

## NEW SALEM NEWS – September Newsletter

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### 1794 Meetinghouse Presents Latest Dorothy Johnson Play

*Country Store: A Radio Play for the Stage* will be performed at the 1794 Meetinghouse on the Fridays and Saturdays of September 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7:30 pm and Sunday afternoon September 20 at 2:00 pm. The numerous characters in the cast are played by actors from New Salem, Amherst, Orange, Shutesbury and Leverett. *Country Store* takes place in a 1940s general store somewhere in rural central Massachusetts—say in New Salem. There are a few songs, one written with Johnson's lyrics by Andy Lichtenberg of Pelham whose collaborations with playwright Johnson have illuminated Meetinghouse performances since the early 1990s debut of the Meetinghouse itself.

Johnson's concept for *Country Store* allows her actors, including comedienne par excellence Dee Waterman of Amherst, to hold scripts in hand while onstage narrative unfolds. With minimal music, it aims to evoke pleasures understood in 1940 before World War II as America emerged from the Depression in an age when no one imagined that anyone would carry around a smart phone.

Janet Paoletti of Athol will accompany the players any time they sing a song taught to them by Carolyn Brown Senier of Orange. Johnson encourages potential audiences to look forward to *Country Store* children's rendition of George M. Cohan's *It's a Grand Old Flag* and, of course, the entire cast's version of Lichtenberg's *How I Love My Radio*. A few radio jingles, old-timey product ads relegated to song with no other illustration, will enhance *Country Store*, including one specially composed by Paoletti.

Players include Ricardo Conde, John Ryan, Hugh Field, Judy Jewett, Susan Arnold, Bo Henderson, Janet Henderson, Marilyn Adams, and David Van Iderstine, Genie Casey, Peter Frost, Axel Larson, Joseph Greene, Jean Clayton, Henry Frost, Jean Derderian, Wendy Greene, and Nicole Sears, Lisa De Witt, Ta Mara Conde, Sara

Thayer, Mica Van Iderstine, Tessa Yohan, Hannah Dupont, and Aileen Fitzgerald, Ricky Phaeuf, Laura McGinness, Katie McGinness, Abel Wasilaski, and Clare Wasilaski (New Salem). Out-of-towners include, Dee Waterman (Amherst), Candi Fetzer (Orange), Mike Ross (Shutesbury) and Danielle Woodley (Leverett).

Johnson directs Country Store with behind-the-scenes support from producer Ta Mara Conde (producer), Genie Casey and Kate Jansyn, (costumer consultants), Hugo Frost (lighting), Carolyn Brown Senier (musical assistant), Janet Paoletti (pianist), Linda Pisano (stage manager). Brian Casey and Ricardo Conde (sound effects) and Marcia Gagliardi (production assistant). Johnson offer special thanks to Swift River Valley Historical Society. Proceeds benefit the 1794 Meetinghouse.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for 13-17 year olds and children are free. They are available from cast members, at the door, at the New Salem General Store and online at [www.1794meetinghouse.org](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org).

### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hilltown Brewfest – Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

The New Salem General Store and sponsors once again present a tasting of 30+ brands, offering a wide variety of styles of craft beers, wines, cider, and spirits. Many of these offerings are made by fine micro/craft brewers and winemakers in the Quabbin and Pioneer Valley region or by similar craft producers across New England. In addition to beverage tasting, there will be live music, local foods, cigars and raffles. As in years past, all net proceeds will be donated to local fire departments to augment their budgets!

The 8th Annual Hilltown Brewfest will be held (rain or shine) from noon to 5:00 pm on Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at Cooleyville Junction, 837 Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202) in New Salem. This annual event has quickly become the fastest-growing Brewfest in the area with past years' attendance exceeding 1200 beer enthusiasts! Admittance to the event is \$25.00 at the gate or by advance ticket purchase at the New Salem General Store, Stan's Liquor Mart, The Blind Pig Pub, Amherst Glass and online at [www.hilltownbrewfest.com](http://www.hilltownbrewfest.com). Designated driver admittance is encouraged and remains at \$10.00. Commemorative T-Shirts are available onsite the day of the event or for advance purchase at the Brew Store at [www.hilltownbrewfest.com](http://www.hilltownbrewfest.com). Free parking is available onsite and buses and bikes are always welcome. Please note, there is a "No Pets" policy again this year. Be kind to your pet - leave them home, not in your car! Directions, tickets and more information may be found online at [www.hilltownbrewfest.com](http://www.hilltownbrewfest.com). Hilltown Brewfest remains a family friendly event allowing children under 12 with a non-drinking parent. However, it is an event for those 21 years and older and no teenage patrons will be allowed admittance to the event. See attached press release for a list of participants and music groups.

