





Dear Friends,

What we have created at 19 Carter has drawn **folks from many towns who understand the value of connecting.** In fact, in 2024 we had the pleasure of welcoming people from **79 towns** in Massachusetts and **19 towns** in **7 other states!**

Why are they drawn here and what is it that we do is so special? This report sheds some light on these questions in the form of photos and data, but there remains something ineffable you have to experience in person to understand.

Patrons say we have created a cozy space that allows connections to flourish. Everyone is greeted at the door and welcomed into a place that feels like home.

Even though there are lots of events and programs to participate in, often the best part is that you can stop by when nothing is scheduled to grab a cup of coffee, to meet friends, or even better, make new friends you didn't dream of meeting otherwise.

I suppose the heart of the matter is that at 19 Carter, **people know they are welcome.** Connections are created in this atmosphere of warm acceptance which encourages everyone to share whatever talents or life experiences they bring.

We hope that our efforts will continue to allow everyone to take a deep breath, relax and be entertained by each other through conversation, music, art, movies, and so much more!

With good cheer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evy'.

Evy Dueck, Founder/Executive Director



Creating Conditions for Connecting

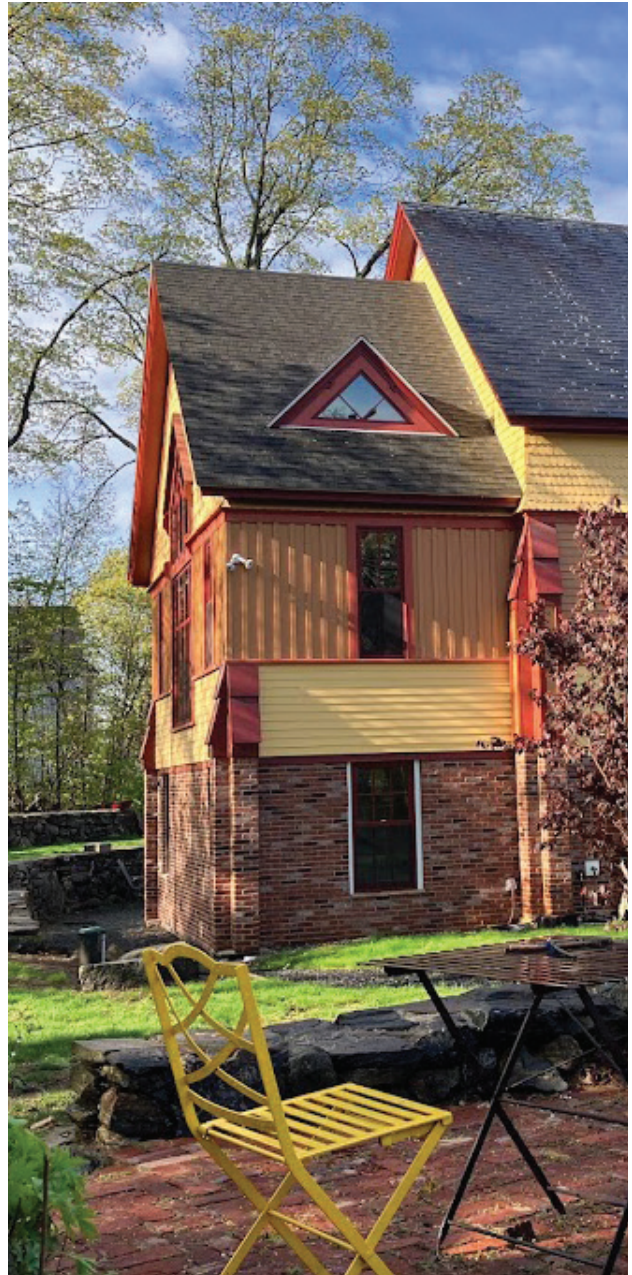


In all of **2024** there were only **15 days** when the building was not in use.

In addition to the daily open hours (*Mon-Fri from 9am-5pm and Saturdays from 10am-1pm*) there were **214** additional evening and weekend events.

In terms of hours-we were open a total of **3,372 hours** during **2024**. That works out to an average of about **65 hours** per week!

Let's take a look at the year in review ...



What happened at XIX Carter in 2024?

DAYTIME

Monday–Friday 9am–5pm Saturday 10am–1pm

Daytime visits account for **8,700** of our total **14,000** visits for the year – just over **60%**.



"I wish my town had a place like this!"



CREATING, SHOWCASING AND SELLING ART

- On Friday mornings Ann Marie Hershberger ran an **Open Art Studio** downstairs
- On Friday afternoons the **Fiber Arts** group met to work on their projects, share ideas and chat
- **Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair** was held with Bolton Artisan Guild, Central Mass Plein Air Painters and Friends
- **Three local artists** showcased their art for 4 months each on our walls upstairs
 - Pastels, watercolors and acrylic paintings by Carolyn Letvin and Margy West
 - Oil paintings by Joe landiorio
 - Watercolors and acrylic paintings by Cheryl Sanders.
- 19 Carter supported **local artists** with a **staffed space** where they could display and sell their work. In 2024 artists received **\$3,288** for work sold at 19 Carter
 - Judy Dempewolff, pottery
 - John Barrett, silverware jewelry
 - McKayla Carville, hand-blown glass
 - AJ Moses, handcrafted woodwork
 - Mary Cody, jewelry
 - Cheryl LaRobadiere, fiber pieces and jewelry
 - Linda Sinclair, holiday ornaments
 - Cory Merrihew, jewelry
 - Jeanne Kowal, stained glass
 - Cheryl Sanders, art cards
 - Gautam Bhuvu, photography
 - Dorothy Siemens, felt gnomes
 - Stan Smith, wooden toys
 - Joe landiorio, art cards



GATHERING OVER COMMON INTERESTS

- Tuesday mornings before our regular Open Hours we held a weekly **Armchair Meditation**
- On Friday mornings we held an **Open Art Studio** downstairs
- On Friday afternoons the **Fiber Arts** group met to work on their projects, share ideas and chat
- An active **Book Club** met monthly on Tuesday afternoons
- The **Berlin Lions Club** gathered once or twice a month
- The **Veg Group** met monthly on Saturdays led by Dr. Michele Ricard to share recipes and hear from specialists on vegan and vegetarian cooking options
- Thursday mornings often found a group of moms and youngsters **making crafts** downstairs
- Twice a month at midday on Wednesdays Matt McConeghy led the popular **Old Time Music Jam** downstairs
- **Intermittent Fasting** met monthly on Thursday afternoons
- **Grief and Healing Support Group** gathered monthly
- **Office Hours with Senator Robyn Kennedy's Team** were held every month on Monday afternoons
- Many impromptu gatherings took place as well



What happened at XIX Carter in 2024?

EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS

Evening and weekend visits accounted for **5,300** of our total **14,000** visits for the year – about **40%**. There were an average of **17** evening and weekend events each month.

PROGRAMS

- **History Matters** Programs
 - The **Bullard House** led by June Miller
 - Berlin's **Agricultural Railroad** led by Ed Sterling and Dave Westerling
 - Screening of "**A Midwife's Tale**" with June Miller
 - **24 Dairy Farms** in Berlin with Walter Bickford
 - Screening of "**The Man Who Invented Christmas**" with June Miller
- **Armchair Traveler** Series (Sunday afternoons)
 - New Zealand and Australia with Rebecca Davis and Evy Dueck
 - Berlin, Germany with Ruediger Volk
 - Taiwan with Patrick Redington
 - Australia with Keevan Regan
 - Antarctica with Jenn Kunze
 - South Africa with Rita Smith
 - Galapagos Islands with Keena Keel
- **Information Sessions**
 - Estate Planning Seminar with Jennifer Fay
 - Homeschool Q & A with Jenna Humpton
 - Meet Your State Legislators Senator Robyn Kennedy & Representative Meghan Kilcoyne
 - Living Fully and Dying Prepared Info Session with Laura Dusha Nelson
 - Forum for Berlin/Boylston School Committee Candidates
- **Movie Nights** – sponsored by Cordelia's Farm – Friday nights with pizza, salad and popcorn
 - Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris
 - Mamma Mia
 - Crazy, Rich Asians
 - Barbie
 - Local Hero
 - The Man Who Sued God
 - Yesterday
 - The Wizard of Oz
 - **Manhattan Short Film Festival** – screened 10 curated shorts along with 500 venues worldwide!

What happened at XIX Carter in 2024?

