



# Acton Senior Center Newsletter JULY 2020



The Council on Aging at the Senior is Center located at 30 Sudbury Road Rear.

Telephone: 978-929-6652. Email: [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov)

Website [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/actoncoa>

## At the Piano with Sivan Etedgee Live via Zoom!

**Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00pm**

Sivan Etedgee will play and discuss favorite compositions by classical composers live from his home studio. Many of you are familiar with Sivan's popular classical music presentations, and this program will be a blend of lecture and performance with emphasis on the latter. There will be time for questions. Please register for this program by emailing the COA at [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov). For more information on registering, see "Virtual Programming" description on page 2. *Sivan Etedgee appears frequently as a recitalist, chamber musician, and lecturer, giving many performances and presentations each year and is a faculty member at the Newton Music Academy. His series at the Senior Center are always received with enthusiasm!*



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## Drive Thru BBQ

**Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm**

The Acton Fire Department will be having their annual BBQ for the seniors on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Enjoy a cheeseburger, potato salad, watermelon and an ice cream bar for \$3. Please sign up via email or a phone call to the COA by July 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have food packaged in takeout boxes and place them in your car as you drive through the entrance circle at the front of Senior Center. Swing through and see some familiar (masked) faces.

**Acton Seniors Only  
Sign Up by July 6th**

## Director's Corner

Hope you are all doing well. We miss seeing you! The COA staff continues to work behind the scenes to assist you however we can. We have been increasing the number of virtual programming available through Zoom and Acton TV. We are working with Minuteman Senior Services to increase "grab and go" meals that are available at the Senior Center, see page 7, and continue to provide social services to our residents through these challenging times. We will keep you informed as we gradually begin to scale up our re-opening. Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**Best, Sharon**

**Funding for the printing of this newsletter is made possible from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs' State Formula Grant.**

## Bringing our Programs into your home

### **Virtual Programming**

All Council on Aging/Senior Center programs continue to be offered virtually, many using the Zoom video conferencing platform. Some programs, particularly fitness and movement classes, are available on ActonTV's cable and YouTube channels.

Each program description will indicate how you can participate. If a program is being offered through Zoom, please note whether you need to register to receive the Zoom link or if you can view the COA website to obtain the link.

To register for a Zoom-based program, email the Council on Aging at [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov). You will receive an email with the Zoom link by the morning of the scheduled program. If you do not receive the email, please check your email spam folder or call the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652 for assistance.

You can also request the call-in audio information if you are going to attend via house or regular cell phone.

If the Zoom program does not require registration, you can find the link on the day of the program under "Special Announcements" on our website [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com).

You do not need to have a Zoom account to attend a meeting. You can use a computer, smartphone or tablet. Some computers do not have cameras and microphones, so in that case you will be able to view/listen to the meeting but not be seen or heard. To just listen to a meeting, you can dial in using a house phone or regular cell phone.

If you have not used Zoom, you can view tutorials on the company's website [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and click on "support" tab. There are many how-to videos on YouTube including this one on how to get on a Zoom call for the first time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>. You can learn how to unmute yourself, allow yourself to be viewed to all other attendees via video, and how to change to speaker view so that the person running a class or giving a lecture will take up the largest amount of space on your screen.

Some seniors are not receiving emails from the Council on Aging. The common denominator is they are Verizon accounts (or Verizon owned AOL and Yahoo). Some seniors found the emails were in their spam folders. If you are finding this to be the case for you, you can remove the COA email domain (@actonma.gov) from your Verizon spam block. Contact Verizon customer service if you need assistance or attend the next COA Computer Club via Zoom on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. We want everyone who can to join in!

**Java with John, Fridays at 10:00am** [www.youtube/actontv1](http://www.youtube/actontv1) and Acton Radio WAEM 94.9 FM. The show will be aired later on ActonTV. Join the Town Manager, the COA Director and guests, each week as they give updates and answer questions. Check the website under 'special announcements' for up to date information. Questions can be emailed ahead of time to [manager@actonma.gov](mailto:manager@actonma.gov). Check for an up to date schedule on the website. There will be no "Java with John" on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.



The poems read by Sharon can be found on the website [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) homepage.

### **Terri's Tuesday Tips at 10:00 on Zoom**

**Tuesdays, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00a.m. No meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Fitness instructor Terri Zaborowski hosts a weekly live chat using Zoom. This is a great way to get some inspiration and encouragement concerning fitness and wellness, while seeing friendly faces.

Topics have included hand exercises, stretching, exercises for arthritis and fibromyalgia, nutrition and hydration. Check "Special Announcements" on the COA homepage, [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com), for the meeting link (which changes each week). See Virtual Programming above for more information on using Zoom.



## Computer Club via Zoom

**Wednesdays, July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:30-3:00pm**

Bring your computer and hardware questions, problems and related issues to meetings via the Zoom platform. This is a club with no formally planned instruction. Several regulars are willing to share their experiences to resolve any computer issues from Windows system difficulties, email setups/usage, networking issues, upgrades and assistance with “how do I” frustrations. MAC and Chrome/Android users are welcome. Regular attendees will receive an email with Zoom meeting information which will also be published on our website under “Special Announcements” prior to each meeting. See “Virtual Programming” on page 2 for more information on using Zoom.



## Chess Classes with Ken LeBow via Zoom

**Thursdays, starting July 9<sup>th</sup> with an end date to be determined;**

**see class meeting times below.**

**No classes on August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Ken LeBow is offering three different levels of virtual chess classes via Zoom this summer. Chess is a great way to exercise your brain—studies show playing can improve memory, boost concentration skills and increase creativity. Please register for class by emailing the Acton Council on Aging at [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov) and include which level of class, your email address, and phone number. We will email the Zoom link to participants by the morning of July 9<sup>th</sup>. See page 2 for more information on using Zoom for COA programs. If you are unsure which level class you should take, please call or email the COA and the instructor will get back to you to discuss.

### **Pure Beginner Chess Class, 11:00am-12:15pm**

This is for people who are completely new to chess—you don’t know how the pieces move and what check and check mate mean. You will learn basic strategies, including the ten golden rules of chess.

### **Advanced Beginner Chess Class, 12:30-1:45pm**

Suitable for people who know the basics of chess, such as how the pieces move and the concepts of check and checkmate.

### **Intermediate Chess Class, 2:00-3:15pm**

If you are playing chess with confidence but are seeking feedback on how to improve your game, this is the class for you.



## Stamp Collecting with Anirban via Zoom

**Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm**

Join Acton resident Anirban Chakraborty for talk about stamp collecting to take place via Zoom. Anirban is an avid philatelist who believes stamps can educate on just about any topic. This talk will focus on his special interest in medical/health related stamps.

Participants can also share their thoughts or ask questions. Please register through the Council on Aging, [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov), and we will send you the Zoom link. For more information on registering, see “Virtual Programming” on page 2. Anirban is a Tufts University student and has been collecting stamps for around 10 years. He recently began a blog, <https://casualphilatelist.wixsite.com/casualphilatelist>, and is on Instagram (@casualphilatelist) to increase awareness and interest in stamp collecting and to share his stamp collection with others.

## **Virtual Watercolor Class with Sandy Wilensky**

**Wednesdays through July 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Please note this class is closed to new students.

**Get to grips with ZOOM** Suddenly Zoom is part of many of our everyday lives! If you are new to using this video conferencing platform, check the company’s tips and tutorials at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started>

There are many how-to videos on YouTube including this one on how to get on a Zoom call for the first time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

## **It's Uber-Easy to Get a Lyft! Via Zoom**

**Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm**

Need a Ride? This program is designed to educate seniors on the benefits and steps for using ride-hailing services Uber and Lyft. Attendees will learn how to install Uber or Lyft apps on a smart phone, how to order a ride using either app and staying safe while using ride-hailing services. Presenter John Paul from AAA Northeast is well-known as *The Car Doctor* with regular columns in the *Boston Globe*. The Zoom link for this program will be posted under "Special Announcements" on the COAs homepage at [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) by the morning of July 15<sup>th</sup> or you can email us to receive the link. See "Virtual Programming" on page 2 for more information on using Zoom.

