plays the music and tells the stories behind the songs. He plays six and twelve string guitar, auto-

harp, Celtic Bouzouki & Bodhran. Jeff also plays the drums and a variety of other percussion instruments. A skilled guitar player, he was featured in Acoustic Guitar Magazine and is a contributing writer to Acoustic Guitar Magazine and Autoharp Quarterly.

Jeff has performed for audiences of all ages and in a variety of settings including concert halls, libraries, museums, churches, schools, and private homes. Here's what his listeners say:

"Musician and raconteur Jeff Snow combines the music, stories and a wee bit of history from Scotland, Ireland and England into a concert event that will keep you on the edge of your seat."— *wicked-local.com*

"Jeff Snow brings the rich tradition of classic Celtic music to life. His vibrant arrangements of the classics blend perfectly with his original Celtic compositions." —*Joseph Carvalho III Retired President, Springfield Museums Springfield Ma.*

Please come and hear him for yourself! For more information, call the library at 508-867-0208

This program is 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.



Shibori Dyeing, January 9

Pictured are Mary West, Gwen Bertrand, Linda Hart, Denise Lessard, Patrice Bartkus and Becky Ikehara with their gorgeous creations.

[Vessella, cont. from p. 1]

I know how wonderful this small town is. I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve this community and to carry on the amazing work that Dawn has done throughout her tenure as Library Director.”

Stop by and meet Amy, and don't be shy about sharing your ideas and suggestions. She is eager to engage with all of you!



Spring is Coming!

What better way to celebrate spring than to lift a glass with friends? Join us on **Thursday, March 23 at 6:00** at **Agromy Farm Vineyard** in

Oakham to taste their delicious wines!

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Tickets are \$20 per person, limited to 20 people. Call to reserve your spot: 508-867-0208!



Haston Art Club

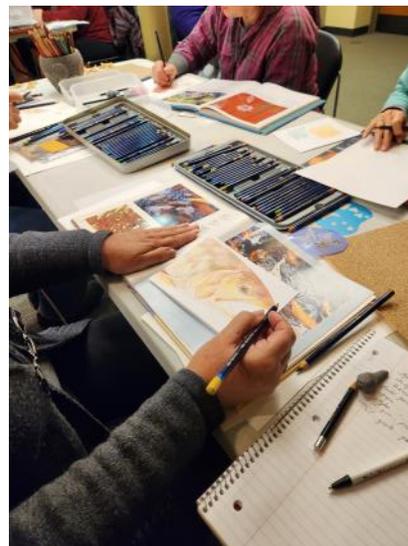


COLORED PENCIL WORKSHOP

On February 22, twelve eager artists joined Barre artist Mathilde Duffy for a colored pencil workshop. Duffy instructed them in colored pencil basics along with shading and texture techniques.



Mathilde Duffy explains a drawing technique to Ellen Carpenter, Elisabeth Hyder, Edna Holloway and Laura Maguire.



Unlike many of our craft workshops, this one required no fee to participate. Mathilde donated her time and supplies in memory of her brother. She explained, “Charles Duffy was a librarian, historian, rare book dealer and my

dear brother. Once a year I celebrate his birthday by giving back to the community. I miss him dearly and wish to give this art workshop in his memory.”

Thank you so much, Mathilde, for this lovely gift of a wonderful workshop! Everyone had a fabulous time.

Yes, Spring IS Coming—It's Time to Start Your Seeds!



On **Thursday, March 16** at **5:00 [note the date change!]** Roberta McQuaid (Turley Newspapers' *In The Garden* columnist) will take us from sowing to germination to transplanting—just in time for you to get your seeds started!

In this hands-on workshop, Roberta will provide you with all the tips and tricks of the trade in terms of indoor seed starting, from properly timing your sowings, to using necessary props, to fertilizing and watering in the early stages, and finally hardening-off your seedlings. Specialized treatments for hard-to-germinate seeds will also be discussed. Each participant will sow a seed pack to bring home, and try their luck at growing!

