



Whitefield News

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Volume 4, Issue 11

Published Monthly

May 2017

Wow—May Events!

Spring Supper for Fergusson Fire and Clary Lake

Saturday, May 6th 4pm-7pm Everyone is welcome to come enjoy a home cooked meal at Sheepscot General!

Mother's Day Art Party Saturday, May 13, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Join us for a fun night for mom's and kiddos at Sheepscot General.

Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 14th, 9:00AM-1:00PM at Sheepscot General

Kings Mills Union Hall Ham & Baked Bean Supper

Sat., May 20, 2017 5-7pm

Pancake Breakfast, May 21, 7:30 -10:30am, for Midcoast Conservancy's Hidden Valley Nature Center annual Pancake Breakfast at the Alna General Store.

The Whitefield Historical Society will celebrate Memorial Day beginning at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park followed by a program afterwards on World War 1 veterans from Whitefield.

More info and events on Page 4

“She sings as a poet, in voice and in spirit”

Every day, in the morning, Judith Robbins walks a well-worn path to a cottage tucked under a white pine, where the field meets the woods. This place, built decades ago by her husband Jonathan, is her studio, her place to think, reflect and (hopefully) start or finish a poem. On cold mornings, she lights a fire in the stove, on warm days she opens a window, listens for inspiration and then puts the ink to paper and writes.

She can't not do this. She's a poet, has been since she was a child, and a poet writes.

Sometimes she writes about her immediate surroundings - the fire in the stove, the porcupine next door or the change of the seasons; sometimes she writes out of memory reflecting back on her life experiences. Sometimes she writes of bigger things - family, love, God. Other poets are present too, some on the surrounding book shelves --- Seamus Heaney, Dylan Thomas, Mary Oliver, William Carlos Williams --- lend



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

their inspiration from time to time, like seasons in the recipe.

When Judith moved to Whitefield in 1977, she was already contributing regularly to *The Church World*; since then, she's been published by *The American Scholar*, *The Worcester Review*, *Puckerbrush Review*, *Echoes* and

numerous other publications. In the early 1980s some may remember Judith as a poet in residence, visiting Whitefield School where she encouraged children to discover the writer in themselves. Over time, she privately published eight collections of her poems, and in 2016 North Country Press published her most recent collection, *The North End*. This book begins with her childhood, growing up in working-class Worcester, MA in the 1950s, where she lived in a neighborhood *Continued on Pg. 2*

Fat Bike Adventure Camp

May 4th, 5th and 6th at the Whitefield School

This camp is perfect for kids 10-14 year old who know how to ride a bike but want to take their skills a little further. Come explore and challenge yourself with the Mountain Bike Camp on the grounds of Whitefield Elementary school and the surrounding area. Fat Tire Bikes will be provided in a variety of sizes for participants to use for the duration of the camp.

The camp itinerary will include: mountain bike anatomy, fit and fundamentals; mountain biking body position; trail riding and trail stewardship; shifting and cadence in different terrain; and maneuvering over, through, and around obstacles. Participants need to know how to ride a bike prior to attending camp. This mountain bike program is focused on improving on the participants' riding skills in a mountain biking environment.

Fat Tire Mountain bikes and helmets will be provided by Midcoast Conservancy. Participants should come dressed to ride bikes and play outside! They should bring a full water bottle, snack, sunscreen, and an extra warm layer,

such as a rain jacket or fleece. Please wear close-toed shoes that fit properly and can get dirty.

This Mountain Bike Adventure Camp will be led by coaches from Outdoor Sport Institute who are skilled teachers, guides, and facilitators, and are passionate about sharing outdoor sport with others. This camp is FREE for participants.

To register and more information contact: midcoastconservancy.org or call (207) 389-5150. (Also, more info on the May Events calendar, Page 4)



(courtesy Midcoast Conservancy)

ATTENTION Parents and Grandparents!!!

Do you know someone from Whitefield who is receiving a post high school diploma/degree this Spring? Please call or email us so we can proudly post a congratulations to them in our next issue.