# Uber

## **At the Piano with Sivan Etedgee Live via Zoom!**

**Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00pm**

**See Page 1 for details**



## **Planning for Medicare Countdown to 65, Blue Cross Blue Shield Webinar**

**Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00pm**

If you're getting close to Medicare eligibility, this seminar is for you! Whether you are planning to retire or will continue to work, it's important to know your Medicare options. Did you know that missing your Medicare enrollment deadlines could cost you money? This seminar is a presentation and discussion led by a knowledgeable Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative who will answer your specific questions. Topics covered include: explanation of Medicare Parts A, B, and C, Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap plans that help supplement Medicare coverage, Medicare Advantage plans such as HMOs and PPOs, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, plans and programs available to early retirees, such as COBRA.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3083332277709042446>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

## **Bring Your Pet to Zoom Day!**

**Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm**

Join COA staff member Chris Chirokas to show off and talk about your pet on Zoom! During the pandemic, pet parents have been spending a lot of more time with our fuzzy friends and some of us don't know what we'd do without their company. If your pup or cat has been sneaking its way into your Zoom meetings anyway, this is the perfect time to let them have the spotlight. If you haven't tried using Zoom yet, this is a great no-pressure way to start! The Zoom link for this program will be posted on the "Special Announcements" section of the COA home page, [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) by the morning of July 29<sup>th</sup> or you can email us to receive the link. For more information on using Zoom, see "Virtual Programming" description on page 2.



## **History of 1950s Music: Folk via Zoom**

**Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:00pm**

This overview of 50s folk music by John Clark features lecture with sound and video recordings and begins politically with the blacklisting of Pete Seeger and the Weavers, then highlights the two most popular acts of the decade, Harry Belafonte and the Kingston Trio. Reacquaint yourself with the music of numerous other important folk artists of the decade like Jean Ritchie, Theodore Bikel and the New Lost City Ramblers. This program ends in 1959 with rising star Joan Baez and the first Newport Folk Festival. Please register for this program by emailing the COA at [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov) . For more information on registering, see "Virtual Programming" description on page 2. *Prior to a career as a high school and adult education teacher, John Clark worked in music publishing in Nashville. He enjoys sharing his passion for music with senior centers and senior residences.*

## Missing some of your Senior Center favorite lecturers and performers?

You can find many of them on YouTube! Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search the person's name or go to our online newsletter at [www.actoncoa.com](http://www.actoncoa.com) for specific links.

Ever popular history professor Gary Hylander has many lectures available, including the Spanish American War, Battle of Bunker Hill, Salem Witch Trials, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Other familiar presenters you can find if you enter their name into the search box on YouTube:

Sivan Etedgee, familiar to many for his classical music lectures, is sharing "Music for Staying at Home" where he performs on the piano from his home.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD4aYYbdbMBta\\_8i8l9f1MMam7KpucLty](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD4aYYbdbMBta_8i8l9f1MMam7KpucLty)

Stephen Collins performs Walt Whitman show and "Sailing Towards My Father" about Herman Melville.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGIAH2nPNF0>

Performers Ben Sears and Brad Conner have some short clips from performances.

Paolo DiGregorio offers lectures "Stew Pie and Rum Punch" on eating and drinking in Colonial New England and The Rise and Fall of Rome.

Larry Lowenthal appears in a series of discussions about the Role of Government in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century from Northeastern University.

 **Senior Golf**, Quail Ridge Country Club is open with restrictions. Unfortunately, one of these restrictions is that we are not allowed to organize group gatherings. Please Call Marc at Quail Ridge directly to reserve a tee time and for senior rates at 978-264-0399 ext. 0.

## Exercise Classes

Most of our exercise instructors recorded sessions which have been broadcast on Acton TV. If you have not had the chance yet check out the regular schedule 9am-11am with a 2pm program also. Be aware that from time to time Acton TV reserves the right to show other programs at these times, for example the High school Graduation. You can find Acton TV on YouTube and all the Senior Center programs are available via the "playlist" and you can design your exercise around your schedule.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkpIX4r1Ooc800sC6iWN8jd/playlists>

Acton TV schedule (correct at time of going to press.) New programs added regularly. Comcast 8 and Verizon 45. Videos are available on demand at [www.actontv.org](http://www.actontv.org) and [www.youtube.com/actontv1](http://www.youtube.com/actontv1) look for Acton Senior Center at Home playlist. 10 classes now listed!



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00am	Terri Z	Line Dancing 2	Terri Z	Line Dancing 1	Terri Z
10:00am	Nouvon Fitness	Chair Exercise	Nouvon Fitness	Chair Exercise	Nouvon Fitness
11:00am	Active Aging				
2:00pm	Line Dancing 1	Yoga	Chair Exercise	Yoga	Line Dancing 2
3:00pm	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture

**Line Dance 1 = Beginner (level 1+2 dances ), 2 – Beginner (level 1-3 dances),**

**Line Dance 3 - Beginner (level 1-3), Saturdays 3:50 – 5:00pm**

**Line Dance 4 - Upper Beginner/Low Intermediate (level 3-6) Sundays 2:50 – 4:00pm**



**Laughter Yoga via zoom Tuesdays at 7:00pm.** Please call the COA or visit the Virtual Engagement pages of the on-line edition of the newsletter for details.

**COA Board Meeting, Tuesday July 14th at 10:00am** via zoom link webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/94258881200> or via telephone: (646) 876-9923 and enter Webinar ID: 942-5888-1200.

**Friends of Acton COA will not be meeting in July.**

**Memory Café, offering help and support for those suffering memory loss and their care givers.**

Memory Café <https://www.memorycafedirectory.com/caf-connect/>

The Dementia Society [www.dementiasociety.org](http://www.dementiasociety.org)



**Aging & Memory Loss Road Map Educational Webinars**

Are you or a loved one concerned about memory loss or dementia? Has someone you know recently been diagnosed with dementia? Do you know that you can participate in a clinical research trial? The public is invited to the virtual webinar series *Aging & Memory Loss Road Map Education*.

It includes four parts with speakers from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Tuesday, June 23 at noon: Road Map to Dementia Diagnosis.

Tuesday, July 21 at noon: Road Map to Research Participation.

Wednesday, August 26 at noon: Road Map to Caregiving.

Tuesday, September 22 at noon: Road Map to Prevention.

Co-sponsored by Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation. Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/RoadMapSeries> or contact [ncoppelman@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:ncoppelman@bwh.harvard.edu) or (617) 278-0383 with questions.

**Senior Handy Helper program is currently suspended.** Anyone who needs an air conditioning unit installed we suggest that you ask a family member or friend.



**Thank you to.....**

John and Paula Morabito, Dorothy Holtzman, Fr. Antony Carbone, Jim Carbone and Pete Carbone for your donation in memory of Angie Conn. Almeida and Carlson Insurance and Dot Keyworth for your donation in memory of Ray Reeves.

Angela D'Andrea for your donation in memory of Pete Duran, Carolyn Hoff and Jean Bachman.

Indian Association of Greater Boston for the donation of masks  
And as ever, to all our fabulous volunteers!



**Acton Staff** continue to offer support despite building closure. The Senior Center is offering a service, to seniors in the community for once a week call for conversation and well check. Please contact the Senior Center by email [seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov) or leave a message 978-929-6652 with your name, phone number and email address, if possible. If you are concerned about a neighbor you can let us know in confidence.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** <https://www.facebook.com/actoncoa>

## Food Assistance

### **“Grab and Go” Lunches from the Senior Center**

In lieu of congregate lunches, Minuteman Senior Services has been providing daily lunches Monday through Friday for pick up, 11:30-12:30pm at the Senior Center.

