



The Senior Informer

MAY 2017

ABINGTON COUNCIL
ON AGING
441 Summer Street, Abington, MA 02351
781-982-2145

Website:
ABINGTONSENIORCENTER.COM
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Hours: 9AM to 2PM Mon. thru Thur.,
9AM to 1PM Fri.

Volume 14

Issue 5

Council on Aging Board of Directors

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Town Meeting

**May 22 at the High
School—7PM**

Drivers Needed

(see pg. 4)

Memorial Day Parade

Sunday, May 29, 10AM

Begins at ECC

Edible Flowers at APL

(see pg. 6)

Make a Sign—(see pg.4)

NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF OCTAGON HOUSES

When you pass by the octagon house on Brighton Street, do you visualize the rooms to be wedge shaped to conform to the octagon exterior? They are actually square. The odd spaces were used for closets and cupboards. Octagon houses were a unique house style briefly popular in the 1850s in the United States and Canada, and can generally be traced to the influence of one man, amateur architect Orson Squire Fowler and his widely publicized book in 1848, *The Octagon House: A Home For All* – designed to foster health and happiness, which provided inspiration for a national fad.



Abington is known for two octagon houses, The American Vespuccius Tirrell Octagon House (1853), 35 Brighton Street, built by William Young. It is a two story, flat roof, no cupola, listed in very good condition and is one of Abington's Historic Properties. The 195 Centre Avenue octagon house (1869) was built by Jonathan W. Smith, owner through 1879. Later he sold it (or mortgaged it) to Benjamin and Elijah Atwood. They immediately turned the title over to Amos S. Reed. From 1876 to 1903 this was rental property, with the mortgage bouncing around and finally coming to rest with the widow of Major Edward P. Reed. The property was purchased from Mrs. Reed on October 31, 1903 in the name of C. Franklin Kennedy's wife for \$1. After Mrs. Reed's death in 1910, her children (and heirs) contested the sale of 1903. The sale was confirmed on March 14, 1911 at the price of another dollar. By 1911 the extended porches were gone, and additions were made. Howard F. Cullinan purchased it in the 1930s and owned it through the 1970s. This once picturesque octagon, mottled with additions, was razed in 1977 to construct an apartment house.

Other octagon houses of interest: Captain Rodney J. Baxter House (1850), Barnstable

Captain Baxter was a colorful, vibrant man known just as much for his independent thinking as he was for his swift passage at sea. Captain Baxter decided that he would do something just a bit different than his neighbors. The house appears to be the only house explicitly credited by the U.S. National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to have been designed by Orson S. Fowler that both survives and is listed on the National Register. This cement sided octagon house is two stories with an octagonal chimney on the roof. He erected it with a carriage house to the left of the home with its own octagonal cupola. This house/carriage house is one of the finest examples of the octagon style in the entire state.

The Mansfield Hexagon (6 sided) House, a variation of the octagon house is made with poured concrete, the walls over a foot thick. At the time it was built, the townspeople referred to it as "The Mud House," not knowing about cement, they thought it would fall down in the first rain storm. It is still referred to as The Mud House.

According to Fowler, an octagon house received more natural light and was easier to heat and cool, all derived from the geometry of an octagon, or was the curious architectural trend of the octagon house part of a society starved for entertainment and prone to fads? Some years ago, The Pittsfield House was mentioned in Ripley's *Believe It or Not* syndicated feature. The 4,000 to 5,000 houses that might have been built between 1848 and 1865 are Fowler's legacy. It is estimated that approximately 500 are still standing, giving a glimpse of the fruits of the fad headed by Fowler.

ACTIVITIES

Bingo
Blood Pressure Screening
Bocce
Chair Yoga w/Joanne
Chess, Computer Classes
Cribbage, Exercise Room
Hatha-Yoga w/Joanne
Hearing Tests
Knitting & Crocheting Group
Line Dancing, Mah Jongg
Pickleball, Quilting Class
Senior Lunches, Tues.& Thu.
Tai Chi, Zumba

COUNCIL ON AGING STAFF

Suzanne Djusberg - Director
Michelle Robison -
Nutrition Coordinator
Amy Barrett -
Outreach Coordinator
Transportation Coordinator
John Freese - Custodian
Jack Brown, Jack Libby
Van Drivers



Reading, MA



Nemah, WI



Sonoma, CA



Westfield, MA

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

A Gentleman in Moscow written by Amor Towles. Reviewed by Assistant Librarian Sandy Bumpus

When Count Rostov is deemed a threat to the Revolution in Soviet Russia he is sentenced to house arrest at the Metropol Hotel. His wonderful suite of rooms at this hotel are replaced with an attic room and his days of socializing and travelling are over. But the Count lives a relatively full and contented life eventually even becoming a waiter in the Hotel Metropol's restaurant all without complaint or regret.

