**News and Inspiration for March 2019**

**Poetry from Mary Oliver** born1935 died January 2019

For your Lenten meditation and slowing down…

**Self Portrait**

I wish I was twenty and in love with life

And still full of beans

Onward, old legs! There are the long, pale dunes; on the other side

The roses are blooming and finding their labor

No adversity to the spirit.

Upward, old legs! There are the roses, and there is the sea shining like a song, like a body

I want to touch

Though I’m not twenty

And won’t be again but ah! Seventy. And still

In love with life. And still full of beans.

**I Ask Percy (my dog) How I should Live My Life**

Love, love, love, says Percy.

And run as fast as you can

Along the shining beach, or the rubble, or the dust.

Then, go to sleep.

Give up your body heat, your beating heart.

Then trust.

**When I Cried For Help**

Where are you, Angel of Mercy?

Outside in the dusk, among the flowers?

Leaning against the window or the door?

Or waiting, half asleep, in the spare room?

I’m here said the Angel of Mercy.

I’m everywhere---in the garden, in the house,

And everywhere else on earth—so much

Asking, so much to do. Hurry! I need you.

**Red Bird Explains Himself**

“Yes, I was the brilliance floating over the snow

And I was the song in the summer leaves, but this was

Only the first trick

I had hold of among my other mythologies,

For I also knew obedience: bringing sticks to the nest,

Food to the young, kisses to my bride.

But don’t stop there, stay with me: listen

If I was the song that entered your heart

Then I was the music of your heart, that you wanted and needed,

And thus wilderness bloomed there, with all its

followers: gardeners, lovers, people who weep

 for the death of rivers.

And this was my true task, to be the

Music of the body. Do you understand? For truly the body needs

A song, a spirit, a soul. And no less, to make this work,

The soul has need of a body,

And I am both of the earth and I am of the inexplicable

Beauty of heaven

Where I fly so easily, so welcome, yes,

And this is why I have been sent, to teach this to your heart.”

**What is the Greatest Gift?**

What is the greatest gift?

Could it be the world itself—the oceans, the meadowlark,

 the patience of the trees in the wind?

Could it be love, with its sweet clamor of passion?

Something else—something else entirely

 holds me in thrall.

That you have a life that I wonder about

 more than I wonder about my own.

That you have a soul—your own, no one else’s—

that I wonder about yours more than I wonder about my own.

So that I find my soul clapping its hands for yours

 more than my own.

**Memorable** [**quotes**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1JZAP_enUS817US818&q=mary+oliver+quotes&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgFuLUz9U3MC1JMShWQjC1xLOTrfQLUvMLclKBVFFxfp5VYWl-SeoiVqHcxKJKhfyczLLUIgWwWDEALYdLgkYAAAA&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwiYpYPmp-ngAhUEE4gKHXcZCuUQMTAhegQICBAC) **from Mary Oliver’s poetry**

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?*

*Instructions for living a life. Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.*

*Listen--are you breathing just a little, and calling it a life?*

**Upcoming Events**

* **March 6th Ash Wednesday 7 pm** Join us at the Brookline Church for our Mason/Brookline Ash Wednesday service. Reverend Catherine Merrill and Reverend Veronica Don will be officiating.
* **March 7th Lenten Study for Adults 10 am** with Pastor Veronica. Reading topic: “Give it Up!” by Dottie Escobedo-Frank
* **March 9th Nashua Soup Kitchen** Meet in the church parking lot at 3:30 for carpooling to Nashua. We are usually back by 6:30 or 7pm. Share your love and energy in this outreach mission of our community. Contact Kathy Chapman if you plan to go or need information 603-878-4993 or email chapman.kathy@gmail.com
* **March 14th 5:30 to 7 pm Community Supper** Join us for another delicious meal with companions from Mason and surrounding area. As always, you are welcome to bring an item for the Greenville Food Pantry. Deposit it in the box as you come in. Don’t let food sensitivities keep you home – Each community supper has a gluten-free, dairy-free, and nut-free entrée for our special guests.
* **March 15th Women’s group will not be meeting this month.**