Starting in July additional menu options will be available. For menu or to reserve a lunch please call at least 24 hours in advance at 781-221-7085. A \$2 donation is requested.

**Acton Food Pantry - 978-635-9295**, 235 Summer Road, Boxborough.

Call 978-635-9295 or check their website [www.actonfoodpantry.org](http://www.actonfoodpantry.org)

Distribution Schedule 10am-7pm Wednesday & 9:30am-11:30am Thursdays as a DRIVE THRU PANTRY ONLY. During this time you do not need to be a registered client of Acton Food Pantry, They will provide food to anyone in need. CLOSED WEEK OF 4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH.

**Mount Calvary Community Supper**, 472 Massachusetts Ave, Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm.

Meals - available Wednesday 5:00 to 6:00pm (no exceptions) or until they run out

Pickup - Drive up to the back entrance in the parking lot. Your meal will be brought to you at your car. Information regarding any changes check [www.mtcalvaryacton.org](http://www.mtcalvaryacton.org) or [facebook.com/CommunitySupperofActonMA](http://facebook.com/CommunitySupperofActonMA)



**Open Table, Maynard** , 33 Main Street Maynard, MA call 978-369-2275 or check website [www.opentable.org](http://www.opentable.org) for “Drive-Thru” pantry information. Open Tuesdays 1:00-6:30pm, Thursdays 1:00pm-4:30pm (New guests please try and come Tues 5-6:30pm, or Thurs 1-3:00pm)

**SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** call Bev for information. 978-929-6652.

Check balance and monthly SNAP benefit amount by:

Calling the DTA Assistance Line @ 877-382-2363. Enter you SSN/year of birth to hear an automated message with your monthly SNAP amount or visit [DTAConnect.com](http://DTAConnect.com)



**AB Regional School District** will continue to offer bagged lunches through the summer to individuals and families Monday, Wednesday and Friday for pick up outside the rear entrance of the High School, by the gazebo, off Hayward Road. Pick up times will be from 11:30am-1:00pm.

If you need delivery due to illness or a transportation barrier contact

[abqualifiedlunch@neighborbrigade.org](mailto:abqualifiedlunch@neighborbrigade.org) . Delivery of meals is intended for people that cannot go to the High School to pick up the food. Individuals picking up bag lunches should not enter the school and practice appropriate social distancing measures. This scheme is open to ALL residents regardless if you have a child enrolled in the school system. You can send questions to [lunchonline@abschools.org](mailto:lunchonline@abschools.org)



We have had several requests for a shredding day and hope to have a drive through Shredding Day scheduled for some time in August. The limit will be 3 grocery bags. Look out for more details in the August newsletter.

**Never give out personal or financial information over the phone, or at the door. If you are in any doubt call the police non-emergency number on 978-929-7711. Never click on a link in an email which you suspect is fraudulent.**

**The COA does not endorse any private company or their services.**

**Please be an informed consumer.**



## Assistance

### **SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) at the Senior Center**

HELPING  
HANDS



- ✓ Are you turning 65 and want information about Medicare?
- ✓ Are you 65 and losing employer group health insurance due to a recent job loss?
- ✓ Are you disabled and under age 65 covered by Medicare with questions?
- ✓ Are you a Medicare beneficiary and concerned about prescriptions costs, medical billing and co-payments?
- ✓ Are you living on a fixed income and having difficulties keeping pace with living costs, food, and healthcare costs

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the SHINE program is here to help! For no-cost, confidential counseling call Minuteman Senior Services SHINE line at 781-221-7029 or email: SHINE@minutemansenior.org -- most questions can be answered over the phone, information can be emailed or mailed to your home and, when necessary, remote counseling can be arranged.

### **Misplaced or lost “\$1200 stimulus checks”**

People who haven't had their stimulus check directly deposited into a bank account, receive their “checks” by mail. Although the envelope has some government wording, it is easy to mistake it as a credit card solicitation. So they trash the envelope without opening it. In fact it is a \$1200 debit card.

#### To get a replacement Stimulus Debit Card:

Call 1-800-240-8100

Click Option 2 <not option 1>

You will then be asked a series of questions including your Social Security number, etc.

### **Senior Citizen Water Bill Discount Policy** - The Water Supply District of Acton offers a Senior

Citizen Water Bill Discount that entitles seniors (65+) having low-to-moderate incomes to a reduction in their bill. More information available from the Town Assessor's Office at 978-929-6621 the Water District at 978-263-9107.

### **Minuteman Senior Services**, our State Home Care, provides a variety of services including:

**Care Management** - In home assessment and support activities of daily living and Meals on Wheels. Minuteman Senior Services can be reached at 1-888-272-7177 or visit [www.minutemansenior.org](http://www.minutemansenior.org)

**Help Line Numbers to call:** **Alzheimer's Association** Helpline 1-800-272-3900,  
**Samaritans** 1-800-273-8255, **National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1-800-799-7233  
**Grief Counselling** 978-774-5100



**Veteran Services Officer for Acton and Boxborough**, James MacRae would like to remind veterans and surviving spouses that there are benefits that you may be entitled to, including healthcare. Reach out to him at [vso@actonma.gov](mailto:vso@actonma.gov) or call 978-929-6614 for a confidential chat about your needs.

**Acton Boxborough United Way** is providing much needed assistance at this time after very generous donations have made it possible for them to help those in financial need, go to [www.abuw.org](http://www.abuw.org) for more information and eligibility criteria or call the COA on 978-929-6652, or if you would like to donate.



## Around Town Departments

### Acton Recreation Department

NARA Park is now open with guidelines in place. For more information you can call the Town hotline 978-929-6619, visit the town website or email [recreation@acton.ma.gov](mailto:recreation@acton.ma.gov)

### Acton Nursing Services

**Podiatry Clinic *Thursdays, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 2pm. Call 978-929-6650.***

Podiatry clinics have returned to Acton Nursing Services with some changes for your safety! Clinic times will now be scheduled 15 minutes apart to give time to clean the room between visits. Patients should call from the parking lot when they arrive and someone will come to escort them in once the appointment prior has exited the building. Additional precautions are as followed:

1. Reminder calls will include a symptom check to include symptoms of COVID-19, travel and not limited to close contact of positive COVID-19 cases in the two weeks prior to your appointment. Appointment can be cancelled based on these answers.
2. Any signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, body aches etc. should be reported to ANS before coming to the building for your appointment.
3. ANS will ask questions related to symptoms, travel, risks of close contacts with COVID-19 and take temperatures before you are escorted into the building.
4. The client shall wear a face covering while in the building and during treatment, if this is difficult for you please discuss when booking an appointment.
5. Please follow the guidelines in place by MDPH to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 including hand washing, social distancing of 6' and face coverings when social distancing cannot be achieved.

Thank you for your understanding to the changes during this difficult time and we look forward to seeing you all again soon!!

### Acton Memorial Library

**Service Update** While Acton Memorial Library remains closed to the public we are working to phase in our in-person services. The outdoor book drop is now open for returns. Returned items will be quarantined and may remain on your account for up to 7 days.

Appointments for curbside contactless pick up for library materials. Please call 978-929-6655 option 2 to make appointments between 10:30am - 5:30pm Monday - Friday and 10:30am - 1:30pm on Saturdays. When you call to make an appointment please have a list ready of items you would like to check out. If you need help or would like suggestions on what to read you can contact the Reference Department at 978-929-6543 or email [reference@actonma.gov](mailto:reference@actonma.gov)

For children's and teens call 978-929-6655 option 4 or email [ACTChildrens@minlib.net](mailto:ACTChildrens@minlib.net)

When you come to pick up your materials at your designated time they will be located on a table in front of the library's main doors. Look for a bag with the last 4 digits of your library card number and the first 4 letters of your last name.

