EASTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Summer 2023 **Volume 24, Issue 2**

The New Shed, Open Houses & More!

The Kevin Williams Family has donated a new shed to the Easton Historical Society. It will be used to store items currently being stored elsewhere. It is very attractive and fits in well with the surroundings. Volunteers will be needed to transition materials from storage. Thank you to the Avery Williams Family Trust.

Some wonderful Open Houses have been held this spring. Jon Coe organized a look back at the origins of Little League in Easton. It was very well-attended by ex-ball players and others. Arielle Nathanson put together an Open House dedicated to Sheep Pasture and the NRT; our busiest open House, held in May, was in honor of Hazel Varella, and it was a lovely day, both weather-wise and otherwise! Society members, friends, family, students, and colleagues of Hazel enjoyed excellent food, beverages, and the chance to say hello or thank you.

On April 28 the Devin Ness Day of Kindness was celebrated with seven OA students armed with rakes and plenty of energy, as they cleaned up the grounds around the railroad station. Nancy DeLuca, Jon Coe and Ken Michel were present representing the society.

A new biography, "Blanche Ames Ames (1878–1969) and Oakes Ames (1874–1950)—Cultivating That Mutual Ground" has been published by Wipf & Stock and is available now! It is written by Elizabeth F. Fideler, EdD. You can read more about the book and author at https://www.amazon.com/author/olderworkers and https://wipfandstock.com.

Lastly, congratulations to OA Seniors Bo Anestam, Kathryn Melendy, and Isabelle Kauffman, the 2023 recipients of the EHS&M scholarships. Well done!

CALENDAR

Tuesday July 4,

Independence Day

Sunday July 16, Open House, 1:00-4:30, Vintage Ames Plow Company Agriculture Equipment, Never before seen!

Monday August 14,

Victory Day

Monday, September 4,

Labor Day

Monday September 11,

Patriot Day

Saturday September 16, Rosh Hashana

Friday September 22, Native American Day

Saturday September 23,

Autumn begins

Monday September 25, Yom Kippur

The mission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum is to preserve, promote and interpret the unique industrial, social, cultural, architectural and environmental history of the Town.

A Special Day, An Enduring Legacy

On Sunday, May 7, which just happened to be a beautiful spring day, a Special Open House was held in honor of Hazel Luke Varella, at the Easton Historical Society and Museum. With a large crowd gathered, President Ken Michel presented a plaque to Hazel dedicating the Women's Waiting Room at the railroad station to Hazel and renaming it the 'Hazel Varella Women's Waiting Room'. Hazel, who has given fifty-six years to the society, was described by various people as the "First Lady of the Easton Historical Society", the "heart and soul" of the society, a "visionary", "historian", and, as was heard over and over again, "inspiring educator".

Hazel reflected on the day in 1968 when local attorney Abraham Brooks, Esq. brought the key to the railroad station to her home, gifting the Society with the historic HH Richardson building, and the hard work that began that day. As a teacher of history, and local history in particular, Hazel saw it as her job to publicize Easton's unique history as much as possible and instill a love of local history in her students. She is an overwhelming success on both counts.

Hazel spoke of a day in 2010 when she decided to scale back on some of her other community commitments and devote all of her time to the Society. She is also responsible for the annual publication of *Reminiscences*, a volume dedicated to research, stories, and memories connected to Easton's past. Volume 14 is currently in the works. Whether you know Hazel as a teacher, mentor, historian, friend or colleague I'm sure you will agree this honor is well-deserved!

Plaque honoring Hazel for her role in acquiring the future home of the Easton Historical Society from the Ames and Parker families.

The Easton Historical Society Newsletter
is published quarterly by the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

Officers
President Kenneth J. Michel
1st Vice President David Ames, Jr.
2nd Vice President Jonathan Coe
Treasurer Nancy DeLuca
Recording / Corresponding Secretary Hazel L. Varella

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Educational Liaison—Matthew Auger
Interim Curator—Arielle Nathanson
Staff Writer—Anne Wooster Drury

Scenes from May Open House Honoring Hazel Luke Varella with a Lifetime Achievement Award

Delicious cake from White's Bakery.

