

Final Report of the Northfield 350th Anniversary Committee
2023
Reconnecting Northfield

In 2023 Northfield commemorated 350 years since Europeans first visited in the year 1673. In 1723 this place was incorporated as the town of Northfield. The place the Europeans found in 1673 was populated by Indigenous people, the Sokoki. During our 350th year the Anniversary Committee has acknowledged these first residents as well as those who came later, the people who have made Northfield what it is today.

Our 350th events, 70 in number, were intended to “Reconnect Northfield”. The official team of people who worked toward this goal included the 350th Anniversary Committee and several committee subgroups. These individuals, who are listed at the end of this report, worked for 3 years putting the 350th commemorative year together. Many other volunteers helped at individual events or worked independently in small teams to create an event. Residents responsible for such occasions include Corinne Fitzgerald and Bonnie L’Etoile who planned the Harvest Dinner Dance at Snow’s Northfield Golf Club, and Barry and Patty Bordner who organized the 350th Anniversary Golf Tournament. Also, the Tree50th Project, spearheaded by Judy Wagner, Martha Tenney and the Northfield Garden Club, raised money for fifty trees which have been bought and planted along Northfield’s streets. What a thoughtful gift these trees are for future residents.

Our audiences were wonderful! So many people from town and nearby attended our 350th events – the lectures, the historical trails and Main Street walks, the musical events including but not limited to the Pioneer Valley Symphony concert (thank you Pam Eldridge!), and of course our Parade and Fireworks Day, which couldn’t have happened without Four Star Brewery. We gathered together so many times between January 1, when we set out luminaria, and December 31 when candles were again lit all over Northfield, marking the end of our 350th year. We appreciate 350th committee member Pat Shearer for spearheading the candle lighting effort, and for so much more too.

What holds our town together? It is many things. Northfield’s churches showed how vital they are, not just to our history but in keeping us connected today. Trinitarian Congregational Church (TCC), First Parish Unitarian (FP), and Community Bible Church (CBC) provided venues for 350th events free of charge, and sponsored their own 350th events too - a free chicken barbecue (TCC), a 350th variety show (FP) and a program celebrating D.L. Moody’s summer conference music, *Hymnology in Northfield* (CBC). Our town has limited public spaces that provide ADA-compliant access and adequate parking, so we are very grateful for the wholehearted support which the churches offered us. Special thanks go to Martha Morse, 350th committee member and Trinitarian trustee, for working with other Trinitarian members to open the church for a great many programs and rehearsals, and for attending nearly every event all year long.

Schools are instrumental in keeping us connected, and 2023 found both Pioneer Valley School and Northfield Elementary School providing venues for 350th events. Our second event of the year, and a huge one, featured raptor rehabilitator Tom Ricardi who thrilled over 200 children and their families at NES with his astounding birds of prey. Then Pioneer’s auditorium and staff rescued the Pioneer Valley Symphony concert intended for the golf club when thunderstorm predictions required us to relocate indoors – the symphony of Disney favorites was wonderful! And our school administration and staff members showed that they are accommodating and amazing.

The 350th committee's budget and efforts supported 70 events during 2023. The town of Northfield voted a budget of \$82,000, plus business sponsorships raised \$48,000, state/local grants brought in another \$13,000 and individual donors gave over \$14,000 to the 350th commemoration effort. As of this writing, \$147,309 has been spent on 350th anniversary events out of a total income to date of \$172,521. These figures are not final, but it is clear that the fundraising and promotional efforts of the 350th Community Engagement Group headed by Joan and Steve Stoia were extremely successful. We couldn't have offered so many programs without the funds raised and the publicity arranged by this small but powerful Community Engagement team. Thanks also to Leslie and Paul of Cameron's Winery for providing food at several events, 350th promotion, and having great Parade costumes too!

A list of our business sponsors appears at the end of this report, as well as a list of the 70 events of the 350th anniversary year.

What other glue holds a community together? The public library does, and Northfield is fortunate to have one of the best. Dickinson Memorial Library celebrated the 125th birthday of its beautiful building in 2023 yet the staff made time to help with the 350th commemoration. Misha Storm, Jane Lyle-Jaworski and Matt Atwood provided space for 350th programs, helped with promotion and publicity, and sponsored 350th library events, including a dozen coffee hours on local topics so that residents could reconnect and talk about our town's history. Library Director Misha is also an archivist; her expertise aided the Oral History Project planned by the Community Engagement group in recording many interviews of current and former residents. These interviews are available at the library for future listening.