**Acton Covid 19 Experiences** The Acton Historical Society and the Acton Memorial Library are collaborating on a project to chronicle the effects that the COVID-19 outbreak has had on the daily lives of the Acton community. For those who are in a position to share your stories, we would like to add your memories to our archives so that future generations can better understand this experience from those who are living through it. Submit memories online at the Acton Historical Society website, email your submissions to the Acton Memorial Library at: [reference@acton-ma.gov](mailto:reference@acton-ma.gov) or the Acton Historical Society at: [jenkslibrary@verizon.net](mailto:jenkslibrary@verizon.net). You can also mail paper written memories via U.S. postal service addressed to: COVID-19 Memories, c/o Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main St., Acton MA 01720, or to: Acton Historical Society at P.O. Box 2389, Acton, MA 01720

For more information, see: <https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/covid-experience>

**AML Radio Show** Tune into the Town's radio station 94.9 FM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at 11am to hear *Check It Out: The Acton Memorial Library Radio show* as part of the library radio hour. Episodes are also available on AML's YouTube channel.

## **Transportation**

All of Acton's fixed-route services, including the Rail Shuttle and Cross-Acton Transit (CAT), will be suspended until further notice.

- Door-to-door services remain in operation, for essential trips (urgent medical appointments, groceries, etc) however, riders are encouraged to utilize alternative modes of transportation if possible. To schedule rides, continue using CrossTown Connect dispatch by calling 978-844-6809 during normal business hours.
- Any additional questions can be forwarded to Austin Cyganiewicz by phone on 978-929-6513 or email [acyganiewicz@actonma.gov](mailto:acyganiewicz@actonma.gov).



## **Tax Update**

The deadlines to FILE and PAY 2019 federal income taxes are postponed to July 15, 2020. The IRS have introduced Free File, where you can prepare and file your federal individual income tax return for free using tax-preparation and filing software.

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) › *filing* › *free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free* or call the AARP on 1-888-227-7669.



## **ACTON TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE** **978-929-6619**

Speak to a town employee with questions you may have on the impact to services.  
Pay your town bills on-line, and request and pay for permits, including Transfer Station stickers.  
Information can also be found on the Town website [www.actonma.gov](http://www.actonma.gov)

The Town of Acton Radio is broadcasting on WAEM 94.9 FM.  
Acton TV is broadcasting on Channels Comcast 8 & Verizon 45 Facebook live  
[www.facebook.com/ActonTV](http://www.facebook.com/ActonTV) , Youtube [www.youtube/actontv1](http://www.youtube/actontv1) and [www.actontv.org](http://www.actontv.org)

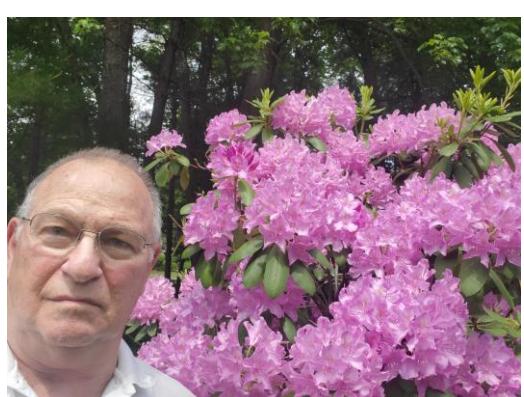
## **Note to newsletter subscribers:**

Commencing in September is our annual mailing list update. We create the mailing list from the Town census records. If you turn 60 this year you should begin receiving it through the mail. If you do not wish to receive a copy or would rather read the newsletter on line, PLEASE LET US KNOW. If your name was not on the most recent town census you may not be included on the new mailing list – we will happily reinstate you if you can let us know. Newsletters which are returned as addressees are 'temporarily away' for 3 consecutive months are also removed from the mailing list – be sure to let us know if you are going away for an extended time. If you have recently subscribed to receive the newsletter through the civicplus alert and do not want a paper copy, again just let us know. We are very happy if people "go green". Viewing the newsletter electronically has many other benefits – you have easy click links and can view it in full color. The newsletter online can also be updated to include extra information or changes in schedules.



<b>ACTON COA STAFF</b>	<b>ACTON COA BOARD MEMBERS</b>	
Sharon Mercurio, Director	<i>Ellen Feinsand Chair</i>	<i>Alma Sandman, Vice Chair</i>
Rosie Atherton, Office Manager	<i>Lori Cooney, Sec.</i>	<i>Jacquie Friedman</i>
Chris Chirokas, Program Manager	<i>Jeff Bergart</i>	<i>Chunsheng (Bill) Fu</i>
Beverley Hutchings, Senior Services Coordinator	<i>Michael Chautin</i>	<i>Niru Velankar</i>
Bernice Nicoll, Activities Assistant	<i>Ann Corcoran</i>	
Fiona Starr, Staff Assistant	<b>COA Friends will not meet in July</b>	
Terri Zaborowski, Exercise Instructor	<b>COA Board Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am ZOOM</b>	

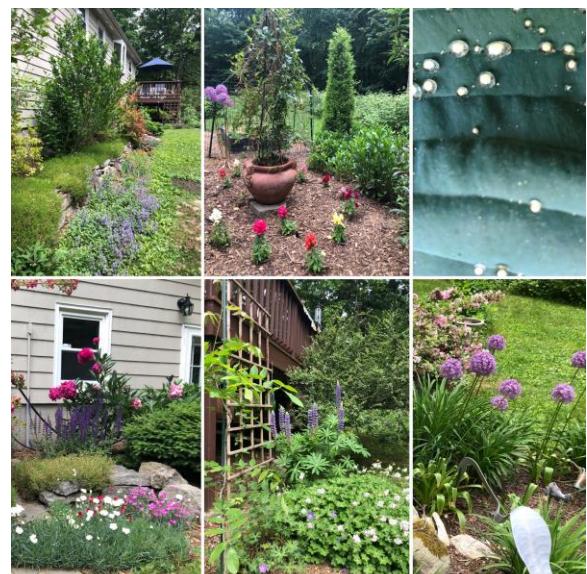
## Photos from your yards...



Send us your yard photos –  
make it a selfie!  
[seniorcenter@actonma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@actonma.gov)



**HAPPY JULY 4<sup>th</sup>!!**



## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Do you want to get involved in making Acton a better place to live? There are roughly 4 dozen boards and committees in town run by volunteers, and many of them are in need of new members. This is your chance to make a difference! There are both Ad Hoc and Ongoing Committee slots available. Examples include the *Volunteer Coordinating Committee, the Cable Advisory Committee, the Historic District Commission, the Agricultural Commission, and the Recreation Commission*. There is sure to be a board that can use your knowledge and skills. To learn more, visit the Volunteer Coordinating Committee page on the Town website: <http://www.acton-ma.gov/111/Volunteer-Coordinating-Committee>. There is no better way to give back to your community than volunteering. Applications may be filed online from the town's website at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/formcenter/town-managers-office-5/volunteer-application-43>.

## Renew Online now, get a free REAL ID later

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information#renew-online-now,-get-a-free-real-id-later->



The federal and state REAL ID requirements mandate that customers visit us in-person, but the compliance deadline has been delayed by at least one year to October 1, 2021. To help the RMV reduce Service Center volumes and observe social-distancing, the RMV has introduced an appointment-only reservation system, and is not currently accepting appointments for the issuance of REAL IDs.

We've also introduced a special offer to encourage everyone with a license expiring this summer to renew their 'standard' license or ID card online now, and wait to get their REAL ID.

Visit Mass.Gov/RMV, login to their "myRMV" account, and renew your standard license or ID card online by August 12<sup>th</sup>. Your new license or card will be mailed to you. Eligible drivers who renew online by August 12<sup>th</sup> will be able to visit us in 2021 if you need to upgrade your standard driver's license or ID to a REAL ID federally compliant credential at no additional cost. There is no difference in the cost for a 'standard' vs. a REAL ID driver's license; both are \$50, while the traditional \$25 upgrade / amendment fee will be waived.

For step-by-step license/ID renewal instructions, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/online-drivers-license-renewal-process/download> or download the attached document.

