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GRANVILLE'S COUNTRY CALLER

Supported in part by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs

JANUARY 2024

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Please send all Country Caller information (all checks/cash for sponsor, donations, subscriptions, or Barter Box) to Debbie Sussmann, 44 North Lane, Granville, MA 01034 or put them into Karen Laptew's green box at 58 Sodom Street. The checks and information **MUST** be kept together. Make all checks payable to "The Town of Granville". **All submissions may be emailed to leefluhr@gmail.com** or sent to the above address **NO LATER THAN THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH**. Sponsorship or subscriptions will be for one year. All articles must be typed, and your name and telephone # enclosed. We welcome articles related to town activities, historical information, births, deaths and anything you would like to share with us.

The Country Caller is jointly funded by the Town of Granville, a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and donations from sponsors. Editors reserve the right to reject any material they deem inappropriate. We do not accept political advertising and may refuse other advertising not considered in good taste.

Subscriptions: \$5.00/year; Barter Box: \$2.00 for 20 words each additional word \$.10 each.

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You may call Debbie Sussmann to get information at 357-6420.

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TOWN OF GRANVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

69 OLD WESTFIELD ROAD
GRANVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01034

(413) 357-8585 EXT. 6
HIGHWAY@TOWNOFGRANVILLE.ORG

WINTER ROADS

The winter of 2023-24 is upon us and all Granville residents should take note the following winter weather road maintenance concerns:

On-street parking is prohibited. Vehicles are subject to removal at the owner's expense.

Parking at the Town Hall, Library, Village School, Center Fire Station, and West Fire Station is restricted to those doing Town business during business hours.

Plowing, blowing, or otherwise depositing snow on Town roads is prohibited.

Trucks conducting snow and ice control travel at slow speeds and may maneuver unpredictably.

For the safety of all please use caution and courtesy in the presence of maintenance vehicles and pass only when safe.

Despite continual ice and snow control during winter precipitation, all roads are periodically subject to hazardous conditions. Please avoid all non-essential travel.

Beware of shaded areas prone to early freeze-up or black ice that can become hazardous even on blue sky days. Notorious for this are the "gorge", "hairpin turn", the north end of Old Westfield Road, and Water Street between the Transfer Station and Trumble Lane.

Winter sand is available at the Highway Garage to residents of Granville. Sand is not available during winter weather operations when large trucks and heavy equipment are maneuvering in the limited yard space. During this time entering the Highway Department Facility is prohibited.

Highway crews appreciate your cooperation and patience when winter weather strikes. For more information, contact the Superintendent of Public Works at 357-8585 extension 6.

**TOWN CLERK'S CORNER....**

by *Christina Teter*

Telephone: 413.357.8585 Ext. 3/413.357.3805

Email: townclerk@townofgranville.org

Website: www.townofgranville.net

Office Hours: Monday evening 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, and by appointment.

Annual Census

Per State Law MGL Chapter 51, section 4, your annual street listing will be sent out this month. Please respond within 10 days of receiving your form. If you have your mail sent to a post office box and/or did not receive a form, call or stop in for a form to complete. [This street listing updates your information for all the coming elections this year.](#)

Annual Dog Licenses

The street listing/census package also includes a dog license application for dog owners on record. All dogs that are six months of age or older must be licensed annually under M.G.L. Ch. 140. An updated proof of rabies vaccination as well as proof of spaying and neutering is required for a dog license.

2024 Important Dates

Presidential Primary – March 5, 2024, 7 am – 8 pm, Town Hall

The **last day** for Massachusetts residents to register to vote, update their address, or change their party for the Presidential Primary is February 24, 2024.

Early Voting hours will be posted for the Presidential Primary in the coming TOWN CLERK'S CORNER.

Annual Town Election – April 8, 2024, 12 pm – 8 pm, Town Hall

Annual Town Meeting – May 13, 2024, 7 pm, Village School

State Primary – September 3, 2024, 7 am – 8 pm, Town Hall.

State & Federal Election – November 5, 2024, 7 am – 8 pm, Town Hall

Southwick Senior Center Events in December

413-569-5498

Open to Southwick, Granville and Tolland Seniors

AARP Tax Aide Program Volunteers will be completing taxes at the Senior Center on Tuesdays beginning February 13. Call the office beginning January 9th to schedule a date for tax completion. You will need to go to the Senior Center to pick up a packet of information and learn the requirements.

Technology Support for Seniors from 11:45am to 1:45pm on these dates: 12/7/23, 1/4/24, 2/1/24, 3/7/24, 4/4/24, 5/9/24, 6/6/24.

Foot Care Clinic offered by foot nurse Debra Deane. Cost of service \$40.00 paid directly to nurse. Appointments will be held every month. Call senior center to make appointment.

Veteran's Representative – office hours second Thursday of the month from 9-11am. Stop by if you have questions/concerns.

Senator Paul Mark or office representative – office hours 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 1p-4p. All members of the public are welcome.

SHINE program provides free health insurance information and counseling to all MASS residents with Medicare and their caregivers. People who have Medicare or who are about to become eligible for Medicare can meet with a counselor to learn about benefits and options available. A counselor will review programs that help people with limited income to pay health care costs. You must call to schedule an appointment.

Weekly Activities:

Monday 9am – Quilting and Sewing Social Group

Monday 10am – Chi-Gong with Kathleen \$2.00

Tuesday 9am – Aerobics with Donna \$2.00

Tuesday 10am – Tai-Chi with Lenny \$2.00

Tuesday 12pm – Cards

Tuesday 1:00pm - Cribbage, Whist Card Game

(Whist is looking for players)

Wednesday 10am – Line Dancing with Clara \$2.00

Wednesday 1pm – Scrabble

Wednesday 1-3pm – BINGO with Cara

Thursday 9am – Zumba with Becca \$2.00

Thursday 1030am – Yoga with Renee \$2.00

Thursday 12:15pm - Cards

Thursday 1pm – Crafts with Denise (2x per month)

Friday at 9:00am – Aerobics \$2.00

Friday 10:00am – Chair Yoga with Heidi \$2.00



Joe Pietroniro

Granville, MA

EST. 1990

**REPAIR WORK • ADDITIONS
REMODELS • GAS PIPING
AND MORE**

Commercial and Residential

Master Lic. # 13035

A STEP CLOSER TO “HEALTHY BONES & BALANCE” PROGRAM IN GRANVILLE

The Board of Selectmen has approved the use of Town Hall to host the Healthy Bones & Balance program in the spring. It is necessary to have a minimum of 15 people per class to assure the trip out to Granville by an instructor. If you are interested in joining this class, please give us a call so we can plan. We still need to complete some paperwork to get everything in place, hopefully starting classes in March 2024. Probably best to describe the program as a type of chair yoga and exercises to improve your balance, mobility, strength and stimulate stronger bone through light weight lifting. This program is free of charge and offered through the Retired Senior Volunteers Program and Community Action of Pioneer Valley.

Any questions and to add your name as an interested participant, please call: Bobbi (413 297-0445) or Terry (413 357-8537)

A BELATED THANK YOU!

Many thanks are extended to all who helped make the Granville Public Library's 2023 Summer Reading Program a success. *Thanks to Lise Letellier, director; librarians, and staff for their support with the various events.

*Thanks to the Granville Library Club for their continued support.

*Thanks to the Granville Cultural Council for their support through grant funds.

*Thanks to the Gran-Val Scoop for the use of their pavilion for our yearly visit.

*Thanks to Sharon Billings for teaching painting skills to some of our participants.

*Thanks to all who pitched in to help with setting up and taking down materials needed.

*Thanks go to all the parents who encouraged their children to read during the summer and brought them to the variety of activities and events.

Keep Reading! Remember each book you open is a gift!

Linda Dickinson and Bridget Nobbs

Co – coordinators 2023 Summer Reading Program



Granville Public Library 2 Granby Rd • 357-8531 •

www.GranvillePublicLibrary.org

Email for general inquiries: Granville@cwmar.org

Email for Program Registration: GranvillePrograms.org

Our Hours:

Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 10AM - Noon

Monday 5-8PM, Wednesday 3-8PM., Thursday 3-6PM

The Granville Library
is happy to be hosting
Bruce Mandel!



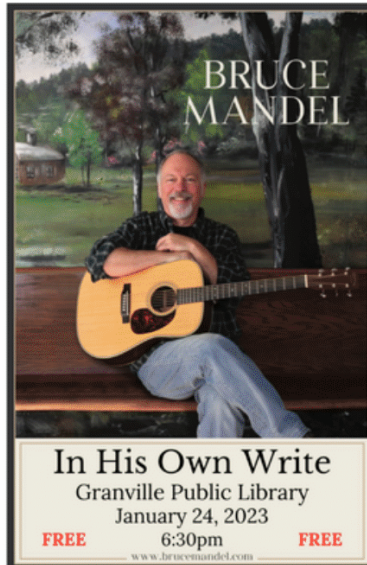
BRUCE WILL BE
PERFORMING FOR ALL
OF US HERE AT THE
LIBRARY AND WE
WELCOME YOU TO JOIN
US! HE WILL BE HERE
JAN. 24TH, 2024 THE
SHOW WILL START AT
6:30PM!

THIS IS A FREE SHOW!

Registration is not
required but it is
highly encouraged!



Stop by or send us an email!
granvilleprograms@cwmar.org



Granville Public Library
and Pathways for Parents
**GROW, PLAY &
LEARN
PLAYGROUP**

For children ages Birth-2 with caregiver.

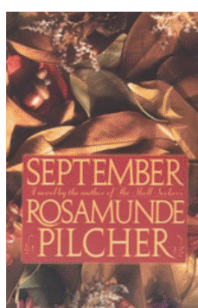
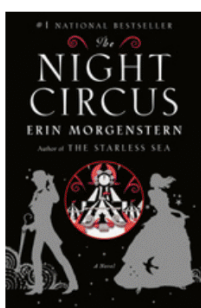
**Monday January 8
10:00 AM-11:00**



Pathways for Parents is administered by Ludlow Public Schools & is funded
by the Coordinated Family Community Engagement Grant through
the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

All Booked Up!
Sat Jan 20,
12:15

Book Club with Gloria
Wed Jan 10,
12:15

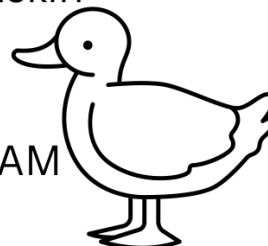


Storytime

(Havin' A Quackin
Time)

Jan 20

10:30-11:30AM



JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST

Hosted by the Mass Wildlife Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Youth in grades K-12 are being encouraged to learn about the wetlands & waterfowl conservation. They get to show what they learned by submitting an entry into the contest. The Library will be doing our best to provide any help we can for those interested. We also have the official guidelines for entry available as well! The entries are due by Feb 15th, 2024. We can't wait to see all of your beautiful waterfowl pictures that you create!



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2023-2024 School Year-
Federal Junior Duck
Stamp Conservation and
Design Program and Art
Contest



"Never duck the chance of conservation!"

Conservation Message Poster - Duck Club, age 12, Texas

The Library is
closed Monday Jan
1 (New Year's Day)
&
Monday Jan 15
(Martin Luther King
Jr. Day)

GRANVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH

American Baptist and United Church of Christ
16 Granby Rd., Granville, MA
Interim Pastor: Dr. Rev. Johnny Wilson
Church Services: 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings
Coffee Hour following the service.

EVENTS**BIBLE STUDY**

The first Bible Study of 2024 will meet on
Wednesday, January 16th at 10:45 am
We are continuing to study the Book of Acts
and are at chapters 5 and 6. New and returning
students are welcome.