## March16th 6:30 pm. Living Room Coffee House The next open mic at the ”Living Room Coffee House” is Dean Stevens. For 25 years, Dean Stevens has delighted audiences of all ages throughout the Americas. An exuberant performer of distinctive style and wit, he combines an intricate, self-taught guitar style with a versatile and expressive singing voice. He has established himself as a formidable creator and interpreter of a wide spectrum of songs in English and Spanish. His own material explores a variety of personal and social topics, paints sketches of people and places, celebrates the Earth, and annoys the narrow minded.

* **April 1 5:30 to 8 pm The Conversation** This community meeting is about end-of-life issues, from your Healthcare Directive (that document you share with your physician) to low cost funerals, and discussions about your life, like what do you want to be remembered for, what wisdom have you learned and want to share, and how to write a loving and/or humorous obituary for self or loved ones! **This month we will watch the documentary “Holding Our Own,”** and there will be a series of study questions to stimulate conversation as a follow up to our Threshold speakers, Deana and Sandy’s discussion from Feb.

**We start with a simple shared meal of soup/bread/salad/dessert**, and move into our discussion.



* **Curt Dunn** He has moved and is in the Courville Community at 44 Webster Street, Manchester, NH 03104 or call him on his phone at 603 222-3004 or the main number 603-562-5900. Although he has trouble reading, he still loves cards, but of course, enjoys calls and visits even more. He is over the pneumonia, and lost strength while recovering, so don’t bring any germs with you!
* **Laila Washburn March 3—Laila is 100 years old!** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company and cards. At 100, every day is treasured. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 603-924-6238
* **Karin Eisenhaure** is driving, and getting stronger every day. She, like the rest of us, enjoys seeing friends, and sharing a meal. So give her a call 878-2675
* **Deborah Prince Smith and Don Smith** Deborah and Don are working through his recent diagnosis of bone cancer. Your prayers and encouragement would be appreciated.

Address: 41 Sauna Row Rd, West Townsend, MA 01474 Phone 978-597-2204

* **Gretchen and Wally Brown** Always in need of a little cheer, and just contact with the outside world, so stop by with a smile, a meal, or just to pick up syrup and say hello!

Cards to: 421 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 phone: 878-1481

* **Jean Randle’s daughter, Paula,** is ill and Jean has been spending a lot of time in Massachusetts so she can be near her. Please reach Jean at Ellen’s number,
* **Gloria Foster**  Although it has been 2 months since Gloria’s daughter, Emily, died, it is helpful to keep Gloria in your thoughts. You can offer encouragement and sympathy to Gloria Foster, 65 Boynton Hill Road, New Ipswich, NH 03071

**The Other March 2019**

Sunday, March 3 our special guest for Black History month was the Honorable Senator Melanie Levesque. She reminded us that although she is the first African American to serve in the NH Senate, her life has been centered around serving, and her message seemed to be, “we can all serve.” As a nation of immigrants, Luis Alberto Urrea, a novelist who writes about the Mexican American border, says the following: , , “English! It’s made up of all these untidy words,…have you noticed? Native American (skunk), German (waltz), Danish (twerp), Latin (adolescent), Scottish (feckless)” on and on. It’s a glorious wreck (a good old Viking word, that). Glorious, I say, in all its shambling, mutable beauty. People daily speak a quilt work of words, and continents and nations and tribes and even enemies dance all over your mouth when you speak.” These words show the wonderful heritage and diversity that makes our language one of the most expressive, and should keep us opening always to people no matter what their difference.

Senator Levesque reminds us that there is still work to do to be more inclusive of humankind. She has introduced a bill to recognize June 19th “Juneteenth” as a day of observance in NH. Forty-five states already have a “Juneteenth” observance. In January of 1863, by Executive Order, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves. “This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.” This equality is so long in coming… m.scott