

# The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Editor & Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting & Mailing: Pat Keith

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

## Friday Night Café

On February 9 the Café celebrated Valentine's Day with the Lonesome Brothers providing dance music. This is a fun dance every year. On February 23, Sarah Stockwell-Arthen brought her guitar and lovely voice to the delight of a large crowd.



Left: Sarah Stockwell-Arthen

Right:  
Lonesome Brothers  
and the Valentine  
Dance

Upcoming programs:

March 9—Radio Free Earth

March 23—Louise Mosrie

April 13—Sean and Heather

April 27—Larz Young

May 11—One Part Luck

May 25—Jack Swindlehurst

June 8—Season Finale

1968—50 Years Later



## March at the Village Church

March 4—Service 10 AM—Norma Jean Haynes leads, Annual meeting follows. Please come!

March 9—Radio Free Earth at FNC

March 18—Service 10 AM

March 23—Louise Mosrie at FNC

## Indigenous Voices in the Berkshires

On April 28, from 1:00–3:00 PM, Doug Harris is offering a presentation on the Ceremonial Stone features in our landscape. It will be at the Cummington Community House, Main St, Cummington, MA and the event is FREE, and wheel-chair accessible. Sponsored by Mass and local cultural council grants. Information 413-634-2254, khalbrecht57@gmail.com.

Mr. Harris, is the Deputy Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, with 20 years of training and service.

His work was a key factor in listing “Prayer Hill” in Turners Falls, MA with the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

He helped create the “determination of eligibility” for the stone landscapes in the eastern U.S.

There are many stone features of historic significance to Native civilizations here in the region that are unrecognized, misunderstood and need to be protected. Some of these connect out to Ohio and beyond.

## Maple Days at Bryant Homestead

Curious to learn how sugaring was done during Bryant's era? Take a walk back through time at the Bryant Homestead and celebrate rustic New England life on Saturdays March 3 and 10 during our Maple Days! The activities run from 8:30 AM to 2 PM.

The day's activities:

Eat delicious pancakes in the homestead's dining room and parlor. First come, first served! (But there is plenty to do while you wait—see below!)

Before or after breakfast, walk to the site of the property's 200 year-old sugar bush and witness a 19th century boiling demo with Dennis Picard.

Tour the house and get a special look at France Bryant's cook-book. Learn about the history of sugaring in New England with our special exhibit area featuring antique and tradition items used for maple syrup production.

Peruse our gift shop where locally produced crafts and items will be available for purchase along with our very own “From Tap to Table” cookbook featuring maple-inspired recipes!

Feel transported to 1865 and experience New England life the way Bryant did during one of our region's most beloved homesteading traditions.

Members: \$5; Nonmembers: \$10

Contact: [acaluori@thetrustees.org](mailto:acaluori@thetrustees.org) for more info.

## FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

Norman Baker, the late explorer and adventurer extraordinaire, was a friend to many of us here in Cummington. Whenever we chatted he always wanted to talk exploring, and he offered several times to sponsor me if I wanted to join the New York Explorer's Club. Not being the joining type I always passed, but I appreciated his kind offer. He was in attendance and very engaged when I gave my Ancient Mysteries of Stone presentation at the CCH last April in support of the West Cummington Church. The last time I saw him was at the Beatnik Jazz Nite concert last September, also at the CCH. During intermission he made the effort to come over and tell me how impressed he was with the musicianship, particularly the bass player Dave Cristopolis. Norman was just a hip guy.

Deborah Balmuth wrote a nice remembrance that ran in the December issue of Windsor Now and Then, their equivalent to the GWM. I asked her if we could reprint it here and she gladly agreed, so enjoy. And a tip of the cap to Norman for living life to the fullest!