LUNCH BUNCH and COOKIE SWAP

There will be no Lunch Bunch in January. The
next Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday,
February 7th at noon.

NOVI CANTORI

Thank you to the Granville Cultural Council for
sponsoring the Novi Cantori concert in
December. It was wonderful!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday evenings-AA-8:00 pm
Tuesday evenings-Church Board meetings
Wednesday morning- Bible Study-10:45 am
(1st and 3rd Wednesdays).
Wednesday afternoon Lunch Bunch 12:00
noon (1st Wednesday)
Thursday evenings- Choir-6:30pm

MISSIONS NEWS

We provide support for many organizations
here and around the world:

- Annual Advent Hat and Mitten Collection
- Annual Lenten Open Pantry Food Collection
- Operation Christmas Child
- Meals around Town
- Springfield Rescue Mission
- Deacon's Fund for local aid
- ABC and UCC Wider Missions
- Dinners for the Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter in Westfield
- Agape School, Orphanage and their well in Kaleko, Uganda

INFORMATION**BIG Y GIFT CARDS**

Big Y gift cards are available. Please see
Eileen Jerome to purchase them. A percentage
of the sale goes to help support the church.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTALS

The Fellowship Hall is available for rent for
functions. It is complete with 2 restrooms,
tables, chairs, kitchen facilities and parking.
For more information contact Bobbi at 413 357-
0194.

CONTACT US

To contact the church to leave a message for
Pastor Johnny, please call 357-8583.
You can also call a Deacon (Dale Florida 357-
8775, Eileen Jerome 413 896-0002, Fran
Wackerbarth 357-6492, Alan Gregg 357-6156,
Laura Fielding 357-6368), or our head Trustee
Bobbi O'Connell 357-0194.

In Assisted Living
Alice Demarais
The Arbors
40 Court Street Apt 108
Westfield, MA 01085



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Joel Dusoe

November 20, 2023

joel.dusoe@mahouse.gov

Representative Boldyga Joins Republican Caucus in Urging Democratic Leadership to Release State Employee Pay Raises

BOSTON, MA – State Representative Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) recently joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House Republican Caucus to demand action from Democratic leadership regarding the release of pay raises for over 100,000 state employees. In a joint letter addressed to the Democratic leadership, the Caucus urged immediate action to report on part of a larger omnibus spending bill currently in conference committee that would ensure full funding for collective bargaining agreements approved earlier this year.

At the center of the call for action is the delay in providing funding for the agreed-upon pay raises for a vast number of state workers. Representative Boldyga voiced concerns over the delay caused by disagreement among Democratic leadership, citing that withholding these pay raises demonstrates an ongoing dysfunction and lack of transparency within the Democratic controlled legislature.

"Delaying the funding for essential pay raises that have been agreed upon for over 100,000 state employees is unacceptable," said Representative Boldyga. "Holding these pay raises hostage because they were bundled into a larger spending bill is a stark reflection of the dysfunction in Boston under one-party rule. Our hardworking state employees deserve fair compensation, and it's irresponsible to politicize their livelihoods in this manner."

The joint letter emphasizes the urgency of the matter stating "that the lack of agreement on other unrelated areas of the close out budget does not justify continuing to hold up indefinitely the funding of these CBAs...". The letter further highlights the need to separate the funding for employee pay raises from the broader legislative package to ensure timely and deserved compensation for state workers.

"There's simply no excuse," said Representative Boldyga. "The cost of living in Massachusetts continues to rise, making it more and more difficult for many hardworking state employees to make ends meet. We owe it to them to approve funding for their pay raises before the Thanksgiving holiday."

Representative Boldyga says he will remain committed to advocating for fair compensation of all state employees, urging swift action from Democratic leadership to ensure that these pay raises are not further delayed or are continued to be used as political leverage.

