

NEW SALEM NEWS – February Newsletter

February 1	Meditation Class Starts
February 3	Teens and Tweens at the Library
February 3	Book Discussion Group at the Library
February 12	Council on Aging Luncheon
February 10	Teens and Tweens at the Library
February 10	Reading Aloud for Grownups
February 12	Council on Aging Luncheon
February 13	Lego Club at the Library
February 14	Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast at the Central Congregational Church
February 17	Teens and Tweens at the Library
February 18	Ag Commission Shows <i>Root Hog or Die</i> at Library
February 24	Teens and Tweens at the Library
February 25	Fashion and Fiction Program at the Library
February 26	Prayer Shawl Ministry
February 27	Springfield Symphony Orchestra Petting Zoo at the Library

Town-Wide Tag Sale Date Set

The Town-wide Tag Sale is coming. Saturday, May 7th on the Common from 8:00-2:00 pm. \$15 per spot. Start cleaning out those cupboards, closets and basements and setting things aside for a great sale! This tag sale has been growing in numbers of vendors **and** in numbers of buyers! Just think of the extra things you can spend the money on while on vacation and about the fact that your life will be less cluttered! More details will be coming and sign ups will be starting in March.

2016 Old Home Day News

Old Home Day will be on Saturday, July 16th this year. If anyone is interested in helping to plan events or volunteer on the day of the event, please contact Janet Henderson at 544-3410 or janbo25h@aol.com or Jane Clukay at 544-2660 or janeclukay@hotmail.com.

Mediation Class Starts Monday, February 1st

New Salem resident, Jo Ellen Boskind, will be offering a new four week meditation class beginning Monday, February 1 and running for 4 consecutive weeks ending on February 22. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 pm at the White Elephant Yoga Studio in Orange. Fees will be \$40 for the entire course or \$12 drop in. Guided meditation will be a feature of this class as will discussion focusing on finding calm in the midst of stormy emotions and situations. To go forward, this class will need to have a minimum of 5 participants so if you are interested please sign up soon! Any questions and to register please contact me at [978 249-0929](tel:9782490929) or by email at jboskind@westmass.com.

New Salem Library News

Reading Aloud for Toddlers Planned: The New Salem Public Library is starting a *Reading Aloud for Toddlers* from 10:30-11:30 on Thursday mornings. If you would be interested in being a reader or if you are a parent interested in having your 1 to 3+1/2 year old child attend, please contact the library at 544-6334.

Book Discussion Group: On Wednesday, February 3rd, at 7:00 pm, the Book Discussion Group will be discussing at 7:00 pm, *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr.

Lego Club: Come from 12:30-2:00 pm on Saturday, February 13th, Saturday: 12:30 - 2:00 pm for Legos.

Teens and Tweens: The Teens and Tweens program runs from 1:30 to 5:30. The library is not open before that time and there is no one there to let kids in, even when the schools dismiss early. Come try out our new 3-D pen!

Springfield Symphony Orchestra Musical Petting Zoo: The library is hosting the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Musical Petting Zoo on Saturday, February 27th from 1:00-2:00 pm. Contact the library at 544-6334 for details.

Friends of the Library News

Reading Aloud for Grownups: On Wednesday, February 10th, 7:30-9:00 pm, Janet and Bo Henderson will be reading. Snow date: February 17th. This program is sponsored by The Friends of the New Salem Public Library.

Fiction and Fashion Program: On Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 pm, the Friends of the Library is sponsoring a special program on *Fiction and Fashion*. It is a delightful Show and Tell on the clothing of Regency England as reflected in Jane Austen's fiction presented by Ms. Kandie Carle.

Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast at the Central Congregational Church

Treat your sweetie to a delicious homemade pancake breakfast on Valentine's Day, Sunday February 14th at the New Salem Central Congregational Church from 7:30-9:00 am. Menu: Juice, fresh Fruit, coffee/tea, pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. Donations happily accepted to help with the cost!

New Salem Agricultural Commission News

Film Showing: The New Salem Agricultural Commission begins its 2016 educational workshop series with a viewing of the film *Root Hot or Die* on February 18th at 6:30 pm at the New Salem Library. The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the filmmaker Rawn Fulton.

Workshop Series: The Agricultural Commission has plans for a robust 2016 calendar including workshops once per month through June. All are free to the public.

Council on Aging News

Lunch: On Friday, February 12, we will meet at the Stowell Building at 10:00 am for bingo and visiting. Chinese take-out will be served at noon. Lunch will cost \$6. Please contact Hendra Reidy ([978-544-2178](tel:978-544-2178)) to sign up. The snow date will be the following Friday.