Share Important moments...
Share important memories....
Share congratulations!
(contact:

whitefieldtownnews

@gmail.com

or Debbie at 549-3491)

Poet Cont. From Pg. 1 on the North End, known as Poet's Hill, (because the streets were named after famous poets). The book ends with poems that are more reflective of her surroundings and her life in Maine. As a bird builds her nest with materials from



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

her surroundings, so Judith has woven her poems with the threads of her life from Worcester to Whitefield and places in between and beyond.

For Judith, publication has never been the point of her writing. On her website, she quotes from Agnes Sanford's book *Sealed Orders*: "Unless one stands upon one's perch and sings, one is not a bird." Judith has been singing all her life, as a preacher, a teacher, a sister, a wife for fifty years, a mother to four children.

In all these roles, she

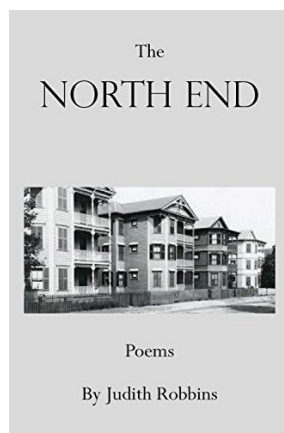
sings as a poet, in voice and in spirit. And every day, she enters a six-by-eight cottage at the edge of the woods, and she picks up her pen, opens her heart, and sings once more.

(Article written by Judith's son, Patrick Finlay Robbins and daughter, Hannah Casey Whalen)

A poem taken from page 51 of *The North End* . . .

Listen, Look

Through the window, through branches of pine, over lawn to lilac in bloom beyond, it's raining. The tin roof a-rattle, I remove spectacles to allow a blur of sight and sound. Nothing is clear may open a way for everything clear is a new way of seeing meaning as green as it is this early May morning in Maine.



Whitefield School welcomes new Art teacher

(contributed by Principal Josh McNaughton)

We are excited to announce Whitefield has a new art teacher, Ms. Molly Brosnan is thrilled to have the opportunity to work as the new Art Teacher at Whitefield Elementary School. Brosnan is a working artist who has shown her work throughout Maine at galleries such as River Arts in Damariscotta, The Drawing Room in Portland, and Engine Gallery in Biddeford. Brosnan has a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of Southern Maine, and recently obtained her Maine State Certification for K-12 Art Education through The University of Maine at Augusta. In addition to her commitment to the arts, Brosnan has worked with youth in a variety of settings both in and out of the classroom and is passionate about teaching and learning, and helping students to reach their full potential as artists and learners. Ms. Brosnan joined our staff for our workshop day on Friday, March 17th, and then began teaching classes on Monday, March 20th. Please welcome Ms. Brosnan to our team.



(courtesy Whitefield School)

Kings Mills Union Hall Ham & Baked Bean Supper



Sat., May 20, 2017 5-7pm
\$10 Adults; \$4.00 children (10 years & under)
Kings Mills Union Hall, Townhouse Road
Benefit: Restoration of Kings Mills Union Hall

Ham; Baked Beans; Macaroni & Cheese; Garden Salad; Cole Slaw; Biscuits; Assorted Dessert Pies; Coffee; Tea; Milk

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(Courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society and its Westbye Collection. Eleanor Westbye lives in her grandparents' house--the old Fred & Lily Heath Carleton homestead on the Heath Road.)

Buggy Traffic Jam...Mail delivery, ca. 1905.

George Fowles (1874-1923) delivering mail to the home of Lester Felt on Pittston Road [now home of Paul Marcus]. George was the father of Neota Grady, a long time teacher in Whitefield. The cart, painted red, white and blue, had sliding doors on either side and a window in front which could be closed in bad weather. It was designed so that the wheels could be replaced by runners during the winter.

