Mission Statement:
The Groton COA serves as the community focal point promoting independence of older adults, through information and referral, support, health and wellness, socialization and education. Providing opportunities for all individuals as they age by leveraging resources, developing a sustainable future, and engaging in strong partnerships and collaborations.

Future Programs

It’s that time of year when COA staff looks toward the Spring and Summer planning programs and events. We’ve requests for a few specific programs and would like to gauge your interest level. Please take let us know if you have an interest in any of the following:

**Pickleball** : Organizational meeting will be Monday, January 22 at 10am.

**Puzzle Group** : A time for socialization, a cup of coffee and something for the cold winter months. Days and time would be at the convenience of the group.

**Kayaking** : For those with kayaks that would like a few others to get out on the waters. Again, day and time will be flexible.

**Mock Stock Club** : Learn to trade or share your knowledge with others. Simulated stock purchases, trades and sell offs.

**Guitar and or Ukele classes** : Classes can be set up as lessons or simply an opportunity to play together.

**Singing Group** : Opportunity to sing as a group and enjoy the music!

**Digital Camera** : Learn how to make the most of your camera or your phone camera.

Should any or all of the above interest you please let us know. There is no obligation or commitment, it will however, give us solid direction in future programming.

Kathy

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**Tai Chi**

Thursdays, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Cost: $5 per class payable to the instructor

Tai Chi is low impact and puts minimal stress on muscles and joints, making it generally safe for all fitness levels. It is known to increase balance, reducing fall risk and aid in lowering blood pressure through its meditative qualities.

Instructor Debbie LaDue
Trip
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day
with an Irish Show

ENCHANTED MUSIC OF
IRELAND

Featuring
ANDY COONEY
“Irish America’s Favorite Son”

Also performing
Shauna McStravock,
The Irish Pops Ensemble, and the
World Class Irish Dancers.

Thursday, March 8
Venus De Milo
Swansea, MA

$92pp
Includes Transportation, show and lunch
Meal choice corned beef or fish

Andy Cooney, has 7 Carnegie Hall sellouts
under his belt and recently filled The David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center with The New York Tenors. Andy is surely one of the greatest singing sensations on the Irish Music scene today. Christened “Irish America’s Favorite Son” by The New York Times, it's a title he truly deserves.

Joining Andy is vocal sensation Shauna McStravock from Ireland. This young lady in her mid 20’s has already shared the stage with some of the best and brightest names on the Irish & Country music scene. Accompanying Andy and Shauna is The Irish Pops Ensemble, lead by musical director Bugs Moran, will perform exquisite arrangements. Completing the bill are the World Class Irish Dancers, all of which make this a terrific Irish Celebration in 2018!

The coach will depart from the senior center at 9:30am and return at 6:00pm. There is very limited walking on this trip.

Reservations will be accepted beginning January 2 for residents and non residents.

WITH GRATITUDE

Once again the simple elegance of the Gibbet Hill barn was the perfect back drop for a beautiful expression of gratitude and community. On Thursday, November 16, the seniors of Groton were invited to the barn to gather as a community, and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Through the extraordinary generosity of Steve and Nancy Webber, their Gibbet Hill family and Mr. Mark Lynch, a complete Thanksgiving meal was served to 225 seniors at the Grill with an additional 40 meals delivered by the Groton Police Department to those unable to attend. The traditional Thanksgiving feast was delicious but what stood out was the sense of community that filled the room. Our gratitude is immeasurable. This event is possible because the entire community conspires to make it happen; Steve and Nancy Webber and the Gibbet Hill staff with, Mr. Mark Lynch, secure the donations of food, cook the food and set up the dining room. Finishing touches are added by the students of Florence Roach School make unique placemats for everyone. Groton’s first responders, in their dress uniforms, topped off a sophisticated evening as the Fire Department assisted the Police Department in the delivery of meals, transportation and greeting guests as they arrived. The Council on Aging would like to express our gratitude to the community for their time and commitment in continuing this tradition and demonstrating the true heart of Groton. We have much to be thankful.

GDRS Collaborations

"Shakespeare to Hip Hop"
Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School

Thursday, December 19  12:30-1:30pm

Shakespeare to Hiphop is the combined poetic and educational talents of literary performers Regie Gibson and Marlon Carey. Both have been featured on various TED events and have profound experience with literary and spoken word traditions that have shaped their mission: to help cultivate and nurture a love of words and an understanding of the power of language. They had a series of shows at the Boston Public Library this year, which hosted the performances to commemorate 400 years after Shakespeare's death.

Please call the senