

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Neighbors,

Claire Macy and I worked for a year to develop a concept for Groton Neighbors, and in March 2015, we invited a few dozen residents, saying

*“...the meeting is to see whether there is the energy and interest in Groton to create a “Village” – a non-profit, membership organization to help seniors stay in their homes and stay engaged with the community as they grow older.”*

We presented a draft operating framework, budget and timetable for “Groton Neighbors”. Forty folks listened, questioned and discussed. Then we asked:

- Is this a good idea for Groton? Now?
- Is there energy in town to take it forward?

A handful of people with amazing skills, wisdom, creativity and drive stepped up to become our board. More joined in the work as the board refined the concept. We registered Groton Neighbors as a non-profit and built teams for operation, membership, programs and outreach. Services and events began in 2017 when we had about 45 members, and we have grown remarkably since.

With 115 members today and more planning to join us, Groton Neighbors has become part of the fabric of our community. We adapted to the challenges of COVID-19, even adding new ways to connect members, and we will resume regular services and programs as safety permits.

I have been amazed and humbled, filled with admiration and gratitude for all of you who helped bring us here and who now carry us forward. To you Groton Neighbors leaders and members, local non-profits, town businesses, town departments, individuals and other Villages – I send my deepest thanks as I retire this month from the Groton Neighbors board.

Bob Lutz



## Founding Father

*by Ed Strachan*



**Bob Lotz** will be rolling off the Groton Neighbors Board of Directors next month. It is an occasion on which the membership might pause to say thank you. Since he and **Claire Macy** co-founded Groton Neighbors in 2015, Bob has been a guiding force in the development of our special organization, serving as its president until it was a sustainable enterprise and continuing as a member of the Board until now.

Bob began by researching similar organizations nationwide to imagine how best the Village concept would fit into Groton. How could a group of Groton residents be assembled to volunteer their services so that everyone could be cared for, maintain a level of independence and stay in their homes as long as possible? He recruited civic-minded board members and, as president, led the way with his keen attention to detail.

No doubt Bob's commitment to realizing the Village concept for Groton stemmed from his own qualities as a neighbor and volunteer himself. Liz and I learned that firsthand one morning when we were about to leave for an important appointment. We discovered that our driveway was blocked by a large tree that had fallen across it. We called Bob to see if we could borrow his chain saw. He immediately grabbed his equipment, hurried over and stayed to help until we were able to saw our way out.

In no small measure, Groton Neighbors owes its viability to Bob's personal qualities: his great organizational skills, his ability to collaborate, his sense of responsibility, his generosity and the depth of his kindness. All these have contributed to create this wonderful gift to the town. 🏡

## Changing of the Guard

We might look back on April 2021 with the observation that *April was the cruelest month*, as three members of our Board of Directors step down from leadership. Not only do we thank Bob Lotz for co-founding our organization, but we also recognize the invaluable contributions of two dedicated anchors, **Pat Hartvigsen** and **Betty Irelan**.

## Pat Hartvigsen

*by Diane Hewitt*



**Pat Hartvigsen** was all in from the day Bob and Claire hosted their first informational meeting about Groton Neighbors in 2015. Long a driving force for positive educational and community initiatives, Pat has lent her considerable organizational, outreach and interpersonal skills to our fledgling organization. As a member of the original Board of Directors, Pat immediately took on the mission of introducing Groton Neighbors to the larger community. With her strong collaborative style and amazing reach into the Groton community, Pat developed productive partnerships with other non-profits in town, brought our first members into the organization and single-handedly built our strong Marketing, Membership and Outreach team.

Undaunted by the challenges of COVID, Pat has remained steadfast in her commitment to reaching out and connecting with our most vulnerable Groton residents, while helping the organization thoughtfully adapt our services and programs to this new reality. We have all benefitted from Pat's wonderful leadership; we are a far better and stronger organization for her abiding commitment and tireless work. We will sorely miss Pat's voice on the Board of Directors, but we are delighted that she will be staying connected to us through her active participation on the Marketing and Outreach team.

## Betty Irelan

*by Bill Knuff*

After two years serving on the Groton Neighbors board, **Betty Irelan** is stepping down to focus her boundless energy on one of her many other interests. Betty is not leaving Groton Neighbors. She remains an active member of the Membership Marketing & Outreach Committee (MMO) in the role of Renewal Coordinator. Betty also lends her wisdom and counsel to ad hoc Committees addressing At Risk situations, as well as Reopening Groton Neighbors as pandemic conditions permit.