Right: Hazel in conversation with President Ken Michel and Bonnie Porter-Meglio.

Below: Hazel in her chair of honor greeting guests.

Left: Bouquet of flowers and plaque at the entrance to the newly named waiting room.

Right: Hazel with members of the OA class of 1964.

"We never know which lives we influence, or when or why." - Stephen King

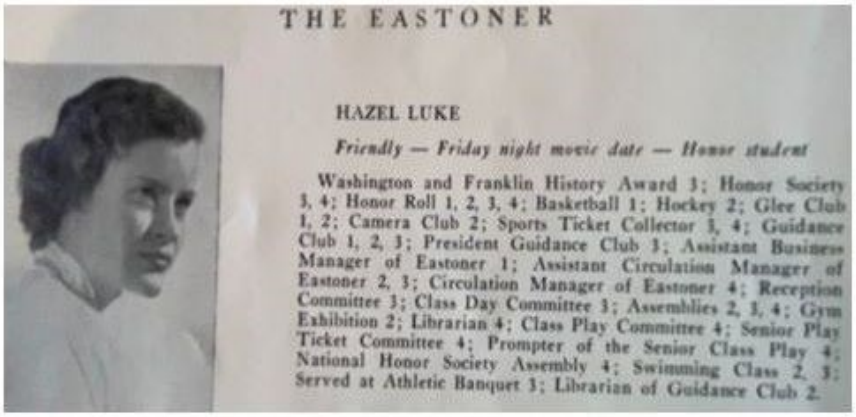
A few facts about Hazel, though this list is not meant to be comprehensive! Hazel was born December 17, 1932, in Beverly Massachusetts. After graduating from Oliver Ames High School, Hazel went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State College in 1954. In 1956 she received her Master of Education from Bridgewater State College and in 1962 her Master of Arts from Boston University. From 1956 to 1997 Hazel served as teacher (41 years) and Chair of the Social Studies Department (33 years) at Oliver Ames High School. After retiring from Oliver Ames she taught as Senior lecturer at Curry College and Adjunct faculty at Bridgewater State College.

Hazel has received many awards including: Recipient Honorary Grand Marshall, Town of Easton, Massachusetts, 2000, Indiana Study Scholar, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington DC, 1984, Outstanding Service Award, Easton Lions Club, 1997, Distinguished Service Award, Curry College, 2004.
In 2018 Hazel won the Unsung Heroine Award, honored as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2015 the office of the history department chair at OAHS was officially dedicated as the Hazel Luke Varella Social Studies Office. At OA she introduced AP History, worked to develop the Model UN and Hockomock Senate. She supported the Community Service Program. In the community Hazel was key to the modern incarnation of the Easton Historical Society and its ongoing success. She was married to Manuel David Varella, who sadly passed away in 2020, for 59 years. She has two children, John David and James Robert and two grandchildren, Emma and Jack.

Along with Margaret McEntee, Edmund Hands, Jeffrey Nystrum, Duncan Oliver, and Robert Brown, Hazel wrote The History of The History of Easton, Volume II. With Elise Ames Parker she wrote Growing Up At Sheep Pasture. She has served as President, Director, and Secretary of the Easton Historical Society.

Personally, Hazel has been very important in my life, encouraging me as a student in her classes: Psychology, Philosophy, Local History, mentoring me as a student teacher at Oliver Ames, and hiring me a few years later to teach Social Studies at the Easton Junior High School. She has been gracious enough to publish some of my poems in Reminiscences. Hazel has accomplished much, but I think the greatest tribute to her, is that so many loved and respected her as a classroom teacher.



THE EASTONER

HAZEL LUKE

Friendly — Friday night movie date — Honor student

Washington and Franklin History Award 3; Honor Society 3, 4; Honor Roll 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 1; Hockey 2; Glee Club 1, 2; Camera Club 2; Sports Ticket Collector 3, 4; Guidance Club 1, 2, 3; President Guidance Club 3; Assistant Business Manager of Eastoner 1; Assistant Circulation Manager of Eastoner 2, 3; Circulation Manager of Eastoner 4; Reception Committee 3; Class Day Committee 3; Assemblies 2, 3, 4; Gym Exhibition 2; Librarian 4; Class Play Committee 4; Senior Play Ticket Committee 4; Prompter of the Senior Class Play 4; National Honor Society Assembly 4; Swimming Class 2, 3; Served at Athletic Banquet 3; Librarian of Guidance Club 2.