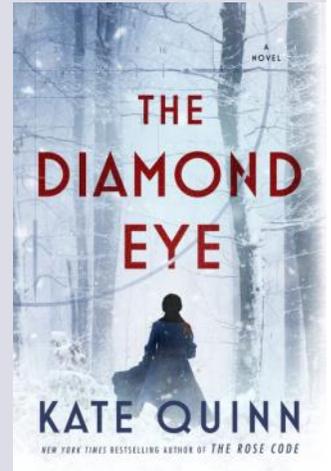
For the last 32 years, Roberta McQuaid has been the Staff Horticulturist of Old Sturbridge Village, where she grows nearly 200 varieties of plants for use in and around the Village. Since 2004, she has also authored the '*In the Garden*' column for Turley Publications. In her spare time, Roberta enjoys growing food, fruit and flowers in her home gardens.



BOOK GROUP NEWS

This month the Haston Library Book Group is reading *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn.

“In the snowbound city of Kiev (now known as Kyiv), wry and bookish history student Mila Pavlichenko organizes her life around her library job and her young son—but Hitler’s invasion of Ukraine and Russia sends her on a different path.



Given a rifle and sent to join the fight, Mila must forge herself from studious girl to deadly sniper—a lethal hunter of Nazis known as Lady Death. When news of her three hundredth kill makes her a national heroine, Mila finds herself torn from the bloody battlefields of the eastern front and sent to America on a goodwill tour.

Based on a true story, *The Diamond Eye* is a haunting novel of heroism born of desperation, of a mother who became a soldier, of a woman who found her place in the world and changed the course of history forever.”—<https://www.katequinnauthor.com/>

We’ll discuss the book on **March 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.

From the editor:

This is my last *Haston Highlights* newsletter before retiring! It has been a pleasure to share the library information and events with you. Thank you for reading, making use of our services, and attending our events! I’m sure I’ll see you around!—Dawn

PRESERVING OUR MEMORIES:

North Brookfield Residents Talk about the Covid-19 Pandemic

All the way back in 2021, the library received a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to provide programming and create a video record of North Brookfield residents' feelings about the pandemic. Seventeen people agreed to be interviewed and responded to questions about how their lives had changed, starting with the shutdown in March of 2020.

These video interviews have been professionally edited by North Brookfield native, Josh Allen, who organized them by themes, including school, work, business impacts, stress relief, and positive aspects, among others.

The edited videos are available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5DnXoiMG8rzzHDlY6SzGY5Jk-PT6bcbf>

The full, unedited, interview videos are saved in the library's Local History room.

Thank you to all the interview subjects, the library staff, and all the North Brookfield people who have supported the library in many ways over the years.

These video interviews were made possible by a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Preserving Our Memories: North Brookfield Residents...
North Brookfield Public Library
Unlisted
14 videos 12 views Updated today

Play all Shuffle

Welcome to Preserving Our Memories: North Brookfield Residents Talk about the COVID-19 Pandemic. We hope that viewers will empathize and relate to the experiences and feelings described by our interview subjects, and that future researchers will learn from them. These video interviews were made possible by a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

- Stress Relief (6:20)
- Work During COVID-19 (8:41)
- School During COVID-19 (6:50)
- Hardest Parts of the Pandemic (3:42)
- Positive Aspects of the Pandemic (4:58)
- Business Changes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (4:26)
- Life Lessons (5:50)
- Welcome to 'Preserving Our Memories: North Brookfield' (4:39)
- How the North Brookfield Library Dealt with the Pandemic

New Museum Pass: Basketball Hall of Fame!

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, we now offer discounted passes to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield. “The Basketball Hall of Fame has it all! Hundreds of artifacts, exhibits, interactive games, skills contests, museum store and even a number of on site restaurants. Make the Hall of Fame your perfect day trip destination.”

Each pass is valid for 6 discounted daily admissions: Adults: \$17, Seniors: \$15, Youth: \$12

Stop by and borrow one soon!



Haston Library Children's Room

March Storytimes

Tuesdays 10:30 am



March 7



The Lion's Paw
by Jane Werner
Watson

Lion's Mane
Mask Craft

March 14



Green Shamrocks
by Eve Bunting

Shamrock
Necklace Craft

March 21



When Spring
Comes by Kevin
Henkes

Spring Crown
Craft

March 28



999 Frogs Wake
Up by Ken Kimura

Frog Craft



161 North Main St,
North Brookfield MA
508-867-0208 blamb@cwmar.org