

A Note from Mary Denzer, Island Resident

I would like to volunteer my time to help folks start vegetable gardens. I can show them how to begin making a no-dig vegetable garden or grow veggies in containers. All that is needed is a flat piece of ground with 6-8 hours of sun, enough cardboard to cover the area, and a mix of soil and compost to place on top of the cardboard or put into containers, Seeds and plants can be added immediately. Showing folks how to grow things is my mission in life, and it is my donation to the planet. No dig, organic growing that includes recycling of carbon-rich materials is my gift to anyone who wants to learn. People can reach me by phone: Please leave a message I am usually out and about. 882-7915 and by email: mary-denzer@roadrunner.com.

Have you heard of "ZIP ODES"?

The starting place is taking your area zip code and writing a 5 line poem using the number of words each number in the zip code suggests. Zero is a "wild card" of sorts and the poet could choose any number of words when zero appears.

Example 04578.

0 any # of words: When I was one and twenty

4 words Hearing my father say

5 words Give crowns, pounds, and farthings

7 words But not your dear young heart away

8 words Being two and twenty 'tis true, 'tis true.

"My apology to A. E. Housman for misappropriating his words. Do folks like to write poetry/odes?" Submit your ZIP ODES to lulusbarnshop@gmail.com. We will select and share one per issue.

THE Friends OF
WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY

Summer 2021 Friends of Westport Island History Quilt Raffle

A beautiful hand-made 20-block quilt created by Debbie Williams to support preserving Westport Island's history is being raffled off this summer by the Friends of Westport Island History! This very colorful 76-inch by 76-inch quilt is on exhibit at the History Center all summer. Please stop by any Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm to appreciate this lovely piece!

Tickets are on sale (one ticket for \$5 and six for \$25), with the drawing to be held Sunday, August 29. Right now, tickets are available at the History Center but we will be adding other ways to purchase tickets in the next few weeks. Stay tuned to Westport Island History's Facebook page for updates. Debbie has been quilting for many years AND has been a dedicated member of the Town's History Committee for over 15 years. She contributed her Sheepscot River View block to the Town's 2010 Westport Island Quilt.

This new wonderful quilt is another way for Debbie to show her love for all things Westport! For more information, visit the History Center or email fowih19@gmail.com.



Examples of quilt blocks

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THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

Westport Community Association
6 Fowles Point Road,
Westport Island, ME 04578

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Love Language by Drew Porter

Having scrubbed her hands of garden dirt, she ties her well-worn apron across her broad back. The large shallow basket overflows with spring green lettuces, slim tender stalks of scallions, snappy snow peas, candy cane striped radishes and vibrant sticks of rhubarb.

She has heated the large cast iron, her favorite skillet, and tips a generous pool of liquid. Large cloves of garlic are pressed into service, sizzling in the green tinged olive oil. The scallions enter next, softening quickly. She does not taste as she cooks, knowing by heart the meal she will offer. Snap peas fall from the colander into the mix, and she gives them a quick stir to introduce them to the fat. Last year's roasted peppers and little yellow and red tomatoes have been pulled from the freezer and they join the sauté. Her fingers pinch a half teaspoon of each of the pungent spices, a confident certainty after so many years. A squeeze of anchovy paste, then a spill of vegetable broth. A spoonful of preserved oily basil is stirred in. Leaving the flavors to mingle, she focuses on the salad.

The crunchy radishes are sliced in thin rounds and sprinkled with Malden salt. The crisp leaves, dressed in a thin veil of fruity olive oil and squeezed juice from a fat yellow lemon are dusted with coarse bits of black pepper. The radishes are placed tenderly like a fancy collar around the bowl's edge.

A large round, of what she considers the staff of life, is pulled from the oven, and settled on a wire rack. She remembers the scent of all the breads she has baked week after week, year after year.

The oven still hot, she places the rhubarb cake in the middle and sets the timer, noting it should be finished at the same time as the meal. She whips the clotted cream into perfect peaks and leaves it to chill.

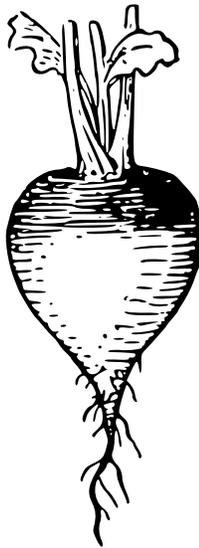
The well-used cloth is laid with earth colored pottery, her grandmother's silver, and paper-thin crystal wine glasses. Candles in various sizes and shades are strewn down the middle of the long farmer's table and assorted handmade napkins add a splash of whimsy.

Back to the stove, she lays freshly caught flounder across the colorful, fragrant stew, nudges it into the broth, dons the cover and leaves it to steam. Timing by memory, she lifts the lid when the fish is poached to perfection. She finishes the dish with a squeeze of acidic lemon, just grated parmesan and a sprinkle of freshly cut parsley.

Pungent garlic butter is smeared heavily on the crusty slices of still warm Boule. The family has begun to gather. One opens and pours the spicy red wine, while others bring the bounty to the table. They sit in their favorite groupings and wait while she adds a few final touches. She sits, sweeping her eyes across the table and smiles affectionately at her family.

They fill their plates, praising the food, the table, the great effort. She remembers the flavors and scents before the virus stole the precious gifts of taste and smell. She still has so much to be grateful for. She watches her family, comforted by their enjoyment, and her heart swells.

Fold Paper



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Historic Settlement Trek Open at Preserve at Squam Creek

During the Family Fun Scavenger Hunt on May 23 rd, visitors got a first look at the new displays that tell the story of the Dunton family who came to settle on “Jeremisquam” starting in 1740. Four home site cellar holes and two family cemeteries are now telling the stories of these early settlers. Below is the story of John and Abbie Dunton:

The second son of Timothy Dunton, John Dunton (1738–1808) claimed the land just to the south of his father’s farm on Squam Creek. John built this house around 1760. He and his wife, Abigail, spent their lifetime here, raising their family and working this farm. John died in 1808 at the age of 70, leaving Abigail to carry on working the farm.

Recognizing Abbie’s challenge, her son-in-law John Hodgdon, who lived just to the south, offered her a “life estate” in exchange for a portion of her land and her share of interest in the house. John Hodgdon provided her with one cow each spring for milk and meat, a portion of the main house to live in, and part of the cellar and barn for her to store hay and produce. He also provided her with \$4 each year for expenses.

She continued to live in her home until her death in 1814. Her son Andrew then acquired title to the land and combined it with Timothy Dunton’s farm. After Andrew’s death at sea in 1828, the land went to John Dunton’s grandson Stephen Dunton.

The original house built by John Dunton may have been relocated to Jewett Cove in about 1850 and, at a later date, a new house built on the same foundation.

Eliza Jane Welch, daughter of Stephen Dunton, and her husband William Welch acquired title to the house and a small parcel of land in 1865 from Stephen. A house remained on this site until the mid- 1940s and was last occupied by Violet Apt.

Who Lived Here in 1790? (based on 1790 census and family records)

John Dunton Age 52 Known for great strength and endurance.

Abigail Heal Age Unknown Second wife of John.

John Jr. Age 22 Married Sarah Greenleaf, 1790. (Departed before census count with new wife, Sarah, and built his home on the east side of Westport Island.)

Andrew Age 18 Married Nancy Dunton.

Deborah Age 16 Married John Hodgdon.

Timothy Age 14 Married (“three twins”).

Mary Age Unknown Married Benjamin Bailey.

Elizabeth Age 11 Married Sam Norton.

Peter Age 10 Married Sarah Pierce Reed.

Isaac Age Unknown Married Abigail Smith of Hope.

Josiah Age Unknown

Sarah Age Unknown Married James Eliffin.



What the house may have looked like based on the cellar hole dimensions and year built.

Come visit the “Historic Settlement Trek” at the Carl and Barbara Segerstrom Preserve at Squam Creek, sponsored by the Friends of Westport Island History and the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust.

If you have an interest in receiving the Westport Island Newsletter via email, please contact Rose at westportcommunityassociation@gmail.com to be added to the email list. All back issues of the Westport Island Community Newsletter are located at www.westportcommunityassociation.org

Westport Island Community Association

The Westport Island Community Association Needs You!

Do you have a knack for event planning? The WCA is looking for new members who would like to join the committee to help promote projects or ideas in the best interest of residents of Westport Island and to bring together a sense of community. If this sounds interesting to you, contact Debbie Lorenson at dclorenson@aol.com. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM.



Upcoming Westport Community Events!

Join us for the **Plant Sale on Saturday, June 12th** from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Wright Landing on the Ferry Road. Please help WCA by potting perennials from your garden or growing a few extra seedlings. You may drop off your donated plants at Debbie Lorenson's house at 781 Main Road. Please email Debbie Lorenson at dclorenson@aol.com to make arrangements or for more information. If you need a pot, Debbie has many to spare.



Save the Date! The Westport Island Yard Sale will be on July 17th from 8 am - 1 pm. We have 28 families that have signed up to participate; mark your calendars for this grand event. A map to all participating addresses will be given out at the Wiscasset/Westport Island bridge turnaround on the day of the Island yard sale.

Bette Monfort Awarded the Boston Post Cane

Bette Monfort has lived on the island since 1970, and she was delighted to get the Boston Post Cane recognizing her as the oldest resident on the island. She said she remembered when she was third in line to get the Boston Post Cane, then second, and she was so glad that she made it to be the recipient. She feels like she earned it living to age 96. George and Ross, town selectmen, presented her with a certificate, the cane, roses, and a Boston Post Cane pin. The cane will go back to the Town Office with a copy of her certificate. Photo and article by Gaye Wagner



Town Office

Municipal Election is on June 8. Polls will be open from noon until 6 pm at the town hall. Town Meeting is on June 19 at 9 am at the town hall.

Newsletter Submissions

If you have an interest in contributing to the Westport Island Newsletter, please contact Rose at lulusbarnshop@gmail.com or 215-7039. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. I would love to hear from you!