### **New Salem Library News.**

*Lego Club:* The Lego Club resumes its weekly program on Tuesday September 1st at 3:30 pm.

*Pizza and Pages:* On Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 6:00-7:00 pm *God's Warriors* by Michelle Paver will be discussed. The New Salem General Store will be providing the scrumptious pizza.

*Teens and Tweens:* This group will be meeting on Wednesday on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and

every Wednesday from 1:30-5:30. It is open to kids 11–18, from any town! Call 978-544-6334 for more info.

On September 16th we're having a survival workshop at 3:00 pm. Learn the construction of the warmest yet simplest survival shelter on the planet – the debris hut

- Discover how to coal-burn a wood bowl and rock boil
- Unlock the mystery of primitive fire making with the bow drill
- Learn at least four edible/medicinal wild plants that are abundant throughout North America and are available year-round
- “Lost proof” yourself and your children
- Learn the components of a pocket survival kit
- Learn what EDC items are and why everyone should have them

*The Library for All Seasons:* The Library for All Seasons, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, will hold its autumnal event on Tuesday September 22 from 3:30-5:00 pm at the Library. This is a program for all ages and kids coming straight from school can arrange to take the bus to the library that day. Snacks will be served.

*Book Discussion Group:* On October 21, Wednesday, at 7:00 pm. The next book is *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese will be discussed. Books are available at the now.

The New Salem Public Library has two bulletin boards to the left of the front desk as you enter. One lets you know what the Friends of the Library has been up to in its mission to support the library, and the second one gives regular library programming information. Be sure to check these out. On the third wall on the left near the end of the desk is a list of new titles available on our shelves.

*Computer Help:* Sue Dunbar is available for one-on-one computer help anytime, but especially on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. Please ask Sue if you are having a computer problem or would like to learn a computer program, such as Excel.

*New Museum Passes:* The New Salem Public Library has received two more museum passes as donations from the Clark Institute in Williamstown and the Brattleboro Museum in Brattleboro VT. Please check the availability of these and our other passes purchased by the Friends of the New Salem Public Library at the front desk. The Friends of the New Salem Public Library have also recently funded a Butterfly Museum Pass. Please call to reserve your pass.

### **Friends of the New Salem Public Library**

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library would like to remind all members that they are welcome to attend meetings, offer suggestions, and volunteer to help us with events etc. We are generating a list of "jobs," so you will be able to tell at a glance how you can participate in keeping the library beautiful.

### **Council on Aging News**

Our luncheons in Sept. will be held downstairs in the Town Hall. On Friday, Sept. 11th, we will have Beef Bordelaise, mashed potatoes, tossed salad, rye bread, and yogurt. On Friday, Sept. 25th, there will be shaved steak with cheese sauce, baked potato, carrots and peas, hamburg roll, and fresh fruit. We start with Bingo at 10AM followed by lunch at noon. Please call Hendra Reidy to sign up. (978-544-2178).

*Farmer's Markets tickets:* Hendra has forms for those who wish to receive tickets that

can be used at local Farmers' Markets to purchase fruits and vegetables. (Low income qualification is necessary) There tickets are good through October.

*Busy B's:* Busy B's continues to meet at the Senior Center in the Stowell Building on Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 pm. Please bring your project and join us, or if you don't have a project, just come to visit.

### **New Salem Community Garden News**

Stop by and help yourself to salad makings including some lovely Swiss chard. Our vegetables are slowing down but our sunflowers and bee-loving flowers are growing to the sky! Please stop by...rest on the bench, have a picnic or simply watch the wildlife. There are butterflies, goldfinch, and hummingbirds galore! Come enjoy!

### **Central Congregational Church News**

*Maintenance Fundraiser:* The Central Congregational Church is beginning work on the church. Scraping, painting, replacing old clapboards on the exterior and replacing the ceiling in the rectory downstairs are two of the projects. To help raise money, Janet and Bo Henderson are offering the neighborhood....APPLES!! No spray, yummy, juicy ones right off our two trees at the end of the driveway. A small bag is \$5.00 and a big bag is \$10.00....bring your own bags. If you just want to grab an apple to eat...please go right ahead.

*Installation Service:* Please note and save the date that the Installation Service will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27th at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon - other pastors and lay delegates from the Franklin Association of the Mass Conference UCC will be joining us to celebrate the formalization of our ministry together as Pastor and People. This is an exciting day in the life of our church -- following the service we will be hosting a time of refreshment and conversation and fellowship.