Towles combines aristocratic values and sensibilities to bring the Count and this scenario alive. While the upheavals of Russian history are felt indirectly by the Count, the Hotel Metropol is effected by what is going on in the world and the Count manages to play a part.

This is a far gentler vision, perhaps a slightly romanticized vision, of the events that played out as a result of the Soviet Revolution.

Once again Towles language is beautiful and tends to be on the literary side. And the stories he weaves are artfully woven. If you fall for the Count, and I did, you will totally enjoy his life in the Metropol Hotel.

HISTORICAL FIGURE**JOHN F. KENNEDY — 100th birthday anniversary**

On the 100th anniversary of the birth in Brookline of John F. Kennedy, he has been honored this year with a new commemorative Postal Service stamp. This stamp was officially dedicated on Presidents' Day, Feb. 20 at the Kennedy Library in Dorchester. It features an iconic black-and-white picture by photographer Ted Spiegel of Kennedy, the 43-year-old presidential candidate, during a stop in Seattle during the 1960 presidential campaign. In a statement made by Jack Schlossberg, son of Caroline Kennedy, he said that the family is honored that the Postal Service is commemorating President Kennedy with this stamp. As the centennial of his birth, Schlosberg also said that the family hopes that the stamp will be an enduring symbol of President Kennedy's call for service, innovation and inclusion and his belief that we each have the power to make this world a better place. The JFK Library plans to commemorate the centennial of President Kennedy with several events, including a special exhibition titled "JFK at 100: Milestones and Mementos." The exhibition opens in May. It will include the flag from the PT boat Kennedy commanded during World War II, as well as his Cabinet chair and handwritten notes for his landmark address to the nation on civil rights.

As a point of interest, for more than 130 years the Postal Service stamp program has celebrated the people, events and cultural milestones that are unique to United States history. The 2017 stamp subjects are in keeping with this rich tradition with subjects such as the Love Series, the Year of the Rooster, The African American History and Culture, the WPA, Sharks, a new U.S. Flag stamp, and more.

**INFORMER NEWS DEADLINE**

Place in Newsletter inbox by 7th of previous month (i.e., 7th of May for the June 2017 issue). E-mail- foasnewsletterteam@yahoo.com.

HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE

Walk-In-Health Screening for Blood Pressure, Sugar Testing. Nutrition and Weight Counseling & Medication Instruction are held at Abington Sr. Ctr., on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 to 12:00 Noon. *The Board of Health states the nurse will be available to ALL Abington residents, regardless of age.* Free Hearing Screenings and Hearing Aid Checks are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center with John Klefeker. Call for appt. 781-982-2145.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION—CALL 781-982-2145

(24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED)

Council on Aging Van is door-to-door service to medical appointments, and other needs, \$3 round trip - suggested donation. Call the COA at 781-982-2145 to book rides in advance. **Dial-A-BAT** vehicles travel a bit further out, to Brockton and the Bridgewaters between 9:30 and 4:30 and to Boston Wed. & Fri. BAT rides must be booked thru the COA. Fees vary. Door-to-door-pay driver. **Friday Morning Shopping Van.** We will be using our trusty van to get you to either the Hanover Mall or another mall. We will pick you up starting at 9:15 or shortly after. We will pick you up at the mall at 12:30 getting you home around 1:00PM. Cost for round trip is \$3.00. Each week we will alternate between malls.

SENIOR NUTRITION—CALL 781-982-2145

Meals on Wheels delivered to homebound Seniors, lunchtime Mon-Fri, \$3.00 per meal. Our wonderful volunteers deliver nutritious meals right to your kitchen table. Although anyone can apply for this service, approval must be given by the recipient's doctor. In winter months, when there is inclement weather and there is no school that day, there will be no prepared meals delivered.