### Who is eligible?

- All Massachusetts ID card holders who have an expiring 2020 ID card.
- Massachusetts driver's license holders, up to 74 years of age, who have an expiring 2020 license. State law mandates that license holders 75 and older complete their driver's license renewal in-person to present a vision screening certificate or take an eye exam.

### What if I am 75 or older?

The RMV does not anticipate making appointments available for REAL ID upgrades or in-person renewals prior to September except in limited circumstances. But if you have an expiring 2020 license or ID card, the RMV has applied several automatic extensions to those expiration dates, typically coinciding with an individual's birth date, to prevent you from having to come visit us anytime soon.

- Driver's licenses and ID cards that expired or will expire in **March, April, and May 2020**, will now expire in **September 2020**.
- Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in **June** have been extended until **October 2020**.
- Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in **July** have been extended until **November 2020**.
- Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in **August** have been extended until **December 2020**.

For more information on extensions, or to verify your current expiration date, customers should visit Mass.Gov/RMV and login to your "myRMV" account.

AAA is currently accepting appointments for in-person license renewals, including REAL IDs, for their members. [See flyer for more details](#)



## **Virtual Engagement**

**Scroll through for recently added links and resources**

**Feel free to email [seniorcenter@acton-ma.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@acton-ma.gov) any links to content you have found and you think others would enjoy.**

**As we move through the phases mandated by the Governor towards lifting the 'lockdown' we still advise an abundance of caution – continue wearing masks and exercising social distancing if you visit any of our local scenic spots.**

### **Getting to grips with ZOOM**

Suddenly Zoom is part of many of our everyday lives! If you are new to using this video conferencing platform, check the company's tips and tutorials at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started>

There are many how-to videos on YouTube including this one on how to get on a Zoom call for the first time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

If you need some help **making video calls** to keep in touch with friends and family, here is a very handy link from the BBC in the UK <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-51968122>

Remember to keep privacy in mind when using the Internet. An AARP article that addresses this topic: <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/info-2019/privacy-for-seniors.html>.

**Acton TV, Acton Community Access Television (ACAT )** has education, government and public channels for Verizon and Comcast subscribers. You can access ACAT content at <http://actontv.org/> and click On Demand tab.



The Council on Aging worked with Acton TV and Terri, Mary, Yvonne, Patsy and Kari our instructors so that seniors can keep moving at home with familiar routines and instructors they trust. Thank you to Lori Cooney for all her work making this happen. Look for the videos on the public access channel (8 on Comcast and 45 on Verizon) Monday, through Friday from 9-11am , and at 2pm and on YouTube [www.youtube.com/actontv1](https://www.youtube.com/actontv1) Look for the playlist of all current COA exercise classes.

You can practice gentle yoga at home with COA instructor Patsy Brightman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOzgBmq6wUo>





## Laughter yoga, Tuesdays at 7pm zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/163023074>

Click the link 5-10 minutes before 7pm, have a glass of water handy and a quiet place to sit.

## Tai Chi

One of the Senior Center Tai Chi instructors, Linda Sango, has trained under Jeff Cote' who has Tai Chi qigong videos available on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMD9N3IpEISAzR2uxzmyIQ>

The Senior Center's other Tai Chi Class is offered by Taoist Tai Chi Society instructors.

You can search youtube for videos. One example of a class practicing all 108 moves:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq2JuOse1\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq2JuOse1_I)



Ray Caisse, former **Tai Chi** instructor at the Senior Center, shared information about his 10 minute video, Fight the Pandemic Virus with Qigong, that he says can help improve immune systems. Search YouTube for "Cultivating Qi."

 **Max Cantor of Connections Physical Therapy** recorded a presentation on the basics of balance that he shared with the Council on Aging. Plans are in the works to bring this presentation to ActonTV, but you can also view on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ru3bphIN9Zo&feature=youtu.be>



**YMCA Online Fitness Options.** Cambridge YMCA offers online fitness classes, both free and fee-based. For more information visit:

<https://www.cambridgeymca.org/news/2020/04/01/home-news/virtual-workout-options/>



**Ballet for Seniors.** Free beginner ballet lessons online through the Silver Swan program run by the Royal Academy of Dance in London  
<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/rad-at-home/silver-swans-classes-online/>

## Mindfulness Meditation

The Ten Percent Happier website/app has a Coronavirus Sanity Guide which includes free 3 p.m. EST daily meditation and Q&A with host Dan Harris and meditation teachers.

<https://www.tenpercent.com/coronavirussanityguide>

Additional **meditation** links (thank you Liz Paley!):

<https://www.tarabrach.com/guided-meditations/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OtJYDGiuEE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sz7cpV7ERsM>



## NEW FOR JULY



**Have you liked us on Facebook yet?** We post regularly – including self-care tips for getting through the day, highlighting our upcoming programs and sharing town news.  
<https://www.facebook.com/actoncoa>



**The Nature Connection**, based in Concord, is hosting a free webinar for care partners of people with dementia, “Nature as a Therapeutic Intervention”. For more information see: <https://www.nature-connection.org/caregiver-trainings/>



**Considering Volunteering?** There are ways to volunteer online:

United Nations <https://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en> with a variety of roles including writing, editing, art & design, translation and advocacy.

The Smithsonian Institute is seeking digital volunteers and people to transcribe historic documents  
<https://www.si.edu/volunteer/DigitalVolunteers>

Crisis Text Line is looking for crisis counselors <https://www.crisistextline.org/become-a-volunteer>

**Talking Information Center Network (TIC)** is a non-profit reading service with local radio-based programming including reading of newspapers, periodicals, novels and public service announcements on radio station 91.5 WUML-FM Lowell or 91.3 WDJM-FM Framingham. See <https://ticnetwork.org/> for more information including a full schedule.

### **English Language Learners Virtual Classes through Highrock Church in Acton**

We're launching a virtual free ELL conversation course for the month of July. Details and registration [HERE](#), including information in Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, and Hindi. We didn't make a print flyer as we've done in the past since no one is doing print these days! But please feel free to cut and paste any of the content into your communications as you see fit, and/or to provide [the direct link](#) to the course info on our website. We're hoping that the course will not only meet concrete need for language practice, but also help cultivate supportive social connections across our community in these hard times. (And as always for us, the language classes do not contain any religious content).

## Previously Published:



**Have you ever considered becoming a Dementia Friend?** Online training is currently available. Visit the website [www.dementiafriendsma.org](http://www.dementiafriendsma.org)

Watch this video to understand the impact of a dementia diagnosis on sufferers:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oIrRTayLJw&feature=youtu.be>

**Acton Memorial Library** is collaborating with **Acton Historical Society** to chronicle the effects of the COVI-19 outbreak on our community – see [www.actonmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org) for more details.

Need some motivation to stay engaged while at home? Pick a theme each week to explore! There are many free resources available, many through Acton Memorial Library. If you don't already have a library card, you can sign up for a temporary e-card at [www.actonmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org).

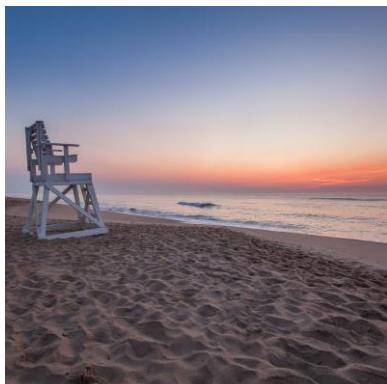
Some theme ideas:

## Well-being/mindfulness

For many of us, our ability to manage stress has been tested during the pandemic. There are simple things you can do: exercise, reduce your caffeine intake, write down what's troubling you, have a virtual visit or phone call with someone who makes you happy, or laugh (see information in this newsletter on Susan Phillip's *Laugh for Your Health* weekly meeting using Zoom).

Learning new ways to lower stress is time well spent!