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Granville's 'Great Heart' & Garden Quilt messages 'Hope' & 'Peace' @ 225+ years old

By Corey Phelon Geske

As this January 25th marks the 70th Anniversary of Albion Wilson's *History of Granville, MA* (1954) and the 270th Anniversary of Granville's incorporation (1754) when Bedford settlement was named after the Earl of Granville, John Carteret (1690-1763), the "most brilliant scholar in England," (Wilson, p. 51), a circa 1797-1798 Granville quilt, offers clues for interpreting the educational message of stained glass windows at the Granville Public Library (1902). The quilt dyed green, the color symbolic of 'Hope,' features grape clusters, a large rose, and leafy vines springing from a 'Great Heart' with olive-like orbs reflecting its maker's first name, Olive Curtiss Baker (c. 1776-1844) of West Granville, suggesting the windows' circular motifs in hues of green represent fruit of the 'Olive Branch' of 'Peace' that fosters education and libraries.

At the foot of Olive's quilt (color altered; digitally enhanced by me to show detail here, Courtesy Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield, MA), the Great Heart was stitched upon a pyramid of half-suns stacked like cannon balls. Along all four quilt borders, Olive's



pyramids resembled that standing for "Strength and Duration" overseen by the 'Eye of Providence' in a

triangle emanating light in 1786 on the reverse of her new nation's Great Seal (left), adorned with an olive branch by the date '1776,' the year of Olive Curtiss's birth. The quilt's border suggests divine light would shine upon the newlywed minister's wife's 'garden' of nation, church, and family. So, after decades of use and public exhibition before its centennial (1898), as UV 'light' was fading Olive's enlightening symbolism, admirers—including her granddaughter and also Granville's Library Club organized in 1896 by Ria Cooley to build a new library—carried forward Olive's timeless message of 'Hope' & 'Peace' for a new century via stained glass Library windows activated by light.



On August 30, 1797, Olive, the daughter of Lt. David Curtiss, veteran of the American Revolution, married Rev. Joel Baker. The longest serving (36 years) minister of the West Granville Congregational Church, he was responsible for the first Academy (built near the church in 1837, after his death), and for forming "the first library" in Granville (Wilson, pp. 253, 268). So, Olive's Great Heart of 'Peace,' evolved in one library window as a leafy globe containing an emblematic anchor (symbol of 'Hope') entwined by a dolphin known for speed and intelligence, to encourage readers to pause and think on what they've read, illustrating the 1494 motto, "Make haste slowly," of Venetian printer 'Aldus' Manutius. The first to publish portable books (not chained to medieval shelves), Aldus' name (on window above) and emblem reflect a free library's importance.

Olive's design was inspired by the later published sermon delivered at Rev. Baker's ordination (June 1797) by visiting Rev. John Emerson, who recommended Rev. Baker, trusting "he has the grace of God in his heart;" praying he'd "be led to feed his sheep;" and comparing the church to a vineyard, a garden (*Sermon*, p. 17), and bride's "raiment of needlework" (Psalm 45:14). His allegories evolved as Olive's whole-cloth bridal quilt made completely of wool from sheep in Granville meadows. Fittingly, soon after this past September 1st, when the Church marked the 190th Anniversary of Rev. Baker's death, a copy of that sermon came to light at the Historical Room. Available for reading there, or online at *Granville History*, excerpts appear in my 2020 book (cover, next page) that first documented Olive's design as based on the sermon, to specify her quilt was made in West Granville, MA not (as frequently described) Durham, CT from whence Olive's paternal grandparents followed Deacon David Rose to first settle Bedford (Granville).

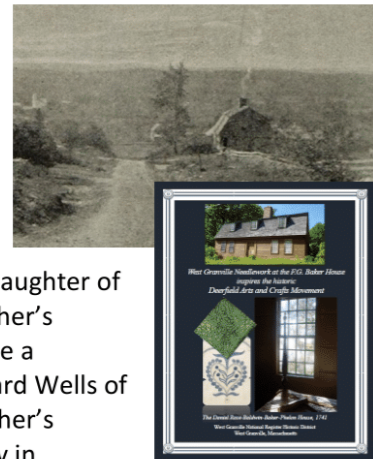
Continued . . .