—Mark DeMaranville

### Remembering Norman Baker

One of Windsor's world-renowned treasures—adventurer/explorer Norman Baker—died on November 22, when his single-engine, four-seat 1966 Cessna, which he was piloting solo, crashed in Vermont. Norman had taken off earlier that day from the Pittsfield airport, the home base for his plane. At the age of 89, Norman was continuing to live every day to the fullest, vitally engaged with and enthusiastic about the world and opportunities for exploration and adventure. His passionate spirit and energy were so strong that I'm finding it hard to believe he is gone; his spirit certainly will live on in the inspiration he offered many of us.

Norman loved sharing stories of his incredible ocean adventures when he was the navigator on the Ra expeditions of 1970, accompanying the famous explorer Thor Heyerdahl. Norman and his beloved wife, Mary Ann (who died in 2003), also often told the story of how they restored the Anne Kristine, a 19th century 95-foot schooner, which they sailed and hosted educational

adventures on. The Anne Kristine perished in the Perfect Storm—the first time, Norman noted emphatically, that he had ever let anyone other than himself sail the boat (all the crew were rescued). Many of us were fortunate to hear Norman tell his stories, accompanied by slides and films, at the Windsor Town Hall in years past.

Norman and Mary Ann loved their home on Tirrell Hill Road, where they often hosted lively parties and get-togethers including friends from their sailing days along with local friends. They were generous-hearted people who both embraced every moment of life with energy and enthusiasm.

Norman had an insatiable curiosity about the world and a fearless drive to explore it. Every time I'd see him, he'd have a new story to tell about his latest travels, from backcountry canoe outings to perilous ski trips. Some years back, he invited several Windsorites to accompany him to the Explorers Club in New York, where we were awed by the three-story brownstone in the heart of Manhattan filled with memorabilia from some of the most famous and adventurous expeditions around the world. Norman was revered and in his element among these other explorers who shared his insatiable desire to take on extreme physical challenges in pursuit of seeing and experiencing more of the wonders of the natural world.

Norman Baker was always up for a new adventure. I recently found a sweet note Mary Ann had written many years ago (in the late 1990s) with her submission of a news item for WN&T, saying: "Would it be of interest to let people know that Norm is performing at Lincoln Center in the New York Metropolitan Opera's Carmen—doing 16 shows—not singing, not dancing, but riding a fine horse across the stage—he's on stage twice—in one act as a Picador and another a soldier—he's living it. I wonder, is it the start of a new career for my adventurer? Maybe they'll want him to fly an open cockpit plane in some opera?"

From traveling for 57 days across the Atlantic in a reed boat to trotting across the stage of Lincoln Center on horseback and piloting his Cessna plane across the skies of New England, Norman exuded confidence, strength, and a contagious and inspiring exuberance for reaching new heights and exploring new depths of our amazing world.

—Deborah Balmuth

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## Chi Gung

Hilltowns resident Michael Alterman will be teaching a weekly class in Taoist Water Method Chi Gung this spring at the Village Church in Cummington. The Taoist Water Method is an ancient system for developing internal awareness, which includes chi gung, tai chi, and meditation.

Opening the Energy Gates, the chi gung set Michael will be teaching, helps people to maintain healthy posture with greater ease, and to release old patterns that cause pain and illness. Consistent daily practice of this form can renew all the major systems of the body, while calming and stabilizing the mind.

Class meets on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and the early spring session begins on March 20. The fee for a seven-week session is charged on an affordable \$20–\$65–\$110 sliding scale, with no one turned away for lack of funds.

Beginners are also welcome to drop in at any time and try a class for free. No pre-registration is required, but it's helpful if people let Michael know in advance that they are planning to attend.

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For more information, please contact Michael at 413-358-6919 or [alterman@speakeasy.net](mailto:alterman@speakeasy.net), or visit his website: [getyourenergyflowing.com](http://getyourenergyflowing.com).

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## Hilltown Scion Swap!

Come to the Cummington Community House on Sunday, March 4th and learn about grafting from 1 PM–3:30 PM

Beginning and experienced grafters are all welcome at this event. You do not need to bring scionwood to attend! This is a great opportunity to learn from local neighbors and get started in the art of fruit grafting and orchard management.