- Through Coursera.com take Yale's most popular class of all time "The Science of Well-Being." It's free to audit the class or you could pay a fee to have access to the full course materials and assignments and receive a certificate of completion.
- Through Kanopy (accessible free via Acton Memorial Library's website), stream *The Great Courses* 22-lesson "Masters of Mindfulness."
- Practice guided mindfulness meditation through Tara Brach's podcasts or online at <https://www.tarabrach.com/guided-meditations/>. (Recommended by our meditation leader Liz)
- Watch a TED talk; they are brief and informative! Two possibilities: *How to Make Stress Your Friend* with Kelly McGonigal; *All It Takes is 10 Mindful Minutes* with Andy Puddicombe. Go to TED.com and enter the title into the search box.  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/kelly\\_mcgonigal\\_how\\_to\\_make\\_stress\\_your\\_friend/up-next?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/kelly_mcgonigal_how_to_make_stress_your_friend/up-next?language=en)  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/andy\\_puddicombe\\_all\\_it\\_takes\\_is\\_10\\_mindful\\_minutes/up-next?referrer=playlist-talks\\_to\\_help\\_you\\_manage\\_stress#t-97. \)](https://www.ted.com/talks/andy_puddicombe_all_it_takes_is_10_mindful_minutes/up-next?referrer=playlist-talks_to_help_you_manage_stress#t-97.)
- Unfold Yoga and Wellness offers free, live, web-based 20 minute movement and meditation classes. Recorded sample classes also available anytime, but you must register for live classes.  
<https://tinyurl.com/yx36bem5>



Art



Delving into art is a great escape during a stressful (or any!) time.

Podcast: *The Lonely Palette*. You can listen (free of charge) using the podcast app on your smart phone or tablet or on your computer at <http://www.thelonelypalette.com>. Host Tamar Avishai explores one piece of art during each episode. There are over 40 episodes, about 20 minutes each. Much of the art discussed is in the Museum of Fine Arts collection. Podcasts also have the benefit of getting you away from screens; you can even pop in some headphones and listen on a walk around your neighborhood or while on the treadmill.



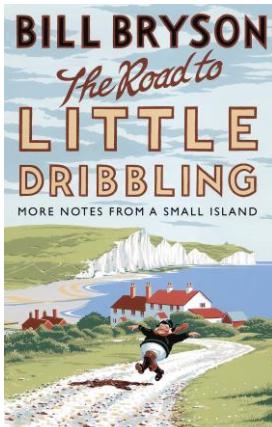
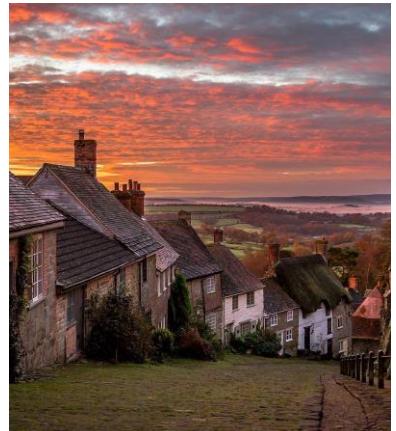


Kanopy and Hoopla have documentaries and lectures on a variety of artists and types of art. These range from a lecture on Rembrandt and Vermeer and 1000 Masterpieces from the Greatest Museums of the World is one of the most successful TV series about art. There are separate 10-minute videos on each masterpiece. If you'd rather make art than learn about other people's art, the *Great Courses* has a 36-episode series *How to Draw*, available on Kanopy through Acton Memorial Library. YouTube is packed with tutorials to inspire you no matter what medium you are using.

## Learn About a Place

Do some armchair traveling! Pick a country or a region and learn all you can about it. Watch some lectures, read a digital book, cook an authentic dish. Say you chose to learn more about Great Britain. If you stream through services like Netflix or Amazon Prime, search for the place of interest and see what documentaries or perhaps movies/miniseries based on books from that country are available.

Say you choose to learn more about Great Britain. You can access an excellent series of lectures called the *Great Tours: England, Scotland and Wales* that is available (free!) using the Kanopy app through Acton Memorial Library. You will learn about historical spots in each country, as well as architecture by historic period. Maybe watch an episode with some homemade scones and a nice cup of tea.



Borrow an ebook or audiobook using the OverDrive app through Acton Memorial Library to learn more about the history of Great Britain. One option is *The Road to Little Dribbling Adventures of an American in Britain* by Bill Bryson. There are many ebooks available with subjects ranging from the Royal Family, American heiresses who married into English Aristocracy, wars, historical fiction, and travel guides.

## Become a family historian!

Through the Kanopy app on the Acton Memorial Library website, you can access, free of charge, the *Great Courses: Discovering Your Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy*. It includes 15 lectures by genealogist John Colletta.

Once you get some ideas on how to get started, do some research, again through Acton Memorial Library. For a limited time, you can access the subscription site Ancestry from home (usually only available for use in the library). You can also access HeritageQuest, Fold3, and MyHeritage through AML.



Write a story to accompany photographs of family members who have passed away to share with family. Share memories, what they did for work, where they lived, and any birth/marriage/death dates you may know. Even if you aren't interested in doing formal research, this could spur on other family members to do so and would give them a great start. You could even do a story about yourself.

## Places to walk (courtesy of Marion Maxwell)

**Self-guided Nature and Birding Walk at Grassy Pond West.** It's possible to enter the trail across the street from Church of the Good Shepherd, 164 Newtown Road. Grassy Pond is a kettle-hole pond formed by the retreat of the last glacier. It exhibits bog characteristics (very wet/highly acidic) around its perimeter, and is home to a number of wetland loving plants such as leatherleaf, high bush blueberry, pitcher plants, red maple and tamarack. You may also search for ducks, swallows, red-winged blackbirds, woodpeckers and bog plants. There are two boardwalks, one running through the pond-shore bog and a second going out into the pond. The Acton Conservation Trust will soon release a virtual tour led by botanist Boot Boutwell featuring many of the wetland loving plants. This land was purchased in 2017 using a combination of CPA funds and private fundraising.

### **Walden Pond in Concord, open daily 8am-6:30pm.** 915 Walden St.

One-way trail loop system to promote social distancing.

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/walden-pond>



### **The Old Manse, Monument Street, Concord**

The grounds have been re-opened during normal hours by the Trustees of the Reservation.

**Town Forest.** Another place to walk. Park and enter from the end of Nagog Drive or from the trail opposite Acton's Miracle Field.

**Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4pm. Assabet River Wildlife Refuge.** The refuge is open and the entrance fee is waived until further notice. The Visitor Center and Restrooms on the refuge are closed until further notice. The main refuge entrance is located three miles west of the Sudbury Town Center at **680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA 01776**. See brochure with map at <https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Assabet%20River%20NWR%20General%20Brochure%20August%202017.pdf> <https://theconversation.com/cant-go-outside-even-seeing-nature-on-a-screen-can-improve-your-mood-135320>

**Even from Afar, Viewing Nature Benefits You.** If isolation is getting to you and it's hard to get outside, consider that adding some indoor plants to your space not only gives you cleaner air but can result in you feeling "related and grounded" and "more interested," according to a survey conducted by The Conservation. Even just looking at nature shots or videos on a screen offers some benefit. So look up those nature shows or find some of the free national park tours organized by Google Earth.



## **Previously Published: It's Summer!**

Heritage Museums & Gardens in Sandwich. See videos and still photographs of gardens and how-to videos on pruning Rhododendrons and transplanting seedlings.

<https://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/virtual-gardens/>



View Mass Audubon's Bird of the Day and Nature in Your Neighborhood videos:  
<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/explore-nature-at-home>

Botanica in Wichita offers videos to Bring the Blooms to You <https://botanica.org/virtual-tours/>

North and South Rivers Watershed Association has a short video of a spring wetlands walk

<https://www.nsrwa.org/spring-is-springing-to-life/>



Tower Hill Botanic Garden offers some online programming including a Signs of Spring Video and tips on Nature Journaling. <https://www.towerhillbg.org/online-educational-resources-adults-2/>

The Arnold Arboretum has “explore from home” opportunities: <https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

For videos from Kew Royal Botanic Gardens:

<https://www.kew.org/about-us/virtual-kew-wakehurst>

Need some motivation to stay engaged while at home? Pick a theme each week to explore! There are many free resources available, many through Acton Memorial Library.