Congratulations to Hazel Varella on her Lifetime Achievement Award given for a lifetime of service to the Easton Historical Society and Museum. On May 7th the Women's Waiting Room in the historic railroad station was dedicated to Hazel and named in her honor. The photograph above is Hazel's graduation photo and a summary of her activities and accomplishments at Oliver Ames High School. Class of 1950.

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Happenings at the Museum

March Open House. Baseball. "The Easton Historical Society and Museum had a full display of vintage artifacts from the very first chartered Easton Little League in 1952 and beyond. A big thanks to those that donated and shared their memorabilia to the show! Allan "Peanuts" Johnson, a huge baseball star in for LL, Pony League, OA and the Huskies was in attendance with his wife. He had great stories from "back in the day!!" Rick Coe had some awesome images from the first Fernandes (supermarket) team in which he was a part of. Paul Calarese was there with many items he shared as well. Jon and Linda Amorim were there and added great insight from his days on one of the original 4 teams (The Pioneers) Chief Tom Stone, an awesome catcher and athlete back in the day was there and added greatly! We can't forget the items we have had from Gil Heino, that were on display." Jon Coe

Many Easton residents have fond memories of Little League baseball. It came to Easton in 1952.

To the left is the shed gifted by the Kevin Williams Family. It sits in the edge of the parking lot to the left of the Railroad Station.

Below Oliver Ames students help clean up the grounds outside the train station on the Devin Ness Day of Kindness.

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More Happenings at the Station!

Ken Michel and Priscilla Almquist-Olson hosted a tour of the Museum that was filmed by ECAT and posted on Youtube. Highlights of the tour included an explanation of the two 'sides' of the station; to the left as you walk in is the Women's Waiting Room focuses on the cultural history of Easton, to the right is the old Men's Waiting Room, where exhibits focus on the industrial history of Easton.

One of our newest artifacts is a 38 star flag given by Frank Meninno and Ed Hands, retiring members. (Flag 1876-1889)

OPEN HOUSE SHEEP PASTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST

Early photos of flowering plants at Sheep Pasture.

Curated by Arielle Nathanson, Interim Curator.

Photo of Sheep Pasture and cows wandering near Queset Brook.

The rock face across from the entrance to Sheep Pasture. (Original photo)

IN MEMORIUM

Rose Friedeborn age 96, of North Easton, passed away at Benchmark Senior Living in Norwood, Ma. on August 10, 2022. She was the wife of the late John W. Friedeborn and loving mother to John Friedeborn and his wife Karen of Ithaca, NY, William Friedeborn and his wife Denise of Westwood, MA, Paul Friedeborn and his wife Adelina of Simi Valley, CA and the late James J. Friedeborn. She is also survived by her seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren. Born was born in the Richmond Hills section of Queens, New York, Rose went on to graduate from Ladycliff College in 1948 with a BA in Social Studies. She married her husband Jack, a WW II Navy pilot on August 28th, 1948, at St. Joseph's Church in Garden City. After moving to Easton in 1983 Rose was a daily communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church in Easton. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and was a member of St. Vincent De Paul Society. Rose also served on the Board of the Easton Town Council on Aging. Rose enjoyed visiting with friends and the annual family trips to Cape Cod.