- **Books and Stories**

- **Sip-n-Share Book Club** led by Liane Leahy met most months
- **Jane Austen Tea Party** with Donna Chaff
- **Caribbean Short Fiction & Visionary Poetry** by Barbara Paul-Emile
- **Stories and Gumbo** with Carmen Suen and Gary Arthur in collaboration with the Worcester County Poetry Association
- An active **Book Club** met monthly on Tuesday afternoons

- **Comedy**

- **Off Brand Improv Shows** - 8 shows
- Professional stand-up comedian Mike Koutrobis ran monthly **Comedy Open Mics**
- **Adult Improv Workshops** run by Meredith Charles

“I felt at home the minute I walked in the door.”



What happened at XIX Carter in 2024?

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

- Ken Parrish ran two sessions of **Music Theory** – 6 classes each
- **Candle Making and Beer Tasting** offered by Kitchen Sink Candle Co. and Clover Road Brewery
- **Build a Bear:** Valentines Day run by Cindy Geldart
- Heather Simpson led 27 **Hands On Nature** classes where she taught youth about nature followed by hikes in the area
- Pendergast Kids **Science Camp** ran for 3 days in June
- **Drumming Workshop** run by Dave Curry
- Music Includes **Social Singing** Class run by Lori Diamond met 10 times in the fall
- Five **Sound Healing** Events were run by Reiki Master Gina Cranford
- **Adult Improv** Workshops run by Meredith Charles

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Braver Angels** Trust in the Media workshop; “Join or Die” documentary screening and discussion.
- 3rd Annual Workshop for **Historic Spaces** Repurposed for Community Gathering Places

- Open House aligned with the **Berlin Car Show** held in the town center
- **Nashoba Neighbors** One Year Celebration Party
- Berlin **Lions Club** Senior Citizens Luncheon
- **Trick or Treat** on Halloween
- **Health in the Community** Focus Group with the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health
- **Ice Cream Social** sponsored by the Seniors of Berlin
- **Holiday Singalong**
- **Private Rentals** by community members for various uses such as birthday parties, album release parties, baby showers, life celebrations, and other gatherings



What happened at XIX Carter in 2024?

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

Sponsored by the Berlin and Bolton Cultural Councils, ReMax Executive Realty, Cordelia's Farm, North Brook Alpaca Farm and Golden Skep Flower Farm.

Concerts were held Saturday evenings on the 19 Carter grounds

June 22 – August 10 *(rain drove 3 concerts indoors!)*





OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAYS, 7 - 9 PM

at 19 Carter

Buy your tickets online at 19Carter.org or in person!



The Dashing Rock Trio

June 22

Ketudat, Cabral, and MacConduibh explore music of the Celtic nations and beyond with varied instrumentation including fiddle, flute, harp, and nyckelharpa.

dashingrock.com

ONSITE PARTNER: Loyal Foe Brewing Company, Harvard, MA



Nolan Slate Quintet

June 29

An eclectic group of young musicians that features some of the most exciting up-and-coming talent in the straight-ahead and modern jazz scenes. @slate.nolan

ONSITE PARTNER: Marzae Wine, Acton, MA



The Smack Dabs

July 13

A group that brings the best of vintage 1930s blues back to the mainstream with jubilant fervor. "Joyous...danceable jazz" - *The ArtsFuse*

ONSITE PARTNER: Lost Shoe Brewing and Roasting Company, Marlborough, MA



Crocodile River Music

July 20

A diverse group of people from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, and the United States committed to presenting African art, music, and culture for one evening of movement and joy. crocodilervermusic.com

ONSITE PARTNER: Dirigible Brewing Company, Littleton, MA



Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli with Anelise

July 27

"Storytellers at heart, [Diamond and Abatelli] combine a beautiful classical piano and a warm-toned guitar to make music that seeps into the soul and permeates the senses" - *Pulse Magazine* ldfamusic.com

ONSITE PARTNER: IEMMALLO Wine, Ashland, MA



Danielle Miraglia and The Glory Junkies Trio

August 3

"Straddling the line where folk/roots meets rock/blues, Miraglia has a voice that can go from a raspy come-hither purr to an Elton James-esque powerhouse belt" - *The Boston Globe* daniellem.com

ONSITE PARTNER: Sterling Street Brewery, Clinton, MA



Blackstone Valley Bluegrass

August 10

A toe-tappin' group that offers a variety of classic, contemporary and original bluegrass with a barbershop quartet flavor. blackstonevalleybluegrass.com

ONSITE PARTNER: Clover Road Brewing Company, Hudson, MA

THANK
YOU
TO
OUR
SPONSORS!



What happened at XIX Carter in 2024?

CASUAL MUSIC MAKING

- Every Wednesday night – the Groton Session musicians ran the **Irish Music Session**
- **Jazz Jams** run by Ken Parrish invited many new and accomplished jazz musicians to the stage every month. Once in a while, Nolan Slate and friends would run a Jazz Jam during college breaks
- Lori Diamond and Fred Abatelli ran **Open Mics** monthly which welcomed many budding singers and songwriters to the stage
- **Blues Jam** with Jake and Jared Giroux happened in July
- **Holiday Singalong** in December involved a local choir and special musical guests
- The **Jazz Club** with pianist Sai Ghose and friends occurred twice in the fall
- **Morris Dancers** performed outdoors on a sunny fall day
- Twice a month at midday on Wednesdays Matt McConeghy led the popular **Old Time Music Jam** downstairs.

CONCERTS

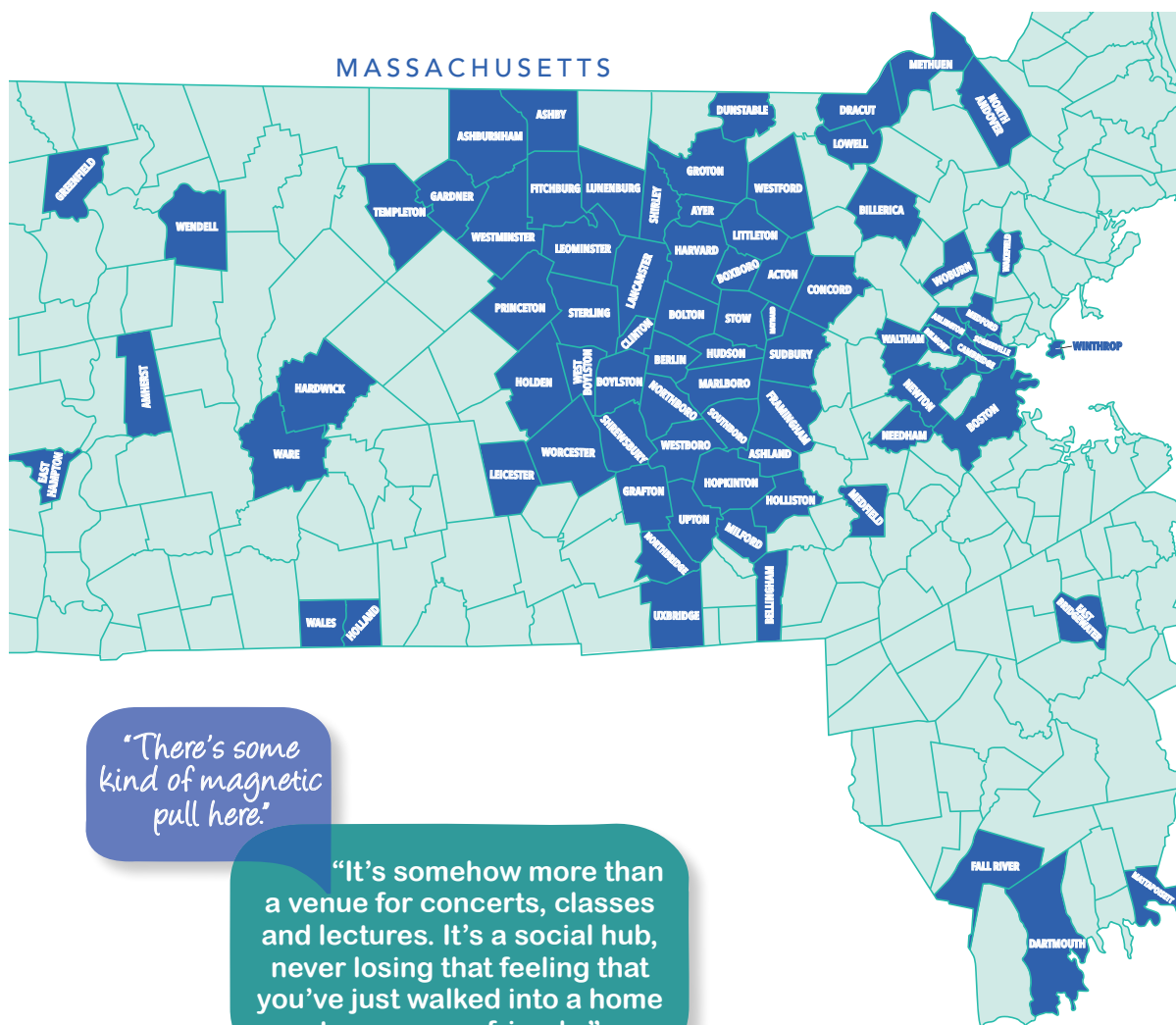
Presented on the stage by well-known local musicians:

- **Carlos Odria** – ethnomusicologist and guitarist (improvizational jazz)
- **Katie O'Neill** and Friends (Irish music)
- **A Celtic Celebration** organized by Ginny Briggs
- **Mac's Garage** (folk, blues & country)
- An Evening of Celebration Gala Fund-raiser with the **Davis Brass Quintet**
- **Mark Russell Trio** (Gypsy jazz)
- **Andrew Wilcox Trio** (contemporary jazz)



Where did all the people come from?

Visitors came from **98** different towns last year. While mostly in Massachusetts, people also came from neighboring states as well—New York, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire.





Who made it happen?

We are deeply grateful to the many **program providers** who have come to us and offered to run and organize **ongoing programs** at 19 Carter. They are people from local communities who donate their time, allowing 19 Carter to keep the costs of attending programs accessible to all.

- **Lori Diamond** and **Fred Abatelli** ran our monthly Open Mics and led the Music Includes Social Singing Class
- **Laura Busky** ran the weekly Fiber Arts Group
- **Ken Parrish** hosted the monthly Jazz Jams and led the Music Theory Workshop Classes
- **Ann Ribbens** and **Liane Leahy** organized the monthly book groups
- **Dr. Michele Ricard** ran the Saturday Veg Group
- **Stan Vestal** organized the weekly Irish Session
- **Matt McConeghy** led the bi-weekly Old Time Music Jams
- **June Miller** organized the History Matters Series
- **Mike Koutrobis** ran the monthly Comedy Open Mics
- **Lisa Mair** led weekly Armchair Meditations
- **Ann Marie Hershberger** ran the weekly Open Art Studio

Staff members keep this place humming – in mid-year we had a staffing shift to accommodate the increased growth in programs and activities. Four part time employees now handle the operations/coordination and marketing of all 19 Carter activities, allowing our Executive Director to spend more time fundraising and sharing the 19 Carter model with other communities interested in creating similar gathering places.

We have benefited in 2024 from the good work of staffers Kate Bliss, Jessica Campbell, Rona Gugliemino, Becky Pulito, and Annette Davis as well as interim help from Nancy Fulham and Rebecca Davis and intern Cory Merrihew.

Volunteers make the world go around at 19 Carter. And we literally could not manage without them! There are 61 active volunteers that take care of a myriad of tasks including bookkeeping, concert

booking, grounds maintenance, copy editing, indoor plant care, hospitality, graphic design, building repairs, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, sorting recycling, tech help, dish washing, cleaning, organizing closets, and more!

Fred Abatelli and
Lori Diamond
Tony Beadle
Seth Asser
Judy Booman
Barbara Boswell
Beth and Frank Brewer
Laura Busky
Margaret Campbell
and Stan Smith
Sheryl Crowley
Mary Cody
Bob Cunningham
Rebecca Davis
Pam Dona
Stuart Ervin
Cynthia Filipe
Cynthia Geldart
Erik and Rebecca
von Geldern
Fran Gill
Jacob and Jared Giroux
Susan Giroux
Jennifer Gulliver
Deborah Harmon
Jenna Humpton
Barbara Huntley
Joe Iandiorio
Louise Janda
Felice Katz
Liane Leahy
Lisa Mair
Matt McConeghy
Bob McTague
Anelise Merrihew