Memorial Day Memories

Whitefield honors vets

By Lucy Martin

On Saturday, Whitefield residents, including local Boy and Girl Scout troops, and members of the National Guard turned out to dedicate a veterans memorial behind the Town Office.

Master of ceremonies Julian "Jay" Howell, who began organizing the project two years ago, said the memorial is dedicated to all veterans of all wars, "those who served in this country or overseas, those partly or totally disabled, those killed in action."

The ten pines forming an arch behind a seamless aluminum flagpole "are in honor of the ten wars this country has fought," from the Revolution in 1775 to Desert Storm in 1991.

The flagpole was given by Bath Iron Works in honor of the 65 Whitefield residents who are employed at the shipyard. The trees were given by David and Betty Chase. The all-weather flag which will fly year-round and be illuminated by a time-activated flood lamp was donated by Adjutant General Nelson Durgin.

Howell referred to 30 other people or organizations of whom, "when asked for their input, not one said no. This warmth and generosity I hope will characterize Whitefield in the



Jay Howell introduces Arthur Lerman, Father Eugene Gaffey, and Pastor David L. Tripler who represented three denominations at dedication ceremonies of the Whitefield Veterans Memorial. (Lucy Martin photo)

years to come." Howell, who served during World War II, said the memorial will be completed some day with a suitably inscribed bronze plaque. But first he needs to locate a mill stone on which to mount it. "I'm asking you folks to

keep a good beady eye out for one," he said.

1983 Article from the Lincoln County News submitted by Dolly Burns

Summary of recent Select Board activity

By Tony Marple

With Amish living in several locations in town, we are working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure that horse and buggy signs are properly located. David Boynton has placed signs on town roads. Initially, the DOT placed a few signs in incorrect locations, but a recent drive around with Dave Allen from the DOT, Pat Chase, Aaron Miller and myself has confirmed where signs need to be moved or added. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the signs will be all set. Please drive carefully for the safety of our new neighbors..



Photo by Tony Marple

Work has begun on the public viewing area at the site of the Coopers Mills dam, which is to be removed. The plan has been simplified from the original design and members of a volunteer committee overseeing the plans hope to minimize undesirable activities such as parties. The site is intended for daytime use only. It will be educational and also very beautiful.

Fire Chief Scott Higgins has found two utility vehicles which will be donated to the Town at no cost. This is one more example of Scott's judicious management of the fire department's operations and finances. Town Clerk Aaron Miller is now a very active volunteer fireman.

New board members Charlene Donahue and Bill McKeen are already fully engaged in town matters. Bill is looking for ways to improve the interest of and attendance at town meetings.

Erik Ekholm continues his tireless work on behalf of the town. In addition to helping design the first floor renovations of the Town Office, he has made plans for the insulation, renovation and installation of a heat pump on the second floor. The work on the second floor will be funded by an anonymous donation.

Superintendent Howie Tuttle and other RSU 12 staff and board members presented their current 2018 budget plan to the Select Board. Potential cuts in State funding and increases in tuition for private high schools such as Erskine and Lincoln academies are expected to result in higher than normal increases in town contributions in Whitefield and throughout the RSU. One staff position in Whitefield will be eliminated under the current budget plan, but student teacher ratios will remain consistent with those of other schools in the RSU. RSU 12 has the lowest percentage of administrative expense of any district in the state. The school budget will be presented on May 18 at 6:30 at Chelsea Elementary School. Please attend.