Busy B's: Busy B's continue to meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Stowell Building. Bring you project, mending, or just a tea cup. If the weather does not look good, we may not meet. You can call Judy Jewett ([978-544-2216](tel:978-544-2216)) to be sure.

Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem.

Please join the Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem. The shawls that are made are donated with love and blessings to lift up members of our community. These people may be undergoing medical procedures; need comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during an illness or recovery or for a variety of other reasons. There are several ways in which you can

take part in the prayer shawl ministry.

You can:

- make and donate a handmade shawl (crocheted or knitted)
- donate money to buy yarn
- donate yarn
- make cards that are attached to the shawl
- make labels with care instructions
- you can also let the ministry know of a person who might benefit from receiving a shawl

We gather in the Stowell Building from 9:00-11:00 am on 4th Friday morning of the month - February 26th; March 25th; and April 22nd. If there is a snow storm, the meeting will likely be cancelled. For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry:

<http://www.shawlministry.com>

TOWN NOTICES

FY2016 Real Estate and Personal Property 3rd Quarter Tax Bills Due

This is to remind you that FY16 3rd Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for this quarter's bills is February 1, 2016. Payments received after that date will be charged interest.

Payment stubs for this bill, as well as the 4th Quarter bill, were included in the mailing sent out at the end of December. If you have trouble locating the stub and wish to find out the amount due you may call (978) 544-5775 and leave a message stating your name, phone number and the address of your property. The Tax Collector will call you with the amount of your bill. You may also email your request for this information to newsalemtax@aol.com.

Non-cash payments may be deposited in the black Tax Payment drop box located in front of the Town Hall at 15 S. Main St. or mailed to the Tax Collector's office at 24 S. Main St., New Salem, MA 01355.

Bills may also be paid online at www.unitaxonline.com (select New Salem from the Search menu).

Please note that the online option is **not available after the due date**. Cash payments (bring exact change, please) may be made at 24 S. Main Street during the Tax Collector's office hours on Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.

Board of Health February Hours

The Board of Health office will be open from 9:00-12:00 pm on Thursday, February 4th, **Monday**, February 8th, Thursday, February 18th and February 25th. The Board of Health meeting is on Wednesday, Feb 24th from 7:15-9:00 pm.

Board of Assessors Position

The Board of Assessors is seeking a replacement for the pending retirement of chair, Phyllis Stever, who has served for ten years. The board meets twice monthly (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.) through most of the year and meetings are normally under two hours in length. There is a stipend for board members. Please call our office at [978-544-5814](tel:978-544-5814), if you are a town resident and are interested in joining the board. Potential candidates would meet with the current Board and upon their recommendation, be appointed by the Selectboard. When the members term is expired they must be elected. Current members of the Board as of this date are Eric Hamm (Chair) and Phyllis Stever.

Personnel Committee

Due to a recent resignation, the Personnel Committee is looking for a new member. Contact

Nancy Aldrich at [978-544-6437](tel:978-544-6437) if you are interested.

Website Committee

The New Salem Website committee is down to two active members and needs additional volunteers. Please contact Mary-Ellen Kennedy at [978-821-2597](tel:978-821-2597) or Nancy Aldrich at [978-544-6437](tel:978-544-6437) if you are interested.

Energy Committee

The New Salem Energy Committee is on a hiatus as only two members remain. They are now working with Wendell on grants for energy upgrades at Swift River School. The Town of Wendell has suggested working with New Salem on "Solarize Mass" which provides group rates on multiple solar installations. Please contact Nancy Aldrich at [978-544-6437](tel:978-544-6437) if you are interested in working with the Energy Committee.

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

Presidents Day Walk Against the Pipeline and the Berkshire Gas Moratorium

Join others for a 5.3 mile walk through Greenfield to the First Congregational Church on President's Day, Monday, February 15th. Gather at Greenfield Community College's East Building at 9:30 am. Lunch will be provided. To register, contact Hattie Nestel T [978-790-3074](tel:978-790-3074) or email hattieshalom@verizon.net. For further information, go to hattienestel.com

UPCOMING

March 9	Reading Aloud for Grownups – Dee Waterman & Richard Trousdell
March 31	<i>Weird Massachusetts</i> – Library Program
April 13	Reading Aloud for Grownups – Genie Casey & Monica Winters
May 5	<i>Feasting in Literature</i> – Library Program
May 7	Town-wide Tag Sale
July 16	Old Home Day

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.

To subscribe to this newsletter, email newsalemnews@gmail.com

Visit the town's www.newsalem-massachusetts.org for more information about our town.