Senior Lunches: Tuesdays 11:30—cost \$4.00. Thursday 11:30—suggested donation is \$3.00. Call the Center at 781-982-2145 to make your reservation by Friday of the previous week.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Wheelchairs, walkers, and other medical equipment are available at the Senior Center. Call 781-982-2145 for availability.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

Appointments are scheduled by calling Amy Barrett at 781-982-2145-X2. *Cutoff date is May 12.*

SENIOR COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

For info regarding classes, dates, times, etc., call 508-521-4008 or by email go to www.seniorcomputerlearningcenter.org.

POETRY CORNER

It Must Be Spring —May Fenn

Hush, can you hear it?
The rustle in the grass,
Bringing you the welcome news
Winter's day is past.
Soft, can you feel it?
The warm, caressing breeze,
Telling you the sticky buds
Are bursting on the trees.
Look, can you see them?
The primrose in the lane,
Now you must believe it
Spring is here again.



ABINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY — "Conversations" Meeting, Sunday, May 7, 2:30 PM – Dyer Memorial Library
General Society of Mayflower Descendants – The changing demographics of the group as they look back at 400 years. All welcome; light refreshments will be available.

Dyer Memorial Library - 28 Centre Ave, P.O. Box 2245, Abington, MA 02351, email: info@dyerlibrary.org, . Hours: Tue-Fri, 1-5 pm

FRIENDS OF ABINGTON SENIORS, INC. MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

The Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc. would like to thank both past and present members for their support and contributions. **JUNE 2016 started a new membership year good until JUNE 2017. Please make checks payable to: "Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc." and mail to P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351**
Many thanks to families selecting "Friends of Abington Seniors" for memorial gifts.

Friends of Abington Seniors Membership for 2016-2017: \$7.00 per person or \$100 for lifetime membership. Please send donations to this address: P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351

Name _____

Address _____

In Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement to _____

THE BIRTHDAY GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Do you have a birthday coming? Can't think of anything you want or need? Suggest a donation in your name to the Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.

Memberships: John J. Force Margaret P. Parker Force Ronald Benks Marion Hagerty

Memoriams: Pearl Averill by Ellie Hutcheon Pearl Averill by Anna Fopiano
 Jean M. Force & William B. Parker by John Force William B. Parker & Jean M. Force by Margaret Parker Force

Donations: Mary & Terry Campana

MAY PUZZLE

Word Watch

Remove one letter from the first word and place it into the second word to form two new words. Do not change the order of the letters in the words, and do not use plurals. What letter needs to move?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Waive – Nose | 2. Honey – East | 3. Olive – Cast | 4. Rifle – Lake |
| 5. Waist - Hoot | 6. Paint - Blot | 7. Trust - Deer | 8. Vital – Able |



MAY RECIPE

Apple Cake Pie

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 egg | 1 tsp baking powder |
| ½ cup sugar | 2 medium tart apples, sliced, then chopped |
| 1 tsp vanilla | 1/3 cup chopped walnuts |
| ½ cup flour | |

Beat egg in medium bowl. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Spread mixture in greased 9 inch pie pan. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.



MAY CHUCKLE

A lady failed the driving test four times. At the fifth attempt, she was determined to pass. But the test included the same question : "You are driving at 70 mph. On your right is a wall, on your left is a cliff. On the road ahead you see an old man and a young man. What will you hit?" The woman walked up to the examiner and said, "I've answered this question in all four ways, wall, cliff, young man, old man. Yet I failed all four times. How is this possible? What the hell am I supposed to hit?" Examiner : *"The brakes!!"*

ABINGTON GARDEN CLUB —May Meeting – Monday, May 15, 12 Noon – United Church of Christ — “Hummingbird Magic” presented by the Massachusetts Audubon Society

WELCOME BACK, AMANDA!

Our receptionist, Amanda Vento, is back at her desk after a short maternity leave. Last week she carried her new little girl, Violet Elizabeth, on a stroll to introduce her to the folks in the dining area. Although Violet remained silent, she was an immediate success. Violet has an older sister, Thea, who has inspected and approved the new addition.

Amanda graduated from Abington schools, and her previous job experience was as a pre-school teacher. She currently lives in Brockton, is a sports fan (Bruins and Red Sox), and loves to cook. She also loves her job, and we welcome her return.

