



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
APRIL issue:
Thursday, March
24**
Send news to:
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WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVIII, No. 3

www.friendsofwindsor.com

MARCH 2022

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Windsor Now & Then Guidelines

This paper is a publication of Friends of Windsor, Inc., a nonprofit public organization dedicated to fostering communication and supporting town organizations, welcomes submissions from community groups and members supporting these goals.

This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

To enable us to accommodate as much information as possible, we request that basic news items be limited to about **150 words**. For submission of longer feature articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets (natural setting, people, and community), email fowindsor@gmail.com.

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Sense of Community

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men." – Herman Melville

Do you have a favorite pet you'd like us to highlight? Let us know at fowindsor@gmail.com

FOW News

We hope you're enjoying the expanded content in this issue. We're having fun developing it and would love to hear more ideas for people, places, and activities to feature.

Thank you to our donors this month, and to all you readers for supporting this community paper. It's your support that keeps us going and we're so grateful!

Spring your clocks ahead on March 13. Waiting patiently for the first sound of the spring peepers is something we do well up here in the hills! –*Deborah Balmuth*



Celebrating Windsor's Pets by Leslie Reed

Who: Kira Age: 11
Where: High Street Hill
Sukie and Salem, these cute sisters from Texas, joined the family in January, following the passing of Lulu, their much-loved beagle/Basset Hound. The puppies are a husky/shepherd mix, and are friendly, energetic, and come with small, sharp teeth. Fawn-colored Salem is adventurous while snow-colored Sukie is more cautious.



They are currently going through some Zoom puppy training. Kira loves their playfulness and is looking forward to

taking them on long walks. Meantime the enclosed trampoline in the backyard has proven to be a great playground to wear them out before naptime.

From the Green Committee

We continue to search for ways to save the town money, both through projects designed to conserve energy usage as well as funding those projects through grants to pay for all or most of a project's costs.

As you know, we are overseeing the implementation of three projects at the Town Hall, funded through a Green Communities/DOER grant awarded in September 2021 and through some of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds awarded to the town.

The committee is also researching sources of grant funding for two other projects. We are working with Highway Superintendent John Denno to find a grant to replace the leaking, "well-ventilated" roof on the highway garage. This building currently lacks effective insulation, in addition to having a leaking roof, and any improvements will save on heating costs (and keep everyone drier!).

The committee is also seeking grant funding that would pay for the equipment and installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station that would be located at a central location in town. This station would be available to the public, both town residents and passers-through. We are exploring the installation of stations with level 2 and level 3 charging rates. It is anticipated that offering such a charging station would be of most benefit to people driving through town and to those coming to town, say to visit for the day. --Holly Higinbotham, higinbo@hotmail.com, 413-212-4352

Energy-Saving Tip

While it's still cool enough outside to store your food for a few hours, defrost your refrigerator and freezer before ice buildup becomes ¼-inch-thick to ensure your appliances are running efficiently.

No Rabies Clinic This Year

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Windsor Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. will not be able to sponsor the Rabies Clinic this year. If your pet requires a rabies injection, please contact your regular veterinarian. We thank all the Windsor pet owners and hope to resume the clinic next year. --Charles Riley

Town Clerk Notes

Windsor town government is in a flurry of activity. Finance and Select Board are developing the budget and Annual Town Meeting warrant. It takes time, research and thought. We are lucky to have such dedicated, knowledgeable, and energetic people serving this town.

Wait until you see the new and improved website. Ben Bederson has done a phenomenal job designing and developing the site. He has volunteered his extensive expertise to make the site useful, user friendly and dynamic.

There are so many residents of this Town volunteering their professional knowledge to make Windsor a great place to live. Think about how you could serve your Town. What talents do you have that could be shared?

The Local Election is May 9. Offices with no one running include: Select Board (2-year term) and Finance Committee. Reach out to the SB, Finance Comm., or Town Clerk if you have an interest or question about the position. --Madeline Scully

Reflections from Mame Whelihan Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Frozen Adventure. When life gives you a lemon, make lemonade! When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Two sayings my stalwart friends follow. Off to the frozen lake they go. Fish, here they come. The first were easy to catch as they shivered right onto the hooks. Janet loves to ice fish and enjoyed being surrounded by her family. She was even brave enough to drive out onto the frozen lake. Son Dale's homemade spaghetti sauce makes for a welcome break in the very windy day.

When Janet relates her ice fishing stories, she does so with happy enthusiasm. Is it the thrill of fishing, the company of family, or both? Whatever, it is the highlight of her winter. So, the tough got going and the day became lemonade happy.

And this tough get-goer heads for her heated recliner to catch up on the news as my ever-so-tough friends savor their made-from-scratch spaghetti sauce out on the frozen lake.