MAY 2017 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT. ANNUAL MEETING.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 2nd** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 1:00 pm
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 3rd** **SPRING TRAIL RUNNING SERIES,** Hidden Valley Nature Center. Each week, runners of all levels can start their run between 4:30 and 6pm Child care will be available for a fee. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Register at <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/events>
- 4th** **FAT BIKE CAMP,** The camp will run after school Thursday & Friday, May 4th & 5th from 2:35 – 5:30pm and Saturday, May 6th from 9am – 3 pm. This camp is open to all Maine youth ages 10-14. Campers will meet at Whitefield Elementary School - call (207) 389-5150
SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
WHITEFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 4 pm Sheepscot General
- 5th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY,** St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 6th** **BENEFIT SUPPER FOR FERGUSSON FIRE AND CLARY LAKE ORG.,** Spring Supper for Fergusson Fire and Clary Lake Saturday, May 6th 4pm-7pm Everyone is welcome to come enjoy a home cooked meal!
- 8th** **SPRING SONGBIRDS,** Every spring our woods and meadows resound with a chorus of birdsong. This class can deepen your experience of the wonders of spring, with beautiful bird photos and recordings of singing warblers, vireos, thrushes and other jewels of May. Mon. May 8 & Mon. May 15 6pm-8pm at Midcoast Conservancy office. Field Trip @ HVNC May 20 8am-11am FMI: call (207) 389-5150
WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT., Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD,** Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 10th** **SPRING TRAIL RUNNING SERIES SEE MAY 3RD**
ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING, Call 549-3491 for more information .
- 11th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP,** Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 12th** **GUIDED BOG WALK,** Meet at HVNC gate and be guided to our kettlehole bog to explore the explosion of plant life as spring arrives. Easy walk – 10 minutes each way. Leader: Hildy Ellis Dress appropriately, there could be bugs, binocs are a plus. \$5 Donation No dogs please—call (207) 389-5150
MOTHER'S DAY LOVE LESSONS, Mother's Day Love Lessons at 6pm, A professional story-saver shares lessons and stories from the elders. Author and oral historian Meghan Vigeant shares insights, stories and audio recordings about mothers, grandmothers, and being a woman gathered from the elders she has worked with over the years. At Sheepscot General.
- 13th** **MOTHER'S DAY ART PARTY,** Mother's Day Art Party 5 – 7 PM Join us for a fun night for mom's and kiddos with local artist Stacey Rice. Stacey will walk you through a step by step 11x14 "Daisies and Friends" acrylic painting! All the materials are included, just bring your creativity. 24 seats are available. You must pay in advance to hold your spot. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mothers-day-art-party-tickets-32331042017>
- 14th** **MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH,** Mother's Day Brunch 9 AM-1 PM Sheepscot General's last brunch of the season please call if you would like to reserve a table. We will have extra tables on hand for walk-ins too.
WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA), Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 16th** **SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6 pm
- 17th** **SPRING TRAIL RUNNING SERIES SEE MAY 3RD**
PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 18th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP,** Sheepscot General, 10 am
SCHOOL BUDGET MEETING, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 19th** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT,** Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th** **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL HAM & BAKED BEAN SUPPER,** 5-7pm \$10 Adults; \$4.00 children (10 years & under) Kings Mills Union Hall, Townhouse Road Benefit: Restoration of Kings Mills Union Hall Ham; Baked Beans; Macaroni & Cheese; Garden Salad; Cole Slaw; Biscuits; Assorted Dessert Pies; Coffee; Tea; Milk
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 21st** **PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT THE ALNA GENERAL STORE** 7:30-10:30am, Midcoast Conservancy's Hidden Valley Nature Center annual Pancake Breakfast. Everyone is invited to attend; it is a great opportunity to meet other members of the outdoor education and recreation community!
- 23rd** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD,** Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 24th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS,** Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm fini call Mary at (549-5041) or Arlene (549-7937)
- 25th** **SPRING TRAIL RUNNING SERIES SEE APRIL 19TH**
SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
INVASIVE PLANT WORKSHOP, 4:30 - 6:30 pm at Damariscotta Lake, learn how to ID terrestrial invasive plants. We will go over reporting methods and management techniques for controlling existing invasive plant populations. There will be volunteer opportunities over the summer to assess the extent of invasive plants on our preserves and begin management. For more information call (207) 389-5150
- 29th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM** 10 a.m. at Veterans Park followed by a program afterwards on World War 1 veterans from Whitefield.
- 30th** **SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6 pm

Do you have an event? Contact: whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html

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