FOAS TRIPS

Foxwoods trip, Thursday, May 18. Leave Sr. Center at 7AM. Leave Foxwoods at 4:30PM. Cost \$33.00. Call Sheila Lambert at 781-878-3767 for info and signup. Upcoming Trips: Plymouth, MA—Boat ride and lunch; New Hampshire, HOBO RR & lunch.



Prices, Dates, Details to follow.

KITCHEN WISH LIST: Coffee regular and decaf, tea bags, sugar packets.

OUTREACH — MAY 2017

“[Eating breakfast consistently](#) may be a lifestyle change you can make to be healthier,” says [Sam Aznaurov, MD](#), a cardiac electrophysiologist at [Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center](#) in Denver, Colorado.

The American Heart Association (AHA) in January 2017 released a scientific statement on meal timing and frequency, and their effects on heart health. Among many other things, the AHA notes that people who most often skip breakfast rarely get enough vitamins and minerals, and are 75 percent more likely to be overweight or obese as people who regularly eat the meal. Additionally, a 2013 study of nearly 27,000 men aged 45 to 82, published in the journal *Circulation*, looked at meal habits, including eating breakfast. The study found a 27 percent higher risk of coronary heart disease in men who skipped breakfast compared to men who ate breakfast.

It’s not just men whose hearts are at risk from not eating breakfast. A 2015 study of more than 56,000 women suggests that those under the age of 60 who regularly skipped breakfast were at a higher risk of heart disease than women who regularly ate breakfast.

Aznaurov recommends simple, heart-healthy principles when choosing breakfast foods. “People should be looking at foods that will give you long-lasting energy throughout the day and prevent blood sugar spikes,” he says. “Targeting things that are high in protein and fiber will get your day started right, give you energy and help clamp down on hunger down the road so you’re not tempted to eat junk between meals.” Aznaurov’s go-to breakfast? Plain Greek yogurt with fruit. “Avoid thinking you’re going to find the solution with one simple trick,” he says. “That’s why fad diets fail.” All my best. *Amy Barrett 781-982-2145 X2.*

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Colony Center for Health and Rehabilitation on Route 18, Abington, is sponsoring a **free** community breakfast on the **third Wednesday of every month at the Abington Senior Center from 8:30 to 10:00**. Veterans and community members are invited. Coffee, orange and other juices, compliment breakfast items such as sausage, baked potatoes topped with scrambled eggs and bacon, English muffins, etc. Come, enjoy a good breakfast, good company, and conversation.



NEEDED—now: Volunteer driver(s) for medical trips. If you or someone you know is available and willing to help out with this critical need for our seniors, please contact COA Director Suzanne Djusberg at 781-982-2145 X 7 or Outreach Coordinator Amy Barrett at 781-982-2145 X 2.

OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

Have you noticed a young woman bustling about, helping out wherever needed? That’s Michelle Robison, our new Nutrition Coordinator. With the staffing situation somewhat resolved, Michelle is now able to concentrate on all aspects of her job. Her primary responsibilities will be the Meals on Wheels program and the Thursday communal luncheons. Her office is just outside the lunch room, and her door is usually open. If you have questions, stop in.

Michelle graduated from Cardinal Spellman, has a background in early education training, and was a pre-school teacher. She lives in Abington with her high school sweetheart husband and two sons, Lucas, 21, and Gabe, 16 years old. She is an outdoors person, interested in sports, gardening, and long walks. She is a welcome addition to the staff, and we hope she will enjoy her new job.

THE ABINGTON PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION IS NOW IN FULL SWING—Ann Reilly

There will be daily play from 8 a.m. to 12 noon which is open play or drop-in play according to ability.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-10 a.m. Intermediate/Advanced; 10 - 12 noon—Beginner Play

On Tuesday and Thursdays: 8-10 a.m. Beginner Play; 10-12 noon Intermediate/Advanced Play

Daily Afternoon Play 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All play

From 12 noon to 3:30 p.m.—Set up your own matches

Registration for Abington residents is taking place now. The fee is \$25 for the season. Checks may be made out to APA or Abington Pickleball Association and mailed to: Susan Mollica, 152 Presidential Drive, Abington. Lessons are available now at the Weymouth Club; 4 sessions for \$75.

On Saturday, May 20, the Abington Pickleball Association will be holding a members only tournament from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration will be daily at the courts with a deadline of Monday, May 15th.