Granville's 'Great Heart' & Garden Quilt, Continued . . .

Olive's granddaughter, Laura Baker Wells (1835-1913), appeared in the *Ladies Home Journal* (July 1906), as central of three "Daughters of America," (photo, Courtesy Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield, MA). Growing up under the gambrel roof of the *Daniel*



Rose, Lt. Jacob Baldwin, Rev. Baker . . . William B. Phelon House (right) within sight of the Church, both captioned as "Landmarks" in Hampden County publications (1891-1897), Laura was the daughter of Olive's son Francis, who supported his father's Academy plan. An avid reader, she became a schoolteacher, and in 1860, married Edward Wells of Deerfield. There, she gifted her grandmother's heirloom quilt to the first historical society in



western Massachusetts, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, by 1886, when the PVMA, of which Laura was a member, exhibited it in their Memorial Hall Museum. Built as Deerfield Academy in 1798, the year Olive completed her quilt, Hall and quilt reached their Quasibicentennials (225th Anniversaries) in 2023. The Granville quilt was the first in the U.S. to be exhibited in a period room in an American museum where its venue inspired two treasured creations of the Deerfield Arts and Crafts Movement, a nationally publicized bed set (1897-1898) for Phoebe Apperson Hearst; and, here stated for the first time, the *Garden of Hearts* bridal chest (1903) by Madeline Yale Wynne, a leader of America's Arts and Crafts Movement. Just acquired by Historic Deerfield, the chest was considered by Wynne, to be her finest artistic accomplishment.

Laura's eye for choosing colors (perhaps for stained glass windows, too?) for nationally exhibited Deerfield rugs is apparent in her photo (above) titled "Planning the Rug," taken in 1902, the year Granville's Library was dedicated. She was elected Vice President of the Deerfield Rug Makers in 1904 (Suzanne L. Flynt, *Poetry to the Earth*, 2012, p. 166). No doubt, Laura's work was known to Julia



Selinda Ives, talented Tolland quilt-maker (photo, right), and her relation Nelsie Sheets, (c. 1910 photo, left, by Granville's George Aldrich), who wove rugs (lined up here) in Olive's brother Charles' former Granville home, on a barn loom Olive may have used.



When needleworker Marjorie Howe, researched the Baker quilt for her book, *Deerfield Embroidery* (1976), Helena W. Duris, Curator of the Mabel Root Henry Historical Museum, informed her the donor, 'Mrs. Wells,' was Laura Baker to whom Granville's Library Club wrote in 1896 (Geske, p. 111), seeking support for their campaign. Now, it appears Laura may have influenced the change in the architect's original Library plans from diamond pane to stained glass, and been inspirational to America's Arts and Crafts Movement, bringing it to her hometown, Granville, for library windows messaging 'Hope' and 'Peace' for all seasons. The window designer is yet to be named. Anyone knowing that, please contact the Historical Room in the New Year!

Photos: Baker Quilt (color altered by Geske); LBW by Frances and Mary Allen, 1902, Courtesy Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield, MA; Reverse, Great Seal, 1786, *Columbian Magazine*, Library of Congress; Aldus Window, Courtesy Mabel Root Henry Historical Museum; C. Phelon Geske, *West Granville Needlework at the F.G. Baker [Daniel Rose] House inspires the historic Deerfield Arts and Crafts Movement*, <https://granvillehistory.omeka.net/items/show/1341>; and Nelsie Sheets; Julia Ives [Gift of Carolyn Ives Dingman and Elinor Ives Goff]; 'Landmark,' *Picturesque Hampden*, Vol. II (1891), 98 in *Westfield North Star* (June 1897), 26; and 1797 Sermon, <https://granvillehistory.omeka.net/items/show/1538> at the *Granville History Digital Collection* sponsored by the Mable Root Henry Historical Museum and Noble & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation at the Granville Public Library, MA.