If you don't already have a library card, you can sign up for

a temporary e-card at [www.actonmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org).

**Acton Memorial Library**, <https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org> , has a vast amount of remote opportunities from free ebook downloads to databases for genealogy research. The staff have been continually adding new resources and information. Explore the amazing resources the AML offers.

**Ancestry Library Edition** is available online for FREE while the Acton Memorial Library is closed. You will need your library card's number.  
<http://actproxy.minlib.net/login?url=https://ancestrylibrary.proquest.com>



The New York Times- Unlimited digital access.

The Minuteman Library Network offers all Minuteman card holders free access to the New York Times website and mobile app. A valid email address and registration at the New York Times website is required for access. Home users first create a New York Times account, then redeem an access code every 72-hours.

[https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/redeem?campaignId=7QKXQ&&gift\\_code=40a17be9b944ff82](https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/redeem?campaignId=7QKXQ&&gift_code=40a17be9b944ff82)

## Genealogy

**Family Tree** magazine is offering a free copy of their latest issue:

[https://www.familytreemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FTM\\_MarApr20\\_giveaway.pdf](https://www.familytreemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FTM_MarApr20_giveaway.pdf)

## Culture.....



Travel and Leisure magazine has an article about 12 museums that offer virtual tours:

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

**BSO at Home:** Boston Symphony Orchestra has content available through its website and social media channels. This includes performances, behind the scenes videos as well as musicians as they stay at home. For more information: <https://www.bso.org/brands/bso/at-home.aspx>.



Watch a Boston Pops musician's tribute to Emerson Hospital

[https://patch.com/massachusetts/acton/s/h3jhx/watch-boston-pops-horn-player-plays-emerson-hospital?utm\\_source=share-link&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_campaign=share](https://patch.com/massachusetts/acton/s/h3jhx/watch-boston-pops-horn-player-plays-emerson-hospital?utm_source=share-link&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=share)



**National Symphony Orchestra** Listen to full concerts by the: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/digitalstage/digital-stage-nso/> or other concerts at the Kennedy Center Digital Stage: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/digitalstage/>



The Metropolitan Opera in NYC is streaming past performance daily and free of charge from its website: <https://www.metopera.org/>. Each performance is available for a period of 23 hours from 7:30pm EST until 6:30pm the following day.

The Kennedy Center in Washington DC is offering at home experiences [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

Get jiving! Dancin' 1950's- <https://www.facebook.com/jan.berlin1/videos/10220476036784530/>

If you subscribe to Netflix streaming, HULU, and Amazon prime, you can view programming including documentaries and movies/mini-series based on classic novels and historic figures/events.



**Missing the Great Outdoors?** <https://www.nationalparks.org/>

**Visit All 50 States Virtually!** Experience the Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska, visit the OZ museum in Kansas and in Massachusetts take an aerial tour of Plymouth or walk along the Freedom Trail. <https://thetvtraveler.com/visit-all-50-states-with-these-virtual-tours/>

**Follow the Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport** on facebook for details on regular lectures via zoom <https://www.facebook.com/thechmm> or visit the website <https://customhousemaritimemuseum.org/>





For **Comcast/Xfinity** cable subscribers, the company is offering free content during the pandemic, including Acorn TV, The Great Courses, Grokker Yoga Fitness and Wellbeing (including meditation), History Vault, Showtime, and The Reading Corner. Say “free” into your voice remote to view content.

Many of you are familiar with the **Great Courses** series taught by college professors on a variety of subjects including history, literature, science, economics, music, travel, and art. Typically purchased on DVD, you can also download the Great Courses online for a fee. Currently the company is offering 30 day free trial. <https://www.thegreatcoursesplus.com>.



Judith Kalaora of **History at Play**, who has performed at the Senior Center, is offering livestreamed renditions of her shows that are based on women in history. **For her full schedule see her facebook page,** <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryAtPlay/>



## HISTORY AT PLAY

There is free segment called HAP n' CHAT of a 15 minute excerpt from one of Judith's shows that airs Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. If you want to see a full hour-long performance, there is a

Pay-Per-HAP pay per view performance, with a fee of \$5 to \$25 based on what you feel you can afford.



*House Beautiful* magazine has an article with links to **10 historic houses** you can tour virtually: <https://www.housebeautiful.com/design-inspiration/q31677125/historic-homes-you-can-virtually-tour/>

You can use **YouTube** free of charge from your computer, laptop, smartphone, tablet or with a smart television. You can find exercise classes, lifelong learning opportunities, classic movie clips, cooking shows, DIY home project or crafting/art tutorials and so much more.



There is a myriad of free podcasts available for download to a computer or mobile device. A podcast is similar to old-time radio shows but is on the Internet. There are apps such as Apple Podcast, Stitcher, and Google Play Music that make downloading simple. Some you may want to check out: *Serial*, *Stuff You Should Know*, *Ask Me Another* (trivia, puzzles, music), *Dan Carlin's Hardcore History*, *This American Life*, *Better Health While Aging*, *History of Rome*, *Retirement Talk for Boomers*, *The Relic Radio*, *The Handyguys*, *On Being with Krista Tippett*, *Car Talk*, *Aging in Full Bloom*, *Planet Money*, *Last Seen* (about the Gardner Museum art heist), *History Unplugged*, *Science Fridays*, *Aria Code* (opera), *Sleep with Me* (to help with insomnia), *10% Happier with Dan Harris*.

Visit [www.Ted.com](https://www.Ted.com) for interesting talks, which are brief and free of charge, on a variety of subjects. You can search by subject or see a list of the most popular talks. Some talks of note are *What Makes a Good Life*, *How to Make Stress Your Friend*, *Underwater Astonishments*, *The Transformative Power of Classical Music*, *Life's Third Act*, *Try Something New for 30 Days*, *Older People are Happier*, *How to Live Passionately—No Matter Your Age*, *Let's End Ageism*.





**Google Arts and Culture app** on your smart phone or tablet and you can virtually visit museums, historic sites and more including the Taj Mahal and the Royal Botanic Gardens in the UK. Download at the App Store.

A delightful way to spend the afternoon is watching acclaimed British actors performing at the UK's National Theatre – [www.youtube.com/NationalTheatre](https://www.youtube.com/NationalTheatre) . Each performance runs for one week, beginning on a Thursday at 2pm EST.



If you love Masterpiece Theater and all things British visit [www.bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk) . This is such a rich resource, especially [www.bbc.co.uk/archive](https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive) Enjoy!

## PLAYBILL®

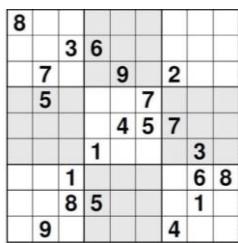
Playbill article has information on watching recordings of **live Broadway shows** to view at home. <https://www.playbill.com/article/15-broadway-plays-and-musicals-you-can-watch-on-stage-from-home?fbclid=IwAR37V2lgPJI4WT28qpM6SuizIS6TtoZujdU3JkreLUxA3fnLy4pkhLbn3R8>.