Come and watch some great matches!

ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE

A big thank you to Jack Bailey and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee for a job well done (as usual). The 38th annual parade was a fun event for all the “watchers” — cold and wind did not deter them nor dim their enthusiasm, even though it was a day for long johns and layering.

**THE LIONS ROAR!**

The annual St. Patrick’s day corned beef luncheon was held at the Abington Senior Center on March 21 with more than 125 seniors attending. Food was provided by the FOAS and cooked to perfection by members of Abington’s Lions Club, who also served the dinner. Thanks to all for a special day.



MAKE & TAKE SIGN PARTY! *Where:* Abington COA Senior Center. *When:* Wednesday, May 24, 10AM. No drawing talent required. Make a 4X24” wooden sign in choice of paint color with 60+ provided sayings. \$20 per person for 1 sign, \$38 for 2, \$54 for 3. *For Info:* Barbara Stone, bstone@lifeexpressionsdecor.com.

MAY 2017 LUNCH & ACTIVITIES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>1</u> 9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (\$5) 11:00 Bingo 6:00pm New Beginnings Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>May Day</i></p>	<p><u>2</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Vegetables, Dessert, Beverage</p>	<p><u>3</u> 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00 Chess 10:00-12:00 Quilt Class 5:45 Hatha-Yoga w/ Joanne</p>	<p><u>4</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne: (\$5) 11:30 Lunch: TBA 4:30 Zumba (\$5)</p>	<p><u>5</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping Van 11:00 Tai Chi (\$5) 1:00-2:30 Line Dancing</p>
<p><u>8</u> 9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (\$5) 11:00 Bingo 6:00pm New Beginnings Meeting</p>	<p><u>9</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Soup & Sandwich, Crackers, Chips, Dessert, Beverage</p>	<p><u>10</u> 9:00 FOAS Meeting 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00 Chess 10:00-12:00 Quilt Class NO 5:45pm Hatha-Yoga w/Joanne Tonight <i>Full Flower Moon</i></p>	<p><u>11</u> 9:00 Cribbage NO 10:00am Chair Yoga w/ Joanne Today 11:30 Lunch: TBA 4:30 Zumba (\$5)</p>	<p><u>12</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping Van 11:00 Tai Chi (\$5)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <i>5/14 Mother's Day</i> </div>
<p><u>15</u> 9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (\$5) 11:00 Bingo 6:00pm New Beginnings Meeting</p>	<p><u>16</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Sheperd's Pie, Rolls, Dessert, Beverage 6:00 COA Meeting</p>	<p><u>17</u> 8:30-10:00-Free Community Breakfast 10:00 Chess 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class 5:45 Hatha-Yoga w/ Joanne</p>	<p><u>18</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne: (\$5) 11:30 Lunch: TBA 4:30 Zumba (\$5)</p>	<p><u>19</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping Van 11:00 Tai Chi (\$5) 1:00-2:30 Line Dancing</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <i>5/20 Armed Forces Day</i> </div>
<p><u>22</u> 9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (\$5) 11:00 Bingo 6:00pm New Beginnings Meeting</p> <p><i>Town Meeting at High School—7PM</i></p>	<p><u>23</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Chicken Chop Suey, Rice, Vegetables, Birthday Cake, Beverage</p>	<p><u>24</u> 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00 Chess 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class 5:45 Hatha-Yoga w/ Joanne</p> <p><i>10AM Make a Sign Party (see pg.4)</i></p>	<p><u>25</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne: (\$5) 11:30 Lunch: TBA 4:30 Zumba (\$5)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>New Moon</i></p>	<p><u>26</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping Van 11:00 Tai Chi (\$5)</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  MEMORIAL DAY <i>(observed)</i> </div>	<p><u>30</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Roast Pork, Potato, Vegetables, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert, Beverage</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shavuot begins at sundown</i></p>	<p><u>31</u> 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00 Chess 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class 5:45 Hatha-Yoga w/ Joanne</p>	<p><i>5/20 Armed Forces Day</i> <i>5/20 Abington Pickleball Assoc. Members Only Tournament—9a.m.-Noon</i> <i>5/20/27 Lindberg began flight across Atlantic</i> <i>5/29 JFK born 1917</i> <i>5/29 Memorial Day Parade Start 10AM at ECC</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Menu subject to change</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>5/25 Cooking w/ Edible Flowers at APL, 7PM (see pg. 6)</i></p>