What's Windsor Reading?

Book recommendation from Julia Allan

How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith is a *New York Times* 10 Best Books 2021. The book chronicles how effectively different institutions communicate the story of slavery in the United States. Smith separates the chapters according to the institution of which he writes.

The first chapter documents his visit to Monticello. There the reader is introduced to a tour guide who opens the visitors' eyes to the lives of the African American men, women, and children without whom Monticello could not have existed. Rather than the traditional focus on the "Big House" the tour guide asks visitors to imagine the daily lives of the enslaved people upon whose free labor Monticello depended.

In another chapter Smith tours the Louisiana State Penitentiary. There he finds tour guides who have fallen woefully short in effectively communicating the connection between slavery and the U.S. prison system. In a cruel twist, the prison itself was built upon the Angola Plantation, a fact which the tour guides try to evade.

In the final chapter Smith interviews his grandparents and learns their stories of growing up in the South. Smith's grandmother speaks of learning about Emmett Till's murder in a neighboring town and Smith's grandfather speaks of being forced to dance in order to buy a part in a hardware store. Were it not for the intervention of the another customer, Smith's grandfather could have met a fate common to so many African Americans.

In the words of William Faulkner, "The past is never dead. It's not even past".

Bird Tip for March

As spring comes, Eastern Bluebirds will be investigating possible nest sites. This means now is the time to either clean out the boxes that already exist on your property or to install a box (or two or three). Having more than one ensures that if a tree swallow or house wren takes one box, the other is available for bluebirds!

What Was Windsor Reading in 1908?

I always like to know what someone is reading. I feel like I know that person a little bit better as a result. Could it also be a way to better know the residents of Windsor, 1908 edition? That thought sent me wandering the internet investigating titles from the first page of this *Catalogue of the Public Library of Windsor, Massachusetts*, part of the Windsor Historical Commission archive.

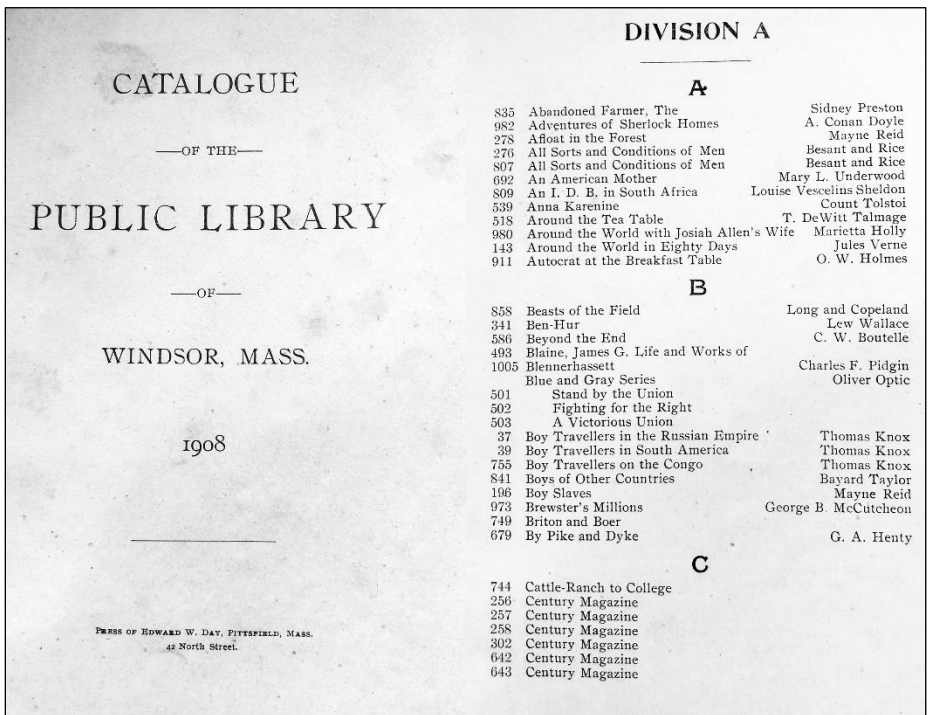
This was the middle of the Progressive Era, a time of social activism and political reform. Women's suffrage was under discussion (though still a few years off), and activists were challenging systems of political patronage.

Here's a title that shows Windsor was in on the cultural conversation: *Around the World with Josiah Allen's Wife* by Marietta Holley. Never heard of her? Neither had I.