Betty was born in Fitchburg and moved to Groton in the early 1970s. A registered nurse by training, she served as the School





Nurse, most likely watching over many of our children as they matriculated through the Groton Dunstable School system.

While the pandemic has limited the services Groton Neighbors has been able to deliver to our members, the workload of board and committee members has increased, as it became necessary to redefine protocols and reinvent ways to safely stay connected with one another. Betty's experience and her willingness to share it have been invaluable to these efforts.

It has been our privilege to work with you, Betty. Every member of the board offers their deepest thanks and appreciation for a job well done. 🏡

## Poetry Corner



(Adapted from Wikipedia)

We were all captivated by Amanda Gorman, the young woman who read her poem during the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States on January 20, 2021. Her words and her moment in history are worth revisiting. Click on the links below to read her poem, to relive the moment on video, or to read more about her. 🏡

**Amanda S. C. Gorman** is an American poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. She was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate and the youngest ever to read at a presidential inauguration in United States history. After January 6, 2021, Gorman amended her poem to address the storming of the United States Capitol saying, "My hope is that my poem will represent a moment of unity for our country," and that "with my words, I'll be able to speak to a new chapter and era for our nation."

To read poem Click ["The Hill We Climb"](#)

To watch video Click ["The Hill We Climb"](#)

To read more Click [Amanda Gorman](#)

## Groton Neighbors Pitch In

*by Carole Greenfield*



An appeal to help provide holiday meals produced an overwhelming response from our members, reinforcing the spirit of generosity and sense of community that defines Groton Neighbors.

As a member of both Groton Neighbors and the Groton Jewish Community Group, I want to personally thank each of our members who cooked food or delivered meals on Christmas Day.

This year presented many challenges, one of which was a significant increase in the number of meals required. The following letter from Amy Degen was published in the Groton Herald. Amy coordinated this year's program and deserves all our appreciation.

Groton Neighbors member Sue Lotz shows off her corn bread baking prowess. Photo: R. Lotz

*Dear Editor,*

*We want to thank all the people who volunteered to cook, bake, deliver items related to the meals, and deliver meals on Christmas Day. This began as a small under-the-radar project by the Groton Jewish Community Group over 20 years ago and now has blossomed into an Interfaith Project. Thank you, Kathy Shelp, for the names of the recipients. Thank you, Leslie Lathrop, for coordinating the list of recipients. We had 35 volunteers, 40 food items and 24 Christmas food boxes: the most ever! Thank you to the Groton Interfaith Council and Groton Neighbors for your participation. Special thanks to Cynthia Williams and her children for beautiful handmade Christmas cards.*

*Thank you to the following volunteers who made this year the most successful to date: Ilene Rodman, **Mike Kalil**, Valerie Templeton, **Carole Greenfield**, **Kathleen Phelps**, Ann Rothberg, **Ellen Brandt**, Shagufta Rahman, Josh Degen, Jim Brennan,*

Alia Degen, David Weinberg, **Barbara Rich**, Owen Shuman, **Bill Knuff**, Judy Nauman, Kimberly Poulin, Patti Modzelewski, **Mimi Giammarino**, Shua Arshad, Larissa Fagundes, Kerry Madden, Natina Perrotti, Laurie Sabol, **Marie Melican**, **Diane Hewitt**, **Susan Lotz**, Marsha Chaskelson, **Ursula Flury**, Sandy Rose, Susan Daly, Jessica Gray, Cynthia Williams and Greg Fishbone and Amy Degen. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

*We live in a special community that helps those in need. We wish you a Happy and HEALTHY New Year!*

*Sincerely,  
The Groton Jewish Community Group*

The generosity of our Groton Neighbors members and the collaboration amongst many town organizations and individuals highlight the special character of our town in which we live. Thank you for all you do to make it so. 🏡



Bill Knuff delivers a box of baked potatoes for distribution on Christmas day. Photo: K. Geils

## Quick Red Fox Jumps over Hazy Snow



Photo: R. Anderson



## Friends through Time

*by David Smith*

*Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner is a gently told story of the lifelong friendship, the bitter and the sweet, of two couples, from early career challenges through starting families, marital tensions and health crises, to the inevitable approach of death. On Thursday, February 25, eight neighbors – **Bob Anderson, Zoe Eleftherio, Diane Hewitt, Bill Knuff, Sally Russell, Marion Stoddart, Chuck Vander Linden** and **Lois Young** – met to share their thoughts and impressions about this special novel.