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NOTABLE EVENT—MAY 10, 1869—THE FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

A ceremonial last "Golden Spike" was driven into the rail line that connected the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads at Promontory, Utah. This made transcontinental railroad travel possible for the first time in U. S. history. The discovery of gold in 1848 and statehood for California in 1850 further spurred the interest to unite the country as thousands of immigrants and miners sought their fortune in the west. President Lincoln, a long time supporter of railroads, signed the Pacific Railway Act on July 1, 1862, authorizing land grants and government bonds to two companies. Four years after the Civil War and the death of President Lincoln, the

U. S. is joined from coast to coast, cutting travel from as much as six months down to one week.

Union Pacific led by former cotton smuggler and medical doctor, Thomas C. Durant, would use the government preoccupation with the Civil War to its advantage. Since the government paid Union Pacific for each mile of track it laid, Durant had workers install large amounts of unnecessary track across land that he owned.

Oakes Ames of Easton, Massachusetts, Durant, and a few other influential stockholders of Union Pacific organized the Credit Mobilier. Acting for both the Union Pacific and their newly created construction company they made for themselves. Durant at first controlled the Credit Mobilier but in 1867 lost control to brothers Oakes and Oliver Ames. Durant, however, continued on as directorate of the railroad until it met the Central Pacific on **May 10, 1869**. The Ames group then procured his discharge.

Oakes Ames, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, through his influence obtained contracts for his family firm in the construction of the Union Pacific. The contracts were later transferred to the Credit Mobilier Company of America. Public scandal led to a House investigation. In 1872 it was disclosed Ames sold shares in Credit Mobilier to fellow Congressmen at a price greatly below the market value of the stock. Ames found himself in the center of the 19th century's biggest financial scandal. On Feb. 28, 1873 the House handed down only Congressional censures. Ames died soon after, **May 8, 1873**. On **May 10, 1883**, the 14th anniversary of the completion of the railroad, the State Legislature of Massachusetts passed a resolution exonerating Ames. The U.S. Legislature did not pass a resolution to exonerate Ames.

ABINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL WELCOME CHEF LIZ BARBOUR of THE CREATIVE FEAST—

for a demonstration, "Cooking and Gardening with Edible Flowers" on Thursday May 25th at 7:00 PM.

Liz will take you on a slide presentation tour through her cottage sized gardens. Learn how to use every inch of a small garden to maximize its beauty and bounty using edible flowers as part of an edible landscape. Take in the varieties of ornamental and edible plants as Liz offers tips about how to plan ahead so that you can truly enjoy the fruits of your labor; add in Liz's easy cooking technique tips and you are on your way to creating great meals you can prepare at home. **Enjoy a cooking demonstration of two delicious recipes and sampling featuring fresh edible flowers.**



Liz Barbour has been cooking professionally in the Boston area since 1992 and started The Creative Feast in 2004. Liz's cooking demonstrations and recipes have been featured on *New Hampshire Chronicle*, Channel 9's "Cooks Corner" and in various publications including *New Hampshire Magazine*. Abington Public Library last hosted Liz in November of 2016 and she is returning by popular demand. **Registration is required** for this program and will begin on Thursday April 27. This event is funded by the Friends of the Library. Space is available for 35 participants; **please call the Library at 781-982-2139 or email ablib@ocln.org to register.**

What's all the hoopla?

The Abington Public Library is excited to announce the public availability of thousands of movies, television shows, music albums and audiobooks, all available for mobile and online access through a new partnership with hoopla digital – all you need is a valid library card!

Abington Public Library card holders can download the free hoopla digital mobile app on their Android or IOS device or visit **hoopladigital.com** to begin enjoying thousands of titles from major Hollywood studios, record companies and publishers. Items are available to borrow for instant streaming or temporary downloading to your smartphones, tablets and computers.

Hoopla digital has a simple sign-up and attractive, easy-to-use interface so it is easy to get to your listening and viewing experience. There is also no waiting to borrow popular movies, TV shows, albums or audiobooks. And hoopla digital's automatic return feature eliminates late fees

To access the system on your mobile device, you will need to first download the FREE hoopla digital app from the App Store on your Android or IOS device. There is no need to download an app or extension for your internet browser. Once you have downloaded the app to your device(s) and/or clicked on the hoopla digital link on our website **www.abingtonpl.org** you will be prompted to enter your email address, a password, your library card number, and your library card PIN number. Your PIN is ocln unless you have changed it. The system will validate that you are in good standing with the library, so that you may begin to browse, borrow, and enjoy the content.