But in her day, Holley was considered "the female Mark Twain." Twain and Holley were both hugely popular, and even had the same publisher. Multiple humorous books in the voice of "Samantha, Josiah Allen's wife" took on critical social issues such as the domestic damage done by alcohol abuse; the injustices imposed on women by marriage; and the rights of children. But while Twain remains well-known and widely read, Holley virtually disappeared. Hugely popular woman writer mysteriously memory-holed by the literary establishment – I'm sure "Josiah Allen's wife" would have something sharp and funny to say about that.

Further down the page, we find *Brewster's Millions* by George Barr McCutcheon, published in 1902. This capitalist fairy tale really struck a nerve in a time of rapid social change and growing inequality and continued to strike that nerve for decades. The book was turned into a Broadway play in 1906, and a movie in 1914...1921...1926...1945...and 1985, the version starring Richard Pryor. It is considered the most-frequently-adapted American book of all time. In case you missed them all, the basic story is this: Ne'er-do-well Montague Brewster unexpectedly inherits a million dollars from a rich uncle. If Brewster can spend every bit of his inheritance within a year, he'll get an even bigger fortune -- \$3 million. But if he has even one dollar left, he gets nothing. Brewster, of course, goes for the big win. I won't spoil it for you.

Windsor readers in 1908 might have had a hard time figuring out how to spend a million dollars, but they probably enjoyed the imaginary spree. --Susan Phillips



Digitize Windsor Day Coming in April!

I like old things. That's one of main reasons I joined the Windsor Historical Commission a few years back – to work with the collection of historical photographs and other materials pulled together over the years. I love being able to look back in time and imagine the era of one-room schools, horse-drawn mail wagons (that apparently were better able to navigate Windsor's roads than today's mail trucks), sugar eats and square dances at Town Hall, and more.

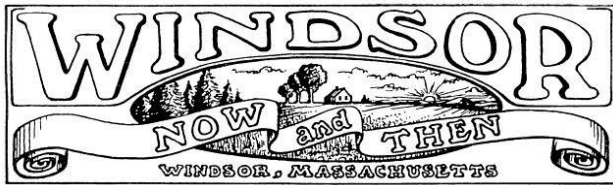
Then I discovered the decades-long archive of "Progress", the monthly newsletter put out by the Progressive Club of East Windsor. This is a treasure trove of Windsor and Cummington history, trivia, advertisements, birthday wishes, household hints, recollections of the Ball Mill, all-night dances and oyster suppers.

The problem is: old things get worn. Pages turn yellow and brittle. Time, light, and moisture do their work. One goal of WHC right now is to preserve this collection and share it with the community and the public. With that in mind, we recently purchased a CZUR document scanner to take the first steps towards digitizing Progress.

Volunteer Glenn Roy has mastered this amazing machine, and is quickly turning Progress into searchable PDF files, starting with the oldest issues from 1952. As that work continues, we're exploring the best way to make the digital files accessible. Meanwhile, Windsor, do any of you have documents or photographs you'd like to digitize, but don't have the necessary equipment? The Windsor Historical Commission hopes to schedule a "Scan Day" event in late April at the town hall, with three or four flatbed scanners for photographs and negatives, the super-speedy CZUR document scanner for documents, and volunteers to push the buttons. **Tentative date is Sunday, April 24, from 2 pm until 4 or so.** Please get in touch if you'd like to help.

--Susan Phillips

MARCH 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270



Artist Corner

Many of us know **Susan Phillips** as a member of our town's Historical Commission, scanning and fixing old photographs from years past and updating our understanding of Windsor's history. She is also co-editor of *Windsor Now and Then*. However, did you know that Susan is a versatile artist, who expresses her vision through line drawing, painting, and photography?



Susan's love for photography's intricate processes grew while in she was in college taking photography classes and working in the darkroom. In the 1980s, Susan worked as a *Berkshire Eagle* reporter, writing and photographing news stories. Later, her photographic passion grew further while traveling in Africa where she photographed awe-inspiring lions and tigers, and other animals in their natural environment.

When Susan and her family moved to Windsor, her work capturing images of nature was further inspired by the drama and colors of the changing seasons.

Most recently, Susan has become fascinated by the historical photographic processes of cyanotype and gum bichromate printing. She experiments with favorite images, printing them repeatedly using different colors to create varied moods from the same photograph. The resulting work is compelling, leading many viewers interested in learning more about the printing processes. Those interested will have a chance later this year, as Susan plans to hold workshops in cyanotype printing at Town Hall.

--Cindy Efinger



Phillips made these prints using large negatives of her own photographs and a 19th-century process called gum bichromate printing.

SEND US YOUR STORIES! – Do you have a story to tell? Expertise to share? A new project or business to promote? Get in touch with your submission, or to ask for our help pulling your story together. Contact Susan Phillips at susanphillips@fastmail.fm.