Many were struck by how a novel without a strong, forward-moving plot could hold our attention so well. But all agreed that Stegner's careful characterizations and his eye for the small and telling detail – in short, his uniquely beautiful style – helped the pages turn easily.

The title, we learned, comes from the poem *I Could Give All to Time* by Robert Frost, a meditation on holding close our dearest memories. We found ourselves remembering our own close friends, and those reflections led to sharing stories. Perhaps in those stories is another reason Stegner's novel has the power to hold our attention. It touches common experiences dear to every reader.

Some of our group were longtime Stegner fans while most had little or no experience with his work. But we all signed off interested in hunting down other of his titles, especially *The Spectator Bird* and *Angle of Repose*, for which Stegner received the Pulitzer Prize. 🏠

## Bill & TEDs Excellent Adventure

by *Bill Knuff*

Ideas change the world. TED is a non-profit founded in 1984, where ***Technology, Entertainment and Design*** converge for the purpose of sharing ideas. It has become a global clearing house of thought and ideas from inspired contributors helping to scratch the curiosity “itch,” broaden understanding and spur creative thinking. In the process, TED aims to harness the power of shared ideas to change attitudes and lives...to change the world.

TED Talks are short - typically 20 minutes - but they are powerful presentations on an endless range of topics in more than 100 languages.

I stumbled on TED Talks several years ago when I met



Soleil cruises Penobscot Bay  
Photo: W. Knuff

Groton resident, Vlad Murnikov. We share a love of salt water, but make no mistake, Vlad has a much more impressive sailing history than I. He was the driving force behind [Fazisi](#), the first ever Russian entry in the 1989 Whitbread (now Volvo) Round the World Yacht Race. America Cup racing, once the domain of majestic 12-meter yachts competing off the Rhode Island coast in relative anonymity, is now a spectator sport held in venues like San Francisco Bay and Waitemata Harbour, NZ.

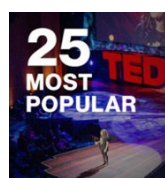
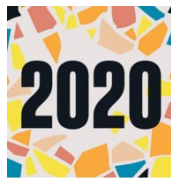
Maxis replaced 12-meter yachts and have themselves been replaced by technological wonders...sailing machines that race on foils above the water at speeds faster than the wind. The idea of sailing faster than the wind is at the core of Vlad's [SpeedDream](#) project and a seminal idea for today's America Cup yacht design.

Each of us has personal areas of interest. It is with this in mind that I recommend exploring new ideas by visiting the [TED website](#) to learn about the next new, new thing in your particular area of interest. There are so many choices. Click on



Maxis visit Boston Harbor  
2009





these links to access recent “Best of” TED talks that will help you wade into TED waters slowly. What a great idea!

## Meet Your Neighbor: Carol Canner & Elizabeth Goldring Piene –Amazing Lives, Beautiful Friendship – *by Lois Young*

On February 24, sixteen Groton Neighbors gathered via Zoom to meet Carol Canner and Elizabeth Goldring Piene, two local artists and longtime friends. Diane Hewitt served as moderator, reminding everyone that our Meet-Your-Neighbor events give us a chance to know each other better through the sharing of life stories. Our two interviewees did not disappoint.

Carol grew up in Newton, where her father's family had lived since the 1920's. When her father married Carol's mother, he brought with him two daughters from a previous marriage. Carol adored these girls, who became like mothers to her. Her mother was a homemaker, bright and very reserved. There was a long legacy of artists in Carol's family, and she recalls that at age 2½ she drew a picture of her father that her mother claimed looked just like him.



In high school, Carol was active in the theatre and was cast as the lead in the senior play. She was a cheerleader, played the piano, studied dance, and took art lessons. One of her art teachers suggested that she attend the Rhode Island School of Design. She did and met her future husband Carl. The summer of her junior year, she and Carl lived in Provincetown, where she painted portraits which he matted and framed. His mother encouraged them to marry, but they waited until Carol graduated in 1963. That summer they went to Europe for sixteen weeks, an experience that opened the world of art and history for them both.