Alan Suprenant, a local orchardist, will be presenting on scionwood collection and storage and offer tips on grafting at 1:30 PM. He offers local workshops in pruning and grafting at his orchard in Ashfield. Come learn about grafting and go home with some local scionwood so you too can enjoy the bounty of a home orchard!

Visit us on our website, [www.hilltownseeds.wordpress.com](http://www.hilltownseeds.wordpress.com), where you will find more information on how to cut and prepare scionwood for this event. Hope to see you there!



# Highlights from the Cummington Community House

For full Select Board agendas and minutes please visit the cummington-ma.gov website

Jan. 1—Cummington has received a Green Community designation. With this designation comes a grant of \$127,245. The goal of the Green Communities Grant Program is to support local communities' investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The action steps include passing zoning laws for siting new renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, adopting an energy reduction plan to reduce municipal energy use by 20% over 5 years, adopting a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy, and adopting the MA BBRS Building Stretch Code to minimize the life-cycle cost and energy use of all newly constructed homes and buildings. Thanks to Bill Adams and the Select Board for their work on this important initiative.

Jan. 25—The Ad-hoc Education Committee is preparing to hold a Special Town Meeting in March to vote on the Transition Agreement to allow Cummington withdrawal from the Central Berkshire Regional School District with conditions. Cummington

will withdraw from the district as of June 2019 pending school committee approval of the Transition Agreement including amendments, a vote of affirmation by the Town of Cummington at a Special Town Meeting, votes of affirmation by at least five other member towns (preferably at their Annual Town Meetings this spring), and approval by DESE of a Cummington Education Plan by December 2018. Upon withdrawal Cummington will pay regular and special education tuition for Cummington students who are currently enrolled in and choose to remain in the district. The Education Ad Hoc Committee has worked long and hard attending meetings, meeting with school administrators in the surrounding school districts, meeting with parents and citizens of Cummington. We thank you for your efforts.

Feb. 8—Alan Douglas and Maureen Tumenas reported that the mapping of the Town for fiber is complete. They are working with Westfield Gas & Electric on spreadsheets regarding length of driveways, access of poles in driveway, potential new growth and interconnectivity with contiguous towns. A pole attachment agreement between Eversource and the Town of Cummington and Cummington Municipal Light Plant Department was reviewed, discussed and signed.

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the April 2018 issue is March 25. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at [mrblooz@verizon.net](mailto:mrblooz@verizon.net) or Pat at [patakeith@gmail.com](mailto:patakeith@gmail.com), mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Visit VC Church website at [cummingtonvillagechurch.org](http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org)



Our Hilltown Community Market  
[www.oldcreamery.coop](http://www.oldcreamery.coop)  
413-634-5560



Member Owner Appreciation Days

# March 12-15th

All member owners receive 10% off any day you choose!

\* alcohol, tobacco, newspapers, and little gallery items excluded.

Not a member yet?

Join your local coop during the month of MARCH & receive a FREE Creamery canvas shopping bag!



**MASS MAPLE WEEKEND is MARCH 17-18TH**  
visit your local sugarhouses and slurp up some real maple syrup!

We'll be serving • Tessier's pure maple syrup • maple mustard roasted chicken • maple mustard baked salmon • maple cream pies • maple roasted squash • blueberry maple oat muffins • maple pecan scones • maple walnut fudge • wheelview farm maple-apple cider • housemade maple candies • housemade maple-sweetened granola



visit [www.massmaple.org](http://www.massmaple.org)

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P.O. Box 76  
Cummington, MA 01026

*Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays 6–8 PM		

If you would like an electronic copy instead of a paper one, include your email on the form below and we will email the Goodwill Messenger to you.

**Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to all Cummington residents**

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

Yes! I would like to subscribe to the Goodwill Messenger.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is my donation of \$10.00 for a one year subscription.

Please make checks payable to: Goodwill Messenger and mail your payment with this form to:  
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