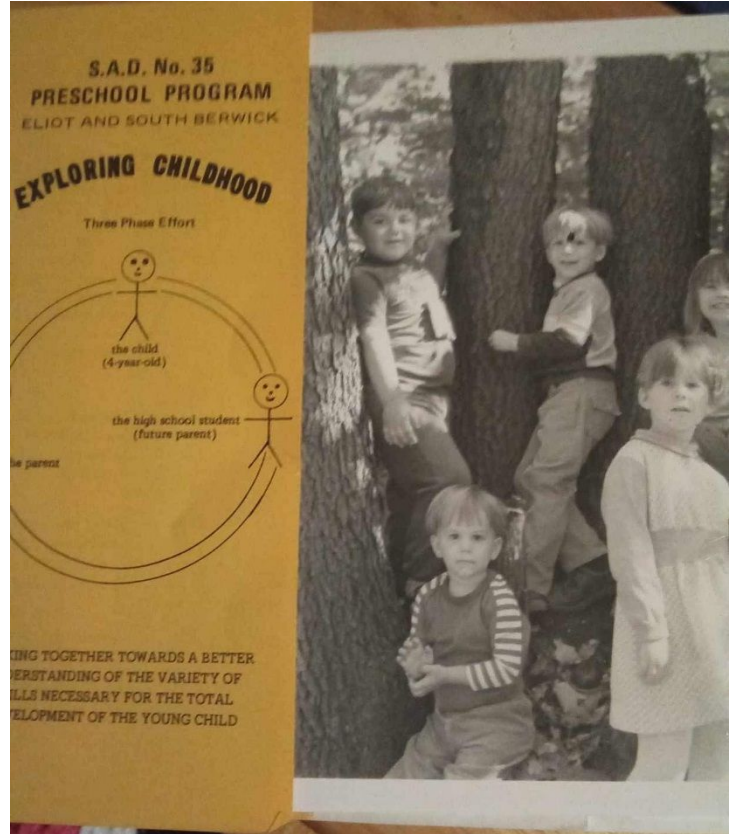


Monday, September 11 – HISTORY OF THE ELIOT PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

This is the 50th Anniversary of the development of the Pre-Kindergarten Program in Eliot. Come learn about how it all started, with one of the developers of the program and Eliot’s first Pre-School teacher, Janice Cerabona.

7:00 PM: In person and by ZOOM @ McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church, 1361 State Rd.

Zoom link: <https://us02>



[web.zoom.us/j/89970965186?pwd=b0JaVFgyOFRnNW11WjRlZlZVSRDnlDz09](https://us02)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 9- "The Nightingale” Frank Thomas will share with us the history of this famous clipper ship, built at the Hanscom Shipyard in Eliot, Maine.

NOVEMBER 13 - Anne B. Gass, author of many books on woman's suffrage, including "Voting Down the Rose" will join us to talk about her latest book "We Demand - The Suffrage Road Trip".

DECEMBER 11 - ANNUAL MEETING / PARTY Program: Show and Tell

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Our #8 Schoolhouse Museum, 67

Greenwood Street, will be open a few more Saturdays this season, including **Labor Day, September 4** and **Eliot Festival Day, from 10-2**. Please note the **September 9th** time has been changed to 1-4. On display are wooden models, made by **Donald Webber, Sr.** of the original Junction trolley stop and the Green Acre trolley stop. Also open by appointment by calling Jan @ 207-450-6874.



Speaking of Cemeteries

Our newest members, **Denise Forsyth** and **Jeanne Houde**, have been hard at work cleaning up the Gould Cemetery on Worster Road! Neighbors and interested in this very visable cemetery, after Jeanne learned about our program from Jan, they contacted us to see how they could help. Receiving a “thumbs up” from land owners Richard and Denise Raitt, they set



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to work cleaning the grounds and working on the stones.

After removing the brush and leaves, Jeanne and Denise cleaned the stones, using an approved cleaning product (D/2) and then prepared the stones to be re-set, by



digging around the bases and cleaning out the old mortar between the headstone and the base. The previous mortar appears to be cement, which is not the right product for the job and does more to harm stones than help them.

While preparing for Paul Johnson and his friend Elliott to upright the slanting and fallen stones, they dug out around the base curbsings that the stones are sitting on and discovered the footstone to Nancy Rackleff's grave, the oldest in the cemetery.

Richard Raitt happened to stop by and removed the brush for them and



suggested they check on the other side of the fence where it was reported there were other stones! These stalwart souls then began a full fledged investigation of the grounds and lo and behold they found 3 more stones!