On their return, Carl started the Carvers' Guild, creating exquisite mirrors in imaginative designs. They lived in Rockport, where Carol had a gallery. In 1970, watching from Rockport,

they saw a single bolt of lightning hit Boston and soon discovered that it had caused a devastating fire in their warehouse. All the mirrors were destroyed, including \$10,000 worth destined for Sloan's in New York. They loved driving through Groton to visit a friend in Pepperell and decided to move here. Fortuitously, the Thompson Mill in West Groton came up for auction, and they bought it "on the spot".



Elizabeth's roots are embedded in the Midwest. She was born in Forest City, Iowa, on the night the Allies bombed Dresden. Her father was Chairman of the History Department of the University of Nebraska, specializing in the American Frontier and an early critic of the treatment of Native Americans. Later, he became President of the whole University of Missouri system. Her mother was "in charge" of art, music and literature. Summers, the family went on archaeological digs in Nebraska, retraced the Fort Bozeman Trail, and visited the Pine Ridge and Rose Bud Reservations. They lived in Rome for a year, where Elizabeth attended the International School. She became a "child of the world," but Lincoln, Nebraska, has remained very important to her, as she recounts in her book *Going Home*.

Elizabeth graduated from Smith College with honors in French Medieval History. She married Steve Goldring, and while he pursued a medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Elizabeth taught art in several schools where she was the only white teacher. They moved to Chicago, where Elizabeth worked at the Field Museum of Natural History, and then to Washington, DC, where she taught theatre and ran an art gallery for children at the Smithsonian. When they moved to Boston in 1970, Elizabeth worked at the Boston Children's Museum, taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and served as a fellow at MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies.

From the age of seventeen, Elizabeth has lived with diabetic retinopathy, later compounded by a serious auto accident in Vienna. Consequently, most of her work over the years has been influenced by her vision. At times she could not see at all. She worked on a visual language and most of her time has been working on a "seeing machines," specifically a scanning laser ophthalmoscope which restored some of her vision. She collaborated with its inventor for many years, work that led to the formation of a Vision Group at MIT and the development of three different "seeing machines". She has worked with video artists and invented an art form called "retina prints," showing what she and the laser scanner are seeing.

As the conversation opened up, Carol told of feeling overloaded by maintaining a gallery on Newbury street. She was encouraged to focus on her design work with Carl. Putting aside her

painting for several years was a difficult decision, but she and Carl had a thriving business, shared ideas and worked well together. Recently, however, when her daughter Sarah, came to visit, Carol started painting her granddaughter Sophia. It felt good to pick up her paints again. She has continued to paint Sophia, landscapes, pictures of herself and daughter Liz, and of Carl. She showed us some of her recent work, which the gathering found exquisite.

Elizabeth read two of her poems. She and husband Otto Piene had travelled to Istanbul. The first night of their trip, her eye hemorrhaged, rendering her totally blind until her vision cleared on the last night of their trip. The first poem is called the *Scarf Dancers*, the second, *Electronic Blindness*. They describe the swirling of blood in her eye and what she sees. Elizabeth went on to say that Art and Life coalesced for her and Otto in Groton. Their farm became an Art Farm, where they turned twin silos into workspaces for artists.

After Otto died in 2014, Carol and Elizabeth worked together on a wonderful exhibit of his work at the Fitchburg Art Museum. We all expressed appreciation for these remarkable women and asked if they might work together on something in the future. They thought perhaps they could do something involving Elizabeth's silos. We all hope they will. 🏠

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video of this conversation between Carol and Elizabeth

## A Gift of Early Spring



Photo: D. Breed

*"Spring has sprung!! Thank you so much for the flowers Neighbors! Stay well everyone. Diana"*

The Membership Marketing & Outreach Committee delivered a bit of spring to several of our members in the form of a pot of daffodils. They provide welcome contrast to the snow-covered ground and other signs of winter still seen outside the window of Groton Neighbors member **Diana Breed**.