Recording our 350th events for the future is so important. The majority were videorecorded by our cable tv company, BNCTV. The 350th committee is grateful to Otis Wheeler and Tyler Bourbeau for their expertise and hours of work which has made lectures and the parade viewable from links posted on the library's website. And Norm Eggert of Phillipston took hundreds of photos of the 350th anniversary events and provided them to us free of charge. Thank you to Norm Eggert Photography! Our 350th Anniversary website was vital to providing the public with a calendar of events throughout the year, including photo exhibits, event descriptions and town histories. Lindsay McCarthy created the webpage and did an excellent job maintaining it, alongside her 350th Treasurer and merchandise sales responsibilities. The 350th webpage will be archived on the Dickinson Memorial Library's website. And key to our merchandise sales was the Adria Lowery Unique Floral Design shop – thank you to Adria for selling our Tom White 350th commemorative pottery.

Northfield town departments and personnel helped during 2023 in so many ways. The police sent an officer to calm traffic near several hugely popular events at Trinitarian and at First Light, and their management of safety, parking and traffic on Parade and Fireworks Day was essentially flawless. The Junior Firefighters set up tables for the free chicken barbecue, with youthful energy and enthusiasm. Andrea Llamas was a great coordinator of people, materials and activities as she worked with 350th Anniversary Chair Stacy Bond to organize our grand parade, with the Northfield Highway Department's generous help. Bruce Kahn as Entertainment Coordinator planned music events throughout the year, and made sure the sound equipment vital to the parade and other events was working perfectly. And Bob Henry was Stacy Bond's right-hand man all through the year, helping the committee in so many ways. Thank you also to the Northfield Open Space Committee for help creating history signs for our trails.

It takes a village, they say. In our 350th year, the residents of a town on two sides of a great river worked together to commemorate, to celebrate and to reconnect Northfield. Thank you to everyone who helped stage our great effort of 2023, especially the committee members named on the following page and every other volunteer too.

350th Anniversary Committee and Working Group Members

Anniversary Committee

Stacy Bond, 350th Chair, Parade & Fireworks Coordinator (Northfield Historical Commission)
Lindsay McCarthy, Treasurer, Website Manager, Merchandise Sales Coordinator
Mary King, Secretary, History Focus Group Coordinator (Northfield Historical Commission)
Bruce Kahn, Entertainment Coordinator
Pat Shearer, Kids & Family Focus Coordinator
Joan Stoia, Community Engagement Group Coordinator (Northfield Historical Commission)
Steve Stoia, Community Engagement Group Coordinator
Martha Morse
Rhoda Yucavitch

Community Engagement

Margie Conner
June Moran
Martha Morse
Lloyd Parrill
Joan Stoia
Steve Stoia

History Focus

Don Campbell
Judi Campbell
Margie Conner
Mary Key
Scott Key
Mary King
Sam Richardson
Misha Storm

Kids & Family Focus

Nancy Billings
Nina Colombaro
Mary Mayshark-Stavelly
Sue Pasteris
Pat Shearer
Tom Shearer
Misha Storm
Samantha Tavares
Deb Wood
Northfield Elementary School PTO

Parade & Fireworks

Tony Amato
Stacy Bond
Andy Brydges
Regis Crosby
Janice Herlihy
Bruce Kahn
The Kellogg's
Andrea & Paul Llamas
Kathy Llamas
Nate & Liz L'Etoile
Lisa Moore
Martha Morse
Northfield Fire Dept., Highway Dept., & Police Dept.
Gretchen Parker
Joanne Pickar
Juli Simmons & volunteers from **Northeast**
Paving
Robin van der Maat & family
Samantha Tavares
Sharon Weyers

350th Anniversary Major Underwriters

Barry & Patty Bordner
Cold River Materials
Senator Jo Comerford's Office
First Light Power Systems
Greenfield Recorder
Greenfield Savings Bank
Northeast Paving
Northfield Mount Hermon School
Potee-Martin Family
Thomas Aquinas College

350th Anniversary Contributing Sponsors

Cohn & Company
Grassroots Fund of New England
Greenfield-Northampton Cooperative Bank
Sugarloaf Gardens
WHA1 98.3 FM

Our 350th anniversary events were supported by Friends of the 350th and individual supporters too numerous to mention here.

Visit our webpage for a complete list -

<https://northfield350.org>

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS
350th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN 2023