## Virtual Tours/Streaming

See [www.Insider.com](https://www.insider.com/museums-theme-parks-offer-virtual-tours-ideal-for-social-distancing-2020-3#the-acropolis-museum-lets-users-take-in-stunning-views-of-athens-greece-from-their-couch-21) article for information on virtual tours/live streaming from a variety of locations including Blarney Castle, Monterey Bay Aquarium, national parks, The Guggenheim Museum. <https://www.insider.com/museums-theme-parks-offer-virtual-tours-ideal-for-social-distancing-2020-3#the-acropolis-museum-lets-users-take-in-stunning-views-of-athens-greece-from-their-couch-21>



## Games....



For smart phone and tablet users, there are seemingly endless apps to download, many at no cost. You can try a variety of game apps—Scrabble, Sudoku, Dots, Card Shark Solitaire, chess, cribbage, jigsaw puzzles, word searches, anagram/word scrambles, and crosswords. There are also apps like NPR One which offers stories, podcasts, news and more, Good Reads for avid readers, and Epicurious for recipes. You can even download a magnifying glass with flashlight to help read fine print.



Gifts: <https://dailycaring.com/big-list-gift-ideas-for-seniors/>

Standard crossword puzzles: <http://www.gets.com/index.htm>

Free form crossword puzzles: [http://www.gets.com/crossword\\_puzzles.htm](http://www.gets.com/crossword_puzzles.htm)

Free puzzles & games: <http://www.onlinecrosswords.net/printabledaily-crosswords-1.php>

Play your favorite games: <https://www.aarp.org/ws/save-games.html>

Word games: <https://www.download-free-games.com/mobile/scramble-with-friends-free>

Bridge: <https://www.bridgebase.com/>

**Brain Games** <https://www.onlinegamesforseniors.com/>

**Mah Jongg** [www.realmahjongg.com](http://www.realmahjongg.com)



## Take a trip to the zoo....



Watch the Cincinnati Zoo **livestream** of its animals on its Facebook page daily at 3PM. <http://cincinnatizoo.org/> follow on Facebook: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

**Monterey Bay Aquarium** is live streaming some of its exhibits and even offers a meditation with video of its jelly fish (keep in mind time difference): <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

**Georgia Aquarium** <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/southern-sea-otter-webcam/>



**New England Aquarium** [www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org) look out for video feeds from the Giant Ocean Tank and the African penguin colony. Best times for the tank are 10am and 3pm for feeding time.

Protecting the blue planet

## Get Creative.....

### Virtual Cooking Lessons

PlateNextDoor usually offers classes in community settings but has gone virtual! Classes are offered via zoom and preregistration is required. Some are free with an optional gratuity and others are available for a fee payable via PayPal or Square. Visit <https://www.platenextdoor.com/> and click on the Virtual link.



**Calling Crafters!** Any crafters wanting to keep busy and help at the same time – Joann fabrics have put together a tutorial on making cotton facemasks – Emerson hospital are accepting these – <https://www.emersonhospital.org/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/covid-19-help>



For the Joann Fabrics link:

<https://www.joann.com/make-to-give-response/?icn=hpzhero&ici=make-to-give-response>

## Creative Pursuits from Home

There are many web-based crafting/art classes. [www.creativebug.com](http://www.creativebug.com) has fee-based and some free online classes.

There are free apps such as Ravelry where you can search to find different knitting/crochet patterns, keep track of your yarn and track your projects.

Pinterest is an app to use on your smartphone or tablet (or use the web version). It is a visual discovery engine for finding and organizing ideas like recipes, home and style inspiration and crafting.



Search YouTube for tutorials on any subject of interest. If you find a person /channel you like, you can subscribe so you will be updated about new videos. For paper crafting, check out Paper Guru or Pootles Papercrafts. The Crafts Channel has tutorials ranging from Easy to Make Crochet Face Scrubbies, to Eco Friendly Kitchen Towels, to Pom Pom Hedgehog. For painting tutorials try Jay Lee Painting , Kelly Eddington Watercolor, or Maria Raczynska. If wood working is your hobby, check out Steve Ramsey Woodworking for Mere Mortals.



*Crafting  
IS MY  
sanity*

## Something different.....

When the rain stops and the sky clears [www.seasky.org](http://www.seasky.org) or [www.space.com](http://www.space.com) - check out the celestial delights.



**Sages & Seekers Quarantine Connection Series.** Usually an in-person program that connects older members of the community with teens to share conversation and life experiences, Sages & Seekers is offering a new virtual program. Past Sages or any other elders interested in connecting with Seekers using FaceTime, Skype or by telephone, please send the following information to: [info@sagesandseekers.org](mailto:info@sagesandseekers.org)

- 1 - your name
- 2 - your contact preference: Skype, FaceTime, or standard phone call
- 3 - your time zone

S&S will then send you detailed information on the three Pop-Up Programs to choose from.



Here are some “**phone only**” options. All need access to the internet to selected and register. Perhaps you could help a friend or neighbor...

**DOROT's University Without Walls** program offers hundreds of classes, appealing to a wide range of interests – all available over the telephone. For more information or to enroll, call (877) 819-9147 or email at [uww@dorotusa.org](mailto:uww@dorotusa.org). <https://www.dorotusa.org/our-programs/at-home/university-without-walls>. Programs are available in English and Russian.

**Covia Well Connected** is a telephone and online community made up of participants, staff, facilitators, presenters, and other volunteers who care about each other and who value feeling connected. You do need access to the internet to download the catalog, but the programming is all delivered via telephone. <https://covia.org/services/well-connected/> (877) 797-7299.

**With Mather Lifeways Telephone Topics**, you simply call a toll-free number to listen to a wide range of interesting discussions and programs. You can choose from wellness programs, **education programs**, discussion topics, **music reviews**, **live performances**. **You do need access to the internet to view the choices and register.** <https://www.mather.com/neighborhood-programs/telephone-topics> (888) 600-2560.

### Want to hone your tech skills while home?

Goodwill has a Learn Free program <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/>. You can learn to use PowerPoint, Gmail, Social Media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Skype, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Blog Basics), Internet Basics...



[www.techboomers.com](http://www.techboomers.com) has over 100 free courses on subjects such as online shopping, Excel basics, smart phones/tablets, online entertainment, using YouTube, introduction to social websites/apps. There are articles such as how to cancel your groupon account or how to buy items on Ebay.

[www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com) , owned by LinkedIn, has free courses with topics including using Photoshop, WordPress Essentials and Introduction to Graphic Design. This is a subscription website that offers a 10 day free trial.

Need to improve your typing speed and accuracy? There are online opportunities for that as well!

See <https://techboomers.com/improve-your-typing-online-tools> for a list of the 12 best online typing tools. [www.Codecademy.com](http://www.Codecademy.com) . For advanced users interested in learning to code, eg HTML, free.

## Sport

**Football.** Through May 31, the NFL is extending complimentary access to [NFL Game Pass](https://www.nfl.com/nfl-game-pass), which offers a library full of football programming and game replays.



### Hockey.



The NHL and Sportsnet has made full replays of all the 2019-20 NHL regular-season games free to stream on demand through the NHL app and NHL.com.

<https://www.nhl.com/news/nhl-to-keep-fans-connected-during-pause/c-316219230>

You're never too old to game! Did you know that you can game against others over the internet? Join in with your grandkids! Check out consoles and game packages through PlayStation. online retailers (and consult with your grandkids!)- most are just plug in and play..... Battle like a Jedi knight! Drive like a nascar pro! Learn to build like a minecraft expert!



**Learn A New Language On Line.** Mango is an online language learning program available to Acton residents with your library card. Created by native speakers, each course teaches language using practical phrases and real-life conversations. Also, each course adjusts to your individual learning pace and builds on your progress by combining new content with already mastered material.

To get started:

- [Access Mango here](#) or through the library's [E-Resources page](#)
- Login with your Minuteman library card number
- Click "Sign Up" to create a free Mango account



Once you create a Mango account, you can access this resource on a computer or with the free [Mango Languages mobile app](#) for smartphones and tablets. The program will remember your progress each time you log into your Mango account, no matter what device you are on!

**And finally.....If you're looking for things to do....**



How to Clean the 10 Things Annoying You Most.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/apr/03/from-mouldy-showers-to-junk-drawers-how-to-clean-the-10-things-annoying-you-most>