Charles McCarthy (Charlie), age 69, passed away in Naples, Florida on March 27, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. Charlie was born in Quincy to Evelyn and Charles McCarthy and graduated from Oliver Ames High School in 1972. He went on to work for New England Telephone for 9 years before assuming Hilliard's House of Candy, a family business which he ran and grew alongside his wife, Judy, for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Judy Hilliard McCarthy; his children, Bradford McCarthy of Mashpee, Erin Fernandez and her husband Nelson of Easton, Maegan Dec and her husband Justin of Easton and three grandchildren; his siblings Mary Lou Boyd of West Bridgewater, Richard McCarthy of West Bridgewater, Regina McCarthy of Easton, Paula Coe of Easton, Janice Benson of Maine and his many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and siblings, Paul McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy and Jay McCarthy. Charlie was a man of faith who will be remembered for his kind heart, generosity, sense of humor, and unwavering commitment to his family. In his free time, Charlie was an avid reader who enjoyed long walks and spending time with his wife Judy on the Cape. He loved being part of the Easton community, was a good friend to many and his presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Gilbert A. "Gil" Heino, 82, a lifelong resident of Easton, passed away on April 8, 2023. He was the beloved husband of the late Catherine (Foster) Heino for over 50 years. Born in Boston, a son of the late Emil and Elma (Noponen) Heino he was raised in Easton and was a graduate of Oliver Ames High School. Gil was a veteran of the US Army, and was employed as a machine shop operator and then as a salesman for Industrial Products for many years. In his retirement he worked as a Professional Funeral Assistant at Kane Funeral Home. Gil was also a previous member of the Easton Board of Health. Gil was a standout athlete in basketball, football and especially baseball. Gil was the recipient of Easton's Outstanding Citizen Award, President of the Easton Field Authority, and a member of both the Oliver Ames High School Hall of Fame and the Cranberry Baseball League Hall of Fame. Gil along with his late wife Cathy were founders of the Easton Little League Complex. He served as vice president of the Easton Little League and the Easton Babe Ruth League. He was on the Oliver Ames High School Hall of Fame committee. His family will always remember him for his deep commitment to serving the community and hosting numerous events and cookouts at his Easton home. Gil is survived by two sons, Todd Heino and his wife Toni of Easton and Peter Heino and his wife Shannon of Plymouth, four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Albert Buteau, Reino Heino, Nancy Barboza, and Elsie Tomaski.

Myrtle Louise (Martin) Blaisdell passed away on May 17, 2023 with her family by her side. She was 96. She was the wife of the late William C. Blaisdell. Myrtle was born in Easton on June 17, 1926 to the late John and Olive (Packard) Martin. She worked as an RN at the Goddard Hospital, the VA Hospital and Braemore Nursing Home. Myrtle was an avid reader, enjoyed crossword puzzles, scrabble and word games. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, bowling, and sitting on her front porch where friends and neighbors were always welcome for a visit. Myrtle was an inspiration for future nurses. Myrtle was predeceased by both of her parents, her sister; Emily E. Pound, and brothers; Richard, Ernest and Kenneth Martin. She is survived by her two loving daughters; Beth Mowatt and Joanne Soule as well as her brother Doug Martin. Myrtle also leaves behind her grandchildren; Kevin, Kyle, Julie and John and great-grandchildren; Jonah, Hunter, Alyssa, Gemma and Mikko as well as many beloved nieces, nephews and friends.

DONATIONS

Financial donations were made by David DeVore, Charleton and Noni Ames, Robert Brooks, Ken Michel, Carol Misiewicz, Heidi Ames, John & Pauline Robello, Sarah & Mark Keough, Larry & Beth Abreu. Fred Ames donated Postcards and Historical Society bookmarks, Paul Calarese donated Little League hats, a scrapbook, Huskies memorabilia, a Brockton/Taunton token coin, Sharon MacMullen donated Easton's Past as Shown Through Maps and Louis A. Frothingham's Memorial Address, Kevin Williams donated a 1986 Tiger football booklet, Bob Wooster donated Easton Huskies uniforms and historical news clippings, Carole Hayes Gilbert donated Railroad Station maps, pictures and coloring book.

The Easton Historical Society and Museum hosted a visit from the Victorian Society in America (Newport Summer School) on June 9th. Famed historian Professor Richard Guy Wilson (with the white hat) led the way with his tour, focusing on the architects, H.H. Richardson, F.L. Olmsted, and John Ames Mitchell. The group visited four of the five Richardson masterpieces plus the historic Unity Church. The two John LaFarge windows and the Charles Connick window were a focus of the group at the church. The famed Johannes Kirchmayer wood carvings were discussed and admired during the tour. Ken Michel, Jon Coe, Steve Anderson and Arielle Nathanson were in attendance.

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