## What's Cookin'?

### *Healthy Banana Bread*

Wish you had some comfort food for those chilly April-showers ahead? The test kitchens of Messrs. Knuff and Smith recently tried this nutritious, delicious, one bowl banana bread. We followed the recipe below, but you can find ideas for substitutions and creative options by clicking on this link: [Banana Bread Options](#). 🏠



### Ingredients

3 very ripe bananas, mashed (about 1¼ cup)  
2 eggs, at room temperature (very important)  
1/3 cup pure maple syrup (do not use honey)  
1/2 cup plain or vanilla Greek yogurt (whole milk or 2% is best)  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1¾ cup whole wheat pastry flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup butter, melted and cooled

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line an 8½ x 4½ inch pan with parchment paper and grease the inside of the pan to prevent sticking.
2. In a large bowl mix together the mashed banana, eggs, maple syrup, Greek yogurt and vanilla extract until well combined.
3. In another bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients: whole wheat pastry flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix until just combined. Do not overmix!
4. Next, mix in the melted and cooled butter. At this point you can fold in any of the following: 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or 1/2 cup chocolate chips (or both!).
5. Add batter to prepared pan. Optional but not required: split a banana down the middle vertically and lay side-by-side on top or just add banana slices on top. Bake for 50-60 minutes or until a tester inserted into the middle comes out clean or with just a few crumbs attached. Allow bread to cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then remove and transfer to a wire rack to finish cooling.
6. Slice and spread with your favorite topping for a healthy snack or breakfast on the go.

## Connecting Digitally to Our Grandchildren

*By Krysalon*

This past year has meant opening opportunities to interact in ways we hadn't before. As we look forward to ending the pandemic, this is our last in the series of ideas for connecting with our grandchildren over the Internet. Here are four suggestions that can be easily adapted to meet the needs of your particular grandchild. Have fun!



### Online "Board" Games

Two of the easiest games to adapt to the online environment are *Scattergories* and *Boggle*. Both are easily adaptable for many different age groups.

**Scattergories** can be played with or without an official game set. Basic play is as follows: Players choose a category card to determine the category of words players will be brainstorming. One player rolls a die containing letters. Both players have three minutes to list all the nouns from that category they can that begin with the letter on the top of the die. Players compare their lists, crossing off any words that appear on both lists. Players get one point per word. The player with the most words is the winner of that round. (Example: Jobs that begin with B. Possible answers: banker, basketball player, bus driver, baker, etc.). If you don't have a letter die you can use this handy online letter generator and create a list of categories before the game begins. [Letter Generator](#)

**Boggle**- In order to play "Boggle" one player needs to own a "Boogle" game set. That player will shake a set of letter cubes to create a random assortment of letters. A timer is set for three minutes. Both players have this time to create as many words as possible by using any connected tiles.



This is an online version that can also be used on a shared screen between two players: [Boggle Online](#).

## **Scavenger Hunts**

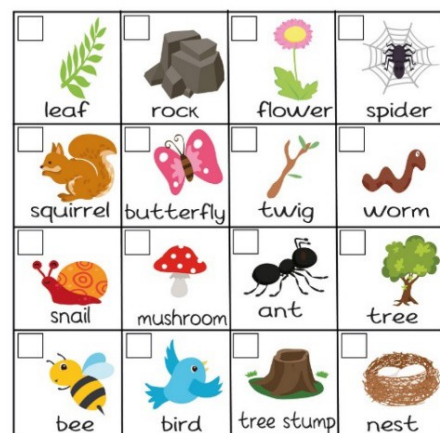
As always, the ingredients for a successful scavenger hunt are a list of items to be collected, a time limit, and the fun of revealing your treasures! Grandparents can create lists with their grandchildren. Scavenger hunts work particularly well when they are built around a theme. Adjust the list of items for the age of your child partner. Older children enjoy riddle clues or more obscure clues. Here are some examples.

**Nature Hunt:** List items in or around your grandchild/your home that are natural. (A rock, a leaf, something that has six legs, something that needs water to grow)

**Alphabet Hunt:** Each player collects one item for each letter of the alphabet. For younger children, you could give a hint list and let them substitute if they'd like. (apple, boat, coat, digger [shovel], elephant..) Allow pictures!

**Things That...** : This hunt gives each participant a little more latitude and requires more thought. It is also a little more fun at the reveal stage. The list might look like this: Find something that .... roars, has a motor, is edible, etc.

### NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT



GLAMAMOM.COM

**Finish the Saying Hunt:** Similar to the previous hunt only items complete a phrase, again adjusted for the age of your child. For example; "Roses are red, violets are \_\_\_\_\_." Participants must find something blue (paint, paper, juice bottle). "Rome was not \_\_\_\_\_ in a day." Participants must find something you can build with (block, wood, hammer, nail).

