

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Looking forward to 2017

I hope the holidays have been as good for you as they were for us. Thanksgiving was wonderful, with a dinner for twelve at our son's home—always great to see the grandkids! Christmas brought even more family to our traditional Yule Gathering. Can you imagine a dinner for twenty-five (twelve grandchildren now) and food contributed from all directions. Such joy we have in our family. By New Year's we were ready to toast 2017 early and go to bed at 10!

The New Year promises riches for our Village too. With our new Membership Assistance Program and new joint programs with Anna Jaques Hospital and the Newburyport Senior/Community Center, we will continue to grow and become an ever-more-important dimension of community life. I look forward to seeing you

at Village events throughout 2017 and hearing your stories as well.

My thought for 2017 comes from Jean Vanier, a philosopher, theologian, and humanitarian, who writes: "One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."

- Paul Harrington, President
Greater Newburyport Village



SAVE THE DATE : FEB. 13

Village Watch Party with Atul Gawande

Join us at 4:45 pm on Feb. 13 at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center for the 5 pm celebratory live webcast of "The Value of Community and Choice as We Grow Older" featuring Atul Gawande, author of *Being Mortal*, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Gawande is a renowned surgeon, public health researcher, and writer who will speak about the value of community and opportunities as we grow older. His book examines people's efforts to maintain autonomy as they age in the face of ingrained habits, cultural expectations, and other influences. His talk is part of the national Village movement's 15th anniversary. He will address the

Village model as an option for assisting older adults in their efforts, providing services and extending community to people who want to remain in their own homes and enjoy activities, attributes, attitudes and ages that engage the community's older adult population. Additional information to come in our February newsletter.

Our Mission

To promote living well and independently for a lifetime through community engagement and a network of neighborly support.

Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn and Village Talks – Open to the Public:

Jan. 11, 6:30 pm, Nbpt Library
"You CAN Keep Collecting! Re-Purposing Your Art Legacy" with Paula Estey, artist and gallery owner

Jan. 25, 11:30 am* Hope Church
"Decluttering Can Be FUN!" with Corrine McKeown, certified Senior's Real Estate Specialist
**Bring a lunch at 11:30 – talks start at 12:00.*

Feb. 13, 4:45 pm, Watch Party
See article at left.

Feb. 15, 6:30 pm, Nbpt Library
"The Adventures of a Local Jeopardy! Champion" with Jill Santopietro Panall

Greater Newburyport Village Members & Volunteers Only:

Jan. 17, 6 pm, Dinner at Loretta's – RSVP by Jan. 12
Join Us and Bring a Friend!
Get connected and enjoy our community of good folks. (Separate checks.)

Feb. 17, 8:30 am, Anna Jaques Hospital Private Tour (more information coming in February newsletter)

March 1, 6 to 7:30 pm
Meet-up and Gallery Tour (rescheduled)
Paula Estey Gallery
3 Harris Street, Newburyport
www.paulaesteygallery.com
RSVP soon or by Feb. 12

RSVP to 978-206-1821 or
services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

See the Village website for more detail on all events.

Village Partners with Anna Jaques Hospital

We're proud to announce that beginning this month, our Village will be working with patient case managers at the Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport on a new program to provide needed services. Newly discharged patients, who may be recuperating at home from illness or injury, or who may continue to receive treatment as an outpatient, often can use a helping hand with household matters or transportation. Our Village is in the unique position of being able to help with our Good Neighbor

Volunteer program.

This special program allows Village membership on a month-to-month basis for recently discharged patients age 55 or older. The Village does not provide health services, which are typically provided by home health care and other agencies. But Village volunteers can help out with the same services we offer all our members, such as household help, rides to a doctor's appointment, picking up a prescription, and so on.

Since this is a brand-new program,

we can't yet estimate how many new members will seek these services in coming months. We do anticipate an increase in service requests, however, and therefore will likely need additional volunteers. Please consider whether you can lend a hand occasionally to these people in our community who need some help. For information on volunteering, call the Concierge at 978-206-1821 or email: services@greaternewburyportvillage.org.

Remember: it does take a Village.

Meet Village Member Mary Harada

You may have seen Mary at a Village dinner or other event—or maybe running the cross-country trails through Maudsley State Park. Or passing through the airport on a recent trip to Dubai, Tokyo, and Perth, where she ran in middle-distance events in an international masters athletics (track and field) meet. She holds a local running record in the 80-84 age class, joking that it's not hard to win when you're the only one in your class!

But really, she's a class act in many other ways too. Born in Newton, she met her husband, who was Japanese, while they were both working on PhDs, she in history and government, he in religion. For 30 years, then, she taught as Northern Essex Community College. Over the years they lived in Somerville, Amesbury, and now for over 40 years in West Newbury. Their two sons are now raising their families in Tokyo and San Francisco.



In addition to running summers and indoor rowing winters, Mary is very active in local politics, government, and the community. She has served on many elected town boards in West Newbury, including the school committee, the finance committee, and the housing commission. She's currently on the COA Board.

Recently widowed, Mary maintains the West Newbury house they'd had built in 1984. One of her first interests in the Village was the Vendor Referral Program, as she anticipates needing some help with maintenance. She learned about the Village from a newspaper story, and though she had no immediate need for services, she supports the Village movement and joined mostly for altruistic reasons. And who knows, maybe at some future time she may need a little help with something? She says she never wants her children to have to deal with any such problem, as they live so far away and are busy raising their own children.

She also enjoys the Village's sense of community. The photo above caught her infectious smile at a Village Members' dinner. Keep an eye out for her at the next one!

Village Membership Assistance Program

One of the goals of the Greater Newburyport Village has been to provide services to community members whose economic situation makes membership difficult. The Membership Assistance Program (MAP) is designed to pay part or all of the dues for lower-income members. According to the Board of Directors, our Village recently received a substantial anonymous donation allowing the MAP to begin. The donation earmarked funds for the dues of several members who otherwise could not join the Village.

The Village is now accepting applications to this program. Please let us know if you know of someone who may gain from our services so that they can be invited to apply. We look forward to continuing to expand this program.

How to Contact the Village

For member services and RSVPs:

call 978-206-1821

or email a service request to:

services@greaternewburyportvillage.org

For information:

call number above or email:

info@greaternewburyportvillage.org

or visit our website:

www.greaternewburyportvillage.org