Rose Miller

Rose Thomas Miller, died December 23, 2023 age 98. Born November 27, 1925, York Co, Pennsylvania; was graduated Spring Grove PA High School, Class of 1943; an alumni of Indiana State University, Indiana PA.

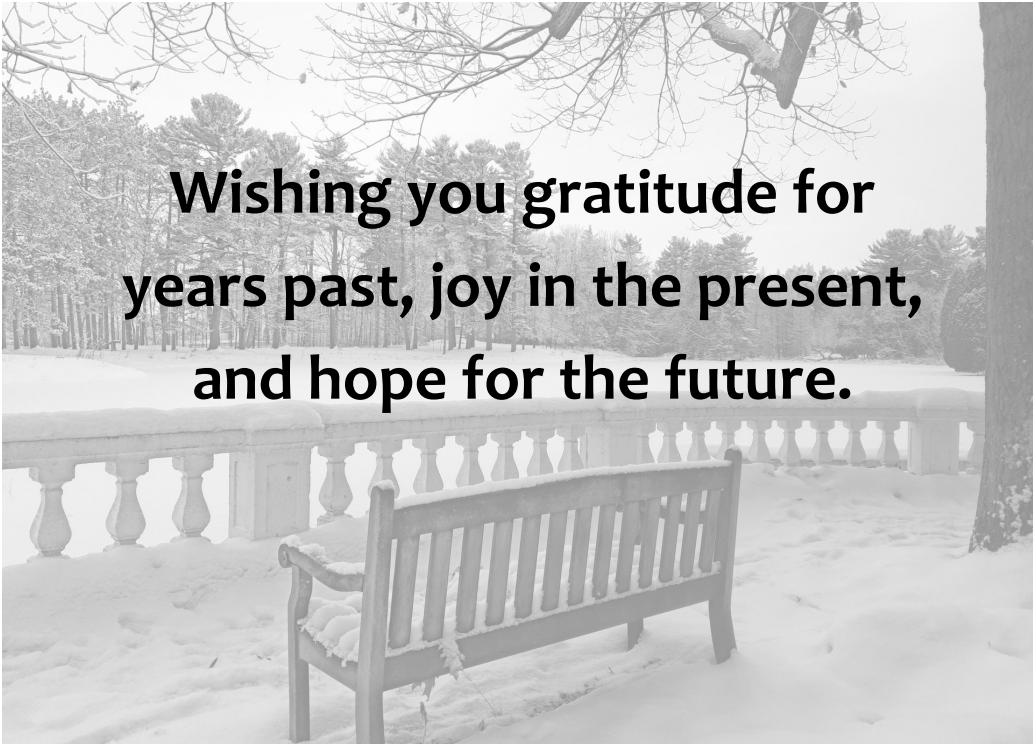
Married 55 years to Henry (Hank) Miller, who died in 1999. She has lived in Granville for 67 years. In retirement Hank and Rose spent traveling to England, Scotland, Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Holland as well as Bermuda and the Bahamas. They also enjoyed a 5 week, 3000 mile cross-country trip visiting many national parks, scenic vistas and many friends.

Rose served as volunteer Librarian at the Granville Library for many years and was docent and researcher in the Historical Room for 18 years. A life member of the Granville Library Club, serving as President, Vice President and Secretary.

She is predeceased by her husband Hank and her son Stephen. She leaves one son, Byard Miller a long time resident of Granville. She also leaves 4 grandchildren, 2 brothers and a sister.

And so good night, dear Rose, and flights of angels sing thee to thy grave.

If it so pleases anyone and they wish, a donation in her memory may be made to the pretty little West Granville Cemetery, 1494 Main Rd, Granville MA 01034



**Wishing you gratitude for
years past, joy in the present,
and hope for the future.**