Sunday Jan 1	5 pm	Luminaria display	Throughout Northfield
Thursday Feb 16	5:30	“Where is Northfield?” Sara Campbell, civil engineer.	Dickinson Memorial Library 115 Main Street
Saturday Feb 18	9 am noon	350 th Kids & Family Fun Day	Northfield Elementary School 104 Main Street
Saturday Feb 18	2–4 pm	Outdoor family activities sponsored by First Light	Northfield Mountain 99 Millers Fall Road
Sunday Feb 19	6 pm	“The Sokoki” presentation by Peter Thomas, followed by reception	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Saturday March 11	5 pm	“King Philip's War in Your Backyard: From Sokwakik to Peskeompskut 1675- 76” David Brule	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Saturday April 15	10 am	Coffee Hour: Seminary History with Peter Weis	Dickinson Memorial Library 115 Main Street
Thursday April 27	6:00	Abijah Prince of Northfield: from Enslaved to Entrepreneur	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Sunday May 7	1 pm	Mill Brook Trail Walk, Early Industries - Annie Chappell	Mill Brook Trail
Wednesday May 10	7 pm	Architecture of Early New England. Eric Gradoia, Architectural Historian	Zoom
Saturday May 13	9 am	King Philip's Hill Walk led by Rich Holschuh	
Saturday May 20	1:00 <u>and</u> 2:30	Architectural Tours led by Eric Gradoia.	Main Street

Saturday May 20	10 am	Coffee Hour: History of The Field Library with Linda Chapin	Dickinson Library 115 Main Street
Sunday May 21		Musicians of Northfield: Andrew Vernon & friends	Four Star Brewery 508 Pine Meadow Road
Friday June 2	2–3 pm	The Northfield Campus; Past, Present & Future Discussion	Rhodes Art Center, Raymond Hall, NMH Campus in Gill
Saturday June 10	3 pm	Swan Songs Shape note Concert: Swan Singers, songs by Timothy Swan	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Saturday June 10	4:30 pm & 5:30	Northfield Town Chicken Barbecue	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Sunday June 11	2 pm	Slide Show: Trains and Stations of Northfield; Philip Johnson	West Northfield Playground 687 Mt. Hermon Station Rd.

Friday June 16	6 pm	Film “Root Hog or Die”	Community Bible Church 105 Main Street
Saturday June 17	10:00	Coffee Hour: Dairy Farming with Joel Fowler	Dickinson Library 115 Main Street
Saturday June 17	5 pm	Dickinson Memorial Library's 125th Birthday Celebration	Dickinson Library 115 Main Street
Saturday June 24	10:00 AND 2:00	Thomas Aquinas College Tours: limit 20 each tour; reception for both tour groups from noon – 2:00 pm	Thomas Aquinas College 231 Main Street
Sunday June 25	5:00	Pioneer Valley Symphony concert	Beech House, Nfld Golf Club

July 7-19 Thursdays Fridays Saturdays	12:00 – 5:30	NORTHFIELD THEN & NOW Artists Exhibit: Vintage photos and contemporary depictions of same Northfield buildings & landscapes	Fiddleheads Gallery/DVAA 105 Main Street
July 7-19 Thurs, Fridays, Saturdays	12:00 – 5:30	Jack Nelson's Chateau sculpture on Exhibit (see July 11 below)	Fiddleheads Gallery/DVAA 105 Main Street
Tuesday July 11	4:30 – 6:00	THE NORTHFIELD CHATEAU: viewing & reception sponsored by Cameron's Winery; music by Farley String Band from 5:00-6:00 pm	Fiddleheads Gallery/DVAA 105 Main Street
	6:00	THE NORTHFIELD CHATEAU presentation by Jack Nelson	Fiddleheads Gallery
Saturday July 15	3 pm - 5 pm	American Youth Hostel, Memories & Song: Jonathan Smith, presenter Music: Annie Patterson & Peter Blood	Community Bible Church 105 Main Street
Saturday July 15	6:30	First Parish Variety Show	First Parish Unitarian Church Main St. & Parker Avenue
Thursday July 20	4:30-7:00	THEN & NOW ARTIST RECEPTION 5:00 Exhibit Tour by Joel Fowler 5:30- 6:45 Music by <i>Fall Town Band</i>	Fiddleheads Gallery 105 Main Street
	7:00	VINTAGE FASHION SHOW	Community Bible Church
Friday July 21	6 pm	“Out of the Storm” documentary film (events surrounding 1938 hurricane)	Community Bible Church, 105 Main Street

Saturday July 22	10 am	Coffee Hour: History of The Rustic Ridge with Margie Connor	Dickinson Memorial Library 115 Main Street
Sunday July 23	2 pm	D.L. Moody: A Life: Kevin Belmonte, biographer; reception & book signing	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Friday July 28	6 pm	Musicians of Northfield series: Local Band: “Crowd the Plough”	Four Star Farms Brewery 508 Pine Meadow Road

