

Understanding your past

Senior center offers genealogy workshop

BY JONATHAN PAPPALARDO
CLIPPER REPORTER

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. For most of us, that means a day filled with turkey, the fixings and multiple generations of family.

With so many relatives gathered in one place, conversations about family history are all but inevitable. Now, with the assistance of the Duxbury Genealogy Club at the Duxbury Senior Center, recording and preserving that family history is as easy as ever.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. until noon, the Genealogy Club is hosting a workshop at the Senior Center for anyone who wants to jumpstart a conversation about their ancestry. Attendance is free, although limited, with nine one-hour sessions available. Club member and Duxbury resident Pam Smith, who is organizing the workshop, says those interested in attending should call the Senior Center directly to reserve their consult time.

Smith asks participants bring notes on three generations of family members with them to their session. "We ask that they bring information on themselves, their parents, and their grandparents including an idea of birthdates and where they were born. Marriage dates would also be helpful if they could find that."

Those notes, and the additional information obtained through the session, will be organized on a both a four-generation genealogy chart and a family group sheet. "You can take these with you to your family gathering and ask others to help you complete them," says Smith. "Make copies and hand them out to everyone. It's a great conversation starter, probably before

turkey."

After Thanksgiving, if the participant has obtained additional information and would like to research their genealogy further, Smith welcomes them, and everyone, to drop in during one of the club's weekly meetings on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center. At those weekly meetings there could be as few as six people in attendance or as many as 12 or more.

"We ask that they bring information on themselves, their parents, and their grandparents including an idea of birthdates and where they were born. Marriage dates would also be helpful if they could find that," said Duxbury resident Pam Smith.

"We try and help one another with our brick walls," Smith says. "People drop in and say, 'ok, I'm stuck and can't find any information on so-and-so, can't find them listed.' So we work together to see if we have any ideas."

To access information the club has accounts with a number of sites, including ancesstry.com, FamilySearch.org, Fold 3, newspapers.com, and FindMyPast.com. Smith says the research is "addicting" and can get extensive. When we met, she showed me an example of a person's family album they had created, with detailed family history, copies of marriage and death certificates and photos of graves.

The photos of graves are part of a larger project, in which club members visit the cemeteries in Duxbury, photograph gravestones and upload

them to the online database, Find My Grave. People from all over the country, and the world, can send in a request to have a grave photographed. Smith and other club members have uploaded 189 photos to the database so far. "It's one hand helping the other," says Smith. "We might go to the cemetery office. They'll tell us where the grave is and we'll photograph it."

The Duxbury Genealogy Club was formed in 2005 and has grown in the last 13 years to include participants from Halifax to Plymouth. At that time, Smith says her parents were quite active at the Duxbury Senior Center and she was involved with their Meals on Wheels program. She began asking her parents for family stories. "I asked my dad, 'why did you go to school at Syracuse when you were born in Allentown, Pennsylvania?' So I went to the director, Joanne Moore, and proposed the club. I said we need to capture these stories right now."

That sense of urgency is why Smith feels studying genealogy has exploded in popularity. "Baby boomers are retired and their parents are in their 80s. We need to talk to mom and dad today. Don't wait until tomorrow. When they're gone, the stories are lost forever."

To reserve your one-hour session for the Thanksgiving Genealogy Workshop, held Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. until noon, call the Duxbury Senior Center at 781-934-5774, ext. 516.

Run like a bird this Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 17 is the 42nd Annual Turkey Trot 5K Road Race. This is a 5k road race that begins and ends at the Percy Walker Pool. Runner can sign up in person at the Recreation Department Office at 22 Washington St. Registration on race day begins at 9 a.m. in the pool lobby. The fee is \$10 and all runners receive a T-shirt. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank. For the safety of all runners leave your dogs at home.

Help make Holly Days happen

Holly Days are coming soon and the Duxbury Business Association's Holly Days Committee is looking for new ideas and members to begin planning this year's event. This town-wide celebration takes place Nov. 25, from noon until dusk. People of all ages have come to enjoy this delightful tradition spread throughout the town. Anyone wanting to contribute should contact Anne Antonellis at anne@duxburymortgages.com.

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Duxbury Beach Reservation to present on beach road closures and restoration

The Duxbury Beach Reservation hosts a reception and information night regarding a dune renourishment project on Nov. 18 from 4-6 p.m. at the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, 457 Washington St. The DBR will detail what residents can expect as the project progresses, how community support is vital and how the project will help protect Duxbury Beach.

The project is intended to provide erosion control, buffer storm surge and protect critical wildlife habitat. The work is scheduled to start in November. The back road of Duxbury Beach may be temporarily closed or have delayed access at certain times. This will limit access to the beach for permit holders and travel to Gurnet and Saquish. The latest information regarding access and closures will be available on the Duxbury Beach Reservation website, duxburybeach.com. To RSVP, visit www.duxburybeach.com/dune-project or contact brynna@duxburybeachreservation.org.

Open forum on Duxbury schools

The Duxbury Public School system invites the community to share their dreams, hopes and concerns for the future of the Duxbury schools. There will be a forum for parents and community members, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the DHS/DMS Library. During these forums, community stakeholders will be asked to identify the strengths of the district and brainstorm new opportunities for students and staff.

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Asset Limitations \$75,000, As Defined In The Information Packet

Other Restrictions Apply

INFORMATION MEETING:

Duxbury Senior Center, 10 Mayflower Street, Wed, 11/28/2018; 6 - 8PM

Applications at:

Duxbury Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office or Duxbury Free Library

Or Write To:

JTE Realty Associates, LLC, P. O. Box 955, North Andover, Ma. 01845

Or e-mail: franklinst@jterealtyassociates.com

MAILING ADDRESS MUST BE PROVIDED

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Application Deadline Received or Postmarked by Thurs, 12/27/2018