*Homecoming Sunday:* Sunday, Sept. 13th is Homecoming Sunday which will be followed by a cookout/picnic outside on the church grounds (weather permitting). Everyone is welcome to attend the services and/or the cookout. The *HootenZanies* will be on hand to entertain at the cook-out.

### **Community Network for Children (CNC) New Salem Playgroup Returns**

**On** September 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:45-10:15 am, the Community Network for Children's New Salem Playgroup will start up again at Swift River School. It is intended for children ages 5 and under. For more information contact the CNC Program at 978-544-5157.

### **Swift River Valley Historical Society Schedules Hikes and Bus Trips in Quabbin**

*Bus Trip #2:* Sunday, October 4th Prescott bus trip, depart from SRVHS at 11:00 am.

*Hike #3:* Sunday, October 18th, hike to Indian Kitchen & plane crash site, meet at gate 40, 11:00 am.

Hikes are free; a \$25 per person donation is asked for bus trips, space reserved in advance. Send checks to: Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) at P.O. Box 22, New Salem, MA 01355. Limited spaces so contact the office immediately by phone (978-544-6882) or email at megansrvhs@gmail.com.

## TOWN NOTICES

### **Board of Health – MEMA Hurricane Season Guidelines**

Throughout this hurricane season the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) urges residents to prepare for the possible impacts of a hurricane or tropical storm. These storms can bring strong winds that cause widespread power outages. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricane Preparedness, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). Continue to follow MEMA updates on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MassEMA](http://www.twitter.com/MassEMA); Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA); and YouTube at [www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA).

MassAlerts: to receive emergency information on your smartphone, including severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service and emergency information from MEMA, download the Massachusetts Alerts free app. To learn more about MassAlerts, and for information on how to download the free app onto your smartphone, visit: [www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp](http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp). See attached press release for more details.

### **Planning Board Seeking New Member**

The Planning Board is looking for a new member to replace one who retired. If you might be interested, please email [hughtfield@gmail.com](mailto:hughtfield@gmail.com), or phone Hugh at 978-544-1856.

### **New Salem Transfer Station News**

*Winners:* The winner for the July Cleanup New Salem contest was Bruce Spencer. He won a package of 10 trash bags for cleaning up the side of the road. If you are interested in trying to win some free bags, talk to Bob at the Transfer Station and he will let you know what you need to do to try and win. *Suggestion Box at Transfer Station:* There will be a suggestion box at the New Salem Transfer Station. If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the Transfer Station just leave it in the box.

### **Selectboard News**

*Selectboard Meetings:* The Selectboard normally meets at 7:00 pm. on every other Monday at the Stowell Building. If the Monday is a holiday, the Selectboard meet on the Tuesday of that week. To verify a meeting date, contact the Town Coordinator at 544-6437.

## LOCAL

### **Quabbin Harvest Hosts Autumn Extravaganza**

Quabbin Harvest, the co-operative food market located at 12 North Main Street in downtown Orange, will host an *Autumn Extravaganza* on Saturday, September 12, from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm, in the parking lot adjacent to the store. The event will feature co-op member artisans, growers and producers, as well as food, music and children's activities. The public is invited to attend the event and also to shop at the store, which is

open from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm on Saturdays, as well as Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 am until 6:30 pm.

### **Artists Show for the Homeless**

Artists from around New England will come together to raise awareness of mental health issues and raise funds for Abby's House, a women's shelter in Worcester, MA. Transcendent Art Show is funded in part by the Petersham Cultural Center. The Petersham Country Store will donate food for the opening reception. The show will be held at the Petersham Town Hall on September 19th from 3:00-8:00 pm and September 20th from noon until 4:00 pm. The opening reception will occur on September 19th from 6:00-8:00 pm, and will include a dance performance by Inside Out Dance Company. All artists selected for the show agreed to donate half the proceeds from the sale of their work to Abby's House. Local artists include Genevieve Fraser, a painter from Orange, Rebekah Fraser, a mixed media artist from Petersham and Norman Chaplin of Orange, a writer whose work is featured in the art show's booklet. Work was selected by a jury featuring professional artists. For details, see the attached flyer.

## **UP & COMING**

October 4  
October 18

SRVHS Prescott bus trip  
SRVHS Hike to Indian Kitchen & plane crash site

### *New Salem Newsletter Policy*

*This monthly newsletter is a volunteer service sponsored by the New Salem Recreation Committee of the Town of New Salem. It promotes community events and town notices. It does not run ads for products or services.*

Visit the town's [www.newsalem-massachusetts.org](http://www.newsalem-massachusetts.org) for more information about our town.