Here are some web resources for online scavenger hunts: [Scavenger Hunt Ideas](#)

## **Play! Playdough, Draw**

Sometimes our grandchildren just want to visit with us and don't need to be entertained. But they do need their hands to be kept busy. So, the best compromise is to arrange with their parent to provide them a simple, quiet activity during your virtual visit. Something like Playdough, crayons and paper, or a few cars/trucks, dolls or Legos. If you have corresponding toys all the better. But it isn't necessary. Just chat with your grandchild. Engage them in conversation about their work. Who lives in the house they are building? Who is the doll's best friend? Where are the people in the cars going? Sit quietly and let them chat with you.



## **Watch Party- Hulu, Netflix**

Most major streaming services have watch party options now. With these options you can watch a movie at the same time as your family all over the globe. Some allow you to chat in a chat box or through a video box. Make popcorn, sit down and watch something fun together! Here is some information about this process. Click the link and scroll down when the page opens. [How to Hold a Watch Party](#)

## **Puzzling**



Our last website to share allows you to put together jigsaw puzzles with another person on a shared computer screen. This activity allows a great deal of casual conversation between you and your grandchild, as well as many opportunities for you to give your grandchild encouragement as they learn to solve problems.

### [Puzzles with Friend](#)

We hope you have enjoyed our suggestions for meeting with your grandchildren online throughout the past year. 🏠

## The Beat Goes On

*by Bill Knuff*

Sunshine softens the winter morning as I work on my second cup of coffee, thinking about the day ahead. It is becoming harder to avoid a few projects around the house that procrastination has conspired to leave on my to-do list much longer than deserved. It is also a perfect day for a winter walk. Oh...and did I mention today is my assigned day to cover the Groton Neighbors virtual office?

It is a few minutes before nine AM. Sitting in front of my computer, I open an email recapping Groton Neighbors activity from the previous day. Nothing urgent. I check for other emails that may require attention. Finding none, I arrange to forward the Groton Neighbors phone number to my cell phone and check phone messages. There is one voice message received after yesterday's closing requesting a volunteer to grocery shop. It requires attention. I then login to the business side of the Groton Neighbors website and check for any existing service requests that may need updating. Things look to be in good order and pretty quiet. I then set about opening a new Designated Shopper request and returning the voice message call from last evening to take down the caller's shopping list.

This done, I find myself in the unenviable position of no longer being able to put off tackling one of those pesky projects on my to-do list.

Groton Neighbors is not immune from the ravages of a pandemic that has changed so many lives. The inability to safely offer rides or schedule in-person events has severely limited services we are able to provide. Regardless, every business day a member of a dedicated Office Staff team has started their day much the same way I describe above.

The Office Staff consists of ten volunteer members who share the day-to-day operations workload with a shift assignment once every other week from the comfort of home... or, by cell phone, wherever they may be. These people are there so you can be assured that your service needs are being addressed in a timely and professional manner. Office Staff are the more visible members of an Operations Team that oversees the Groton Neighbors database used to process your requests, performs background checks to ensure the safety of all members, and provides website administration helping to “keep the lights on” at Groton Neighbors.



The Ops Team at a recent All Hands Meeting on Zoom: Bill Knuff, Bob Lotz, Mimi Giammarino, Dick Bettencourt, Beverly Smith, Camilla Blackman, Iris Staub, Linda Jordan, Jan Cochran, Terri Ragot, Judy Anderson, John Sopka Photo: R. Lotz

These are truly remarkable people. They bring a wide range of professional and life experience to their jobs. Running a virtual office means using technology and working remotely. The two dominant characteristics that exemplify this group of volunteers collectively known as “the Ops Team” are fearlessness and reliability. Being on the front lines of any operation demands a willingness to try and the ability to make decisions...and doing so day in and day out.

Well, I managed to check one of those items off my to-do list and just finished a brisk walk around the center of town owing to snow covering the Nashua River Rail Trail. Time to check back in on the Groton Neighbors virtual office. As is so often the case, one of our Designated Shoppers responded offering to fulfill the grocery shopping request entered this morning. After confirming this request, it is time to write up my brief shift report and begin thinking about closing the virtual office for the day to meet at 5PM for our evening cocktail hour. It is still cold enough to sit by the fire, but as the days grow longer, spring cannot be far behind.