Once you borrow a title on one device it is automatically available via all devices with the hoopla digital app and via your PC web browsers (IE 8+, Firefox 12+, Safari 5+, and Chrome 19+). When using hoopla you will be able to begin streaming the content immediately. You can also download content to view at a later date (in case you won't have Wi-Fi on vacation).

You will be allowed to borrow 5 titles each month: Video lends for 72 hours. Music lends for 7 days. Audiobooks lend for 21 days.

You are able to access (view/listen to) borrowed content as often as you want during the checkout period and you can return any borrowed title whenever you want. To learn more about this exciting new offering, please go to **www.abingtonpl.org**. We hope you enjoy this new service. Questions about the Library may be directed to Library Director Deborah Grimmer at 781-982-2139 or via email at **ablib@ocln.org**.



ABINGTON CELEBRATES HOMETOWN COOKING: Together we can make one incredible Community Cookbook to treasure. Have a favorite recipe to share? We would love it! Please send recipes by **May 15** or questions to **abingtoncelebratesfood@gmail.com** or mail to Abington Celebrates/Michele Christian, 500 Gliniewicz Way, Abington, MA 02351.

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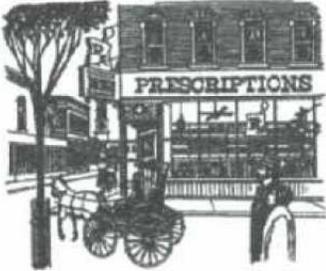
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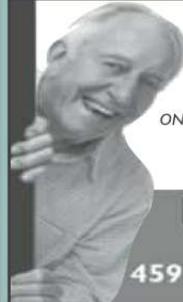
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**Remember Mom on
Sunday, May 14**

Miscellaneous

Line Dance Schedule: Dancing with Dotty Belanger at Abington Senior Center on 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. to 2:30p.m. Donation: \$3.00. Call 508-746-0079 for more information.

Support Groups– Open to the Public– No Charge: Grief Counseling/Bereavement Group, Abington, meets once a month at the Library, 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm. For further info call 781-982-2139. Prostate Cancer Support Group, monthly, 3rd Thur., 7 p.m., Brockton Hospital, Assembly Room 2nd floor by café.

Food Pantry: St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry is open on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the old Friary/Convent at St. Bridget's, 781-878-1194.

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Abington Elderly Services, Inc.

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Informer Newsletter Staff: Marie Brown, Joanne Curtis, Lorraine Leventuk, Carol Najarian, Betty Slinger, Maureen Wall

Puzzle Answers: 1) i 2) y 3) o 4) f 5) s 6) a 7) t 8) t

MAY DAY HISTORY

May Day marks the halfway point between the first day of *spring* and the *summer solstice*. May Day dates back to the days of the Romans and involved many pagan rituals and ancient customs which were slowly phased out with the arrival of Christianity. Festivals, dances, and rituals related to agriculture and fertility were practiced by many Germanic and European countries. May Day also commemorates the struggle for fair labor practices and the Haymarket Affair of 1886 in Chicago, which is observed on May 1st each year. May Day is probably best known now for the medieval tradition of ribbon dancing where fair young maidens circled the decorated mayday pole. In Italy May Day is regarded as the happiest day of the year by some accounts. May Day in Hawaii has been known as Lei Day, a spring celebration Roman Catholics celebrate May as Mary's month and May Day is a celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The flower of the month of May is the Lily of the Valley. And of course, we all know the international distress signal "mayday" has nothing to do with the first of May.



May Day

INTERESTED IN LINE DANCING??

Are you tired of sitting back as the music begins and the lines form on the dance floor? We are looking for new members to join our group. Good exercise, Good fun, Good friends. Classes are held on Fridays at the Abington Senior Center. Schedule: 1st and 3rd Fridays, 1 PM to 2:30 PM. For info call Dotty Belanger at 508-746-0079.



Line Dancing

Do not anticipate trouble or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight. — Benjamin Franklin