Sunday July 30	2:00 - 4:00	Hymnology in Northfield Contact person: Mary Key	Community Bible Church 105 Main Street
Thursday August 3	6 pm	“Gravestone Girls” Gravestone Art & it's Historic Symbolism	Community Bible Church 105 Main Street
Thursday August 3	6–8 pm	350th River Paddle Social	Connecticut River
Sunday August 6	4 pm	Concert by renowned organist Gary Garletts on Historic Hook organ	First Parish Unitarian Church Main Street & Parker Avenue
Saturday August 12	12 noon	Softball Game: Northfield vs Deerfield; food sold by the VFW	West Northfield Playground 687 Mt. Hermon Station Rd.
Sunday Aug 13	1-4 pm	Northfield Historical Society Museum open	13 Pine Street
Friday August 18	6 pm	Film: “Free Spirits” Renaissance Community	Community Bible Church 105 Main Street
Saturday August 19	10 am`	Coffee Hour: “The Northfield Hotel and Chateau” with Peter Weis	Dickinson Library 115 Main Street

Saturday August 19	1:00 to 5:00	“Renaissance Community” 1970's (part of Biography of a House series) Spirit of the Flesh band (music & stories)	Four Star Brewery 508 Pine Meadow Road
Sunday August 20	9:30 – 11:30	Bicycle Rodeo and Hike for Kids and Families: Contact person – Pat Shearer	Northfield Mountain Recreation Center 99 Miller Falls Road
Sunday August 20	1:00 PM	Dickinson Memorial Library's 125 th Birthday Party: picnic & lawn Games. Side dishes & desserts welcome!	Dickinson Memorial Library 115 Main Street
Friday August 25	6:00 – 8:00	“The Amazing Geological History of Northfield” (Richard D. Little)	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Saturday August 26	9 am	Brush Mountain Hike: 1.2 miles led by Matt DiLuzio. Begins with acknowledgement of Calvin Swan’s homestead	Brush Mountain
Sunday August 27	1-4 pm	Northfield Historical Society Museum open	13 Pine Street
Sunday Sept 10	1-4 pm	Northfield Historical Society Museum open	13 Pine Street
Saturday Sept 16	11:15 and 1:00	Architectural Tours led by Eric Gradoia; register with Library at dmemlib@gmail.com	Main Street
Saturday Sept 16	10 am	Coffee Hour: West Northfield residents	Dickinson Library 115 Main Street
Sunday Sept 17	3:30 - 6:00	Brian Bender and Robby Roiter Jazz Concert	Four Star Brewery 508 Pine Meadow Road

Saturday Sept 23	5:00 pm	Harvest Moon Dinner Dance	Northfield Golf Club 31 Highland Avenue
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Saturday Sept 30	1:00 pm	350 Anniversary Parade	Main Street (starts at Moody Street; ends at Maple St)
Saturday Sept. 30	4:00 - Evening	240 Finale & Fireworks: music, food, drinks, games & Fireworks	Four Star Farms Brewery 508 Pine Meadow Road
Saturday Oct 21		9am History Coffee Hour: wards of Northfield; Joanne Gardner	Dickinson Memorial Library 115 Main Street
Saturday Oct 21	12:00 - 2:00	Geology of Northfield Field Trip (Professor Richard D. Little):	Tour begins at Riverview Picnic Area on Ferry Road off Rte. 63.
Sunday Oct.22	4:00 – 6:00	Lenny Zarcone: Musical Performance honoring Northfield's Seniors (of all ages!) Frank Sinatra, Jazz, pop, etc	Four Star Brewery 508 Pine Meadow Road
Saturday Nov. 4	11:00 - 2:00	Wagon Rides sponsored by First Light: TCC and environs Contact person: Pat Shearer	Trinitarian Congregational Church (in conjunction with TCC Hollyberry Fair)
Sunday Nov 12	6:30 pm	"The People vs. the Pipeline" presentation. Contact persons: Steve and Joan Stoia	Community Bible Church 105 Main Street
Saturday Nov 18	12:00 - 2:00	Geology of Northfield Field Trip led by Professor Richard D. Little	Tour begins at Riverview Picnic Area on Ferry Road
Saturday Dec 2	4:00 pm	Da Camera Singers concert: "December in New England: Music from 1673 to the Present."	Trinitarian Church 147 Main Street
Sunday Dec 3	2:00	Make your own Gingerbread House! (Pat Shearer) Kids & Families	Trinitarian Church Fellowship Hall 147 Main Street
Wednesday Dec 6	5:30 - 7:30	New Lights in the Dawnland Audio Documentary on Indigenous history in Northfield	Dickinson Library 115 Main Street

Saturday Dec 16	1:00	Science presentation on butterflies & other creatures. Sponsored by Magic Wings Butterfly Museum.	Town Hall Auditorium 69 Main Street
Saturday Dec 16	2:00	Long string marionettes performance by "Tanglewood Marionettes": Contact person: Steve Stoia	Town Hall Auditorium 69 Main Street
Wednesday Dec 20	6:00 pm	Piti Theatre performance by NES students in grade 3 and 6	Northfield Elementary School 104 Main Street
Sunday Dec 31	5:00 pm	Luminaria all around town	Everywhere in Northfield