If you would like to explore opportunities to contribute on a regular basis without imposing on your daily routine, please email us at [service@grotonneighbors.org](mailto:service@grotonneighbors.org) and let us know. 🏡

## Help Wanted

Groton Neighbors is an all-volunteer organization. We welcome your help in whatever way you are able. To learn more about volunteering for one of the position listings, please give us a call (978) 272-0123 or email us at [service@grotonneighbors.org](mailto:service@grotonneighbors.org) and we will be happy to help you explore these or other ways you might help. 🏡

### **Communications Coordinator:**

This person will work closely with the MMO Team and Administration to develop and implement a communications plan and supporting materials to create visibility and awareness among our members and the larger Groton community. This position requires an individual who can learn the basics of the Groton Neighbors website and is comfortable organizing and delivering attractive and professional content through multiple social media channels, our website and snail mail.

### **Office Staff:**

Join a team of volunteers who cover our virtual office two days each month. Requires good communication skills, dependability, and internet access. Training along with support of the



entire Office Staff team will be provided. This role offers a predictable schedule with freedom and flexibility to easily integrate with your daily life.

### Website Administrator:

Working with leadership and our web provider, this person is responsible for administrative oversight of the Groton Neighbors website and support for our volunteers working with our website. Familiarity with a web-based CMS is helpful but willingness to learn is more important.

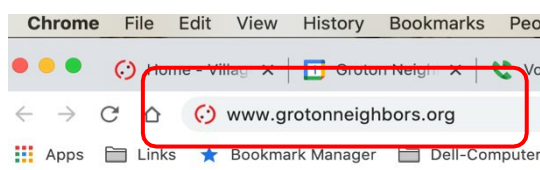
## Website 101

*by Bill Knuff*

Did you know that Groton Neighbors has a website? If the last time you visited our website was when you became a member, let me start with a login refresher.

1. Open your internet browser
2. Type [www.grotonneighbors.org](http://www.grotonneighbors.org) and press "Enter" key
3. Click "Member Login" button
4. Enter User Name & Password
5. Click "Login" button

NOTE: Check "Remember me" box to eliminate Step 4 & 5 at next login)

A screenshot of the Groton Neighbors website. At the top right, the 'Member Login' button is highlighted with a red rectangle. Below the site header, there is a navigation bar with links like Home, About Us, Benefits/Services, etc. The 'Login' section is below the navigation bar. It contains a form with two input fields: 'User Name' (containing 'wknuff') and 'Password' (masked with dots). Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'Remember me on this computer'. At the bottom of the form are three buttons: 'Login' (highlighted with a red rectangle), 'Cancel', and 'Forgot My Username/Password'. A red arrow points from the 'Forgot My Username/Password' button towards the text at the bottom of the page.

If you have forgotten your login info, Click "Forgot My Username/Password". Follow prompts and a new login ID/PW will be sent to your email.

We are working to make the website better. Although the pandemic has severely curtailed services and activities, reasons to visit our website site now include:

- Register for the Book Discussion led by member David Smith or the next Meet Your Neighbor series hosted by Diane Hewitt on the *Calendar* page
- Learn about Groton Library, Historical Society, Senior Center and other local activities in one place by visiting the *Local Links* page
- Connect with other members with whom you share an interest on the *Member Interests* page

This is the first in a series of articles on exciting changes coming to our website. Stay tuned and stay well. 🏡

## Crossword Puzzle

*By David Smith*



### Groton Neighbors

*Helping each other  
live independently  
at home*

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

Mike Manugian  
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*Contact us to learn  
about joining our  
growing community*

We know how many Groton Neighbors enjoy crossword puzzles, so we plan to make them a regular feature of this newsletter. This issue's puzzle is called **Over the Hills** because it features the names and references to several of Groton's elevations. Follow the link below to go a web page where the puzzle is waiting for you. You can do the puzzle online or print it out if you want to solve it with a pencil instead.

It's easy, but take a moment to acquaint yourself with the puzzle page. By clicking on a square in the puzzle, the clues for that square will be highlighted in the **Across** and **Down** lists at the right. The darker one is the clue for the word you're working on.

A red arrow shows you the direction you'll be typing. To change direction, tap your space bar.

Look at the panel to the left. In the green box at the top, you can ask to see your **Errors**. You can also **Undo** or **Redo** what you type. A little below the green box, you can click the **Printer** icon if you want a printed copy.

CLICK on this grid to open puzzle >>>



([Click HERE for Solution](#))