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One appears to have a date of 1812 on it and the other 1811.

The third is blue slate, much like Nancy Rackleff's, but with no markings visible. Denise and Jeanne tell us they have enjoyed researching and learning about the family in the process.



They are continuing to explore the grounds beyond the fence and we look forward to hearing about their further discoveries.

As we are all very much aware, it was a rainy summer, here in Eliot. We were able though to get in two cemetery cleanings and it looks like the September one will be a “go”. We are hoping that members from the First Congregational Church will join us for that one. The Parish Cemetery on River Road was probably the second parish cemetery that was established, the first being by the “Church in the Wood”. Look for our report next newsletter!





Our August cemetery cleanup was held at the Rowe/Hodgdon cemetery on the property of **Andrea Kenter** who enthusiastically welcomed us and joined **Jan Cerabona**, myself and **Denise Forsyth** in cleaning it up. It was rather an easy clean with just brush needing to be cut and weeds pulled.



Thankfully all the stones are standing. We left the oak leaves (rather than raking them up) so to keep the vegetation down. Perhaps we'll come back to clean the stones! If you're interested in helping, let us know.



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The students and staff returning to **Eliot Elementary School** are going to have a real treat in store for them. **100 Years of Wonder** aptly describes the display that **Jan Cerabona** has created for our Society. Teachers anticipate that it will be hard to get them to keep moving through the halls as they enjoy looking at all the toys that are in there.



Beanie Babies, 101 Dalmatians, Disney characters, Blocks, Ronald McDonald Happy Meal Toys, Teddy Bears, Trucks, and Baby Dolls provide a feast for the eyes and hopefully will spark conversations about what Disney movies were favorites and what toys did you and do you now enjoy.

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News and Events

Brigitte's Chapel

A beautiful gift has been given to the people of Eliot by resident George Gefrich, in tribute to his late wife Brigitte Maria.

On his 11-acre homestead at 47 Heron Cove Road, George has designed and built a unique 40-seat non-denominational chapel, next to a one-acre pond and surrounded by 3 acres of gardens and sculptures, which he has dedicated as free public access, available to all.



Entered through a unique archway, down a walkway of large flagstones, all of which George designed, the chapel is built with all Vermont wood. Using no nails or screws, it is all peg and groove.

The chapel and grounds are open to the public, free of all charges. You are invited to come for mediation, prayer, weddings, retreats, respite and family gatherings or just come and enjoy on your own or in a group. We hope you will all take a moment and stop to enjoy this most beautiful and unique space.



He does ask, if you are planning a larger event of more than 25 people, that you contact him in advance. Otherwise the chapel and grounds are open for you anytime, without needing to make arrangements. George can be reached at 207-686-3117 or 617-429-2627 and geogef@comcast.net or at his property.

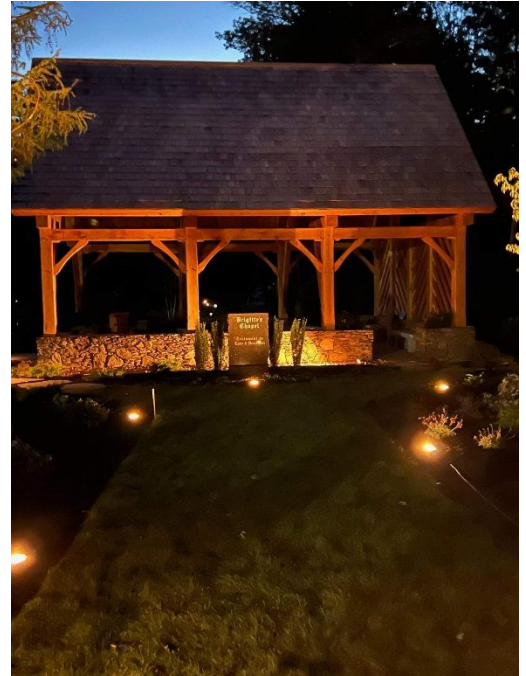
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September 30 – 1 PM George has invited everyone to an **Octoberfest** in honor of his wife who was born in Munich. Parking in the lower lot near the chapel and on the side of Heron Cove Road. Stop by and enjoy the music, food, and celebration!



John Demos, a member of the Old Berwick Historical Society, has been doing extensive research to locate the homesites of the Scots POWs who were sent to this area (1650/51) and has been travelling to various venues to share this research. We hope soon he will come and share this research with us!



John (right) with Jaimie Johnston.

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