Cory Merrihew
Paul and
Mary Mikelk
Marty and
June Miller
Donna Morrison
AJ Moses and
Ann Ribbens
Nancy Mulcahy
Roland
Ochsenbein
Ellen Onorato
Ken Parrish
Ann Phipps
Kevin and
Claire Pond
Mary Porter
Mary and Patrick
Redington
Michele Ricard
Chris Shallice
Mark and
Pat Smith
Craig Spencer
Lisa Spinney
MJ Stades
John Steffann and
Elizabeth Kilroy
Ed Sterling
Kay Tomashunas
Stan Vestal
Joan Wash
Catherine Waugh
Julie and
Mike Willis
Linda Yates



The beautiful grounds

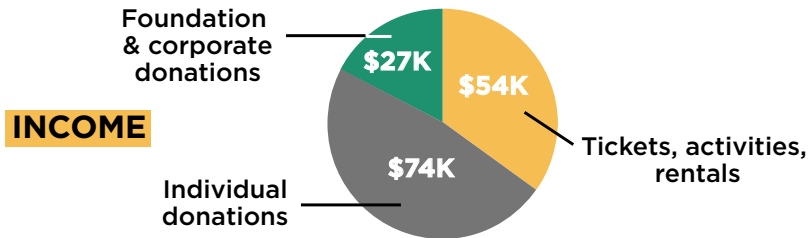
Half acre of award-winning beauty available to all, created by Paul Mikelk, and maintained by volunteers. Our neighbor Berlin Stone Company finished paving walkways and handicapped parking this year.

Stone carver Mark Smith added **2 more sculptures** to the stunning **10** already there.

Dozens of volunteers gathered **twice last year** for **clean-up**. AJ Moses and Patrick Redington keep the grass trimmed. Mark Smith, Kevin Pond, AJ Moses and Patrick Redington kept the snow cleared. And weeding was ongoing by volunteers throughout the summer.



How did we pay for it?



To cover the **\$155,000** cost of running 19 Carter in 2024, we reached out in several directions.

The earned income associated with an event or activity such as ticket sales, pay what you can donations, venue and art space rentals, etc. brought in **\$54,000**.

Donations from people in the community totaled **\$74,000**.

Foundation and Business support was **\$27,000**.

In addition to these funds, we estimate that the pro bono services and materials donated in 2024 were **\$95,000**. We are very grateful to the businesses and professionals that continue to support our organization in this way.

Our mission to “create conditions for connecting” informs our decision to make all of our activities and events accessible to those in varying financial

situations by keeping the ticket price low, as well as offering many free or “pay what you can” events.

ENDOWMENT FUND CREATED IN 2024

This year the Board of Directors set up an **Endowment Fund** in order to secure the future of 19 Carter. After researching best options, the Board decided to create an Endowment Fund under the auspices of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. Their professional money management team will ensure that our funds are invested safely and prudently while providing consistent growth.

With a long term **goal of \$1,000,000**, our hope is that this fund will provide a yearly income of \$50,000 to supplement ongoing annual fundraising income. Several large gifts have been added to this Endowment Fund to date. We invite you to consider this option as an opportunity to provide long-term stability for 19 Carter.

Thank you to all of the people and businesses who connected with us in 2024.

We appreciate the generosity in time and money from every one who was able to contribute in 2024 to help keep this very unique gathering place going!

CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$500 AND ABOVE

Barbara Aiello
Bob Blair and Susan Henry
Judy and Gordon Booman
Mike and Laura Busky
Cynthia and Doug Geldart
Sandra Gillis
Joe Iandiorio
Rob and Ann MacKay
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Arlene Wattu
Catherine Waugh
Clyde Wheeler
Kathleen Wiedeman
Kathryn and Peter Wilcox
Tim and Lisa Wysocki
David and Linda Yates

Gifts were given in memory of Art Lamy, Skip Spinney, Linda Jewett Shute

DONATIONS FROM FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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Berlin Lions Club
Berlin Stone Company
Bolton Cultural Council
Clinton Offset Printers
Clover Road Brewing Company
Cordelia's Farm
Dirigible Brewing Company
Elaine McDonald and Douglas Palino / RE/MAX
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Golden Skep Flower Farm
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Highland Wine and Spirits

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J and J Foundation
Lost Shoe Brewing and Roasting Company
Loyal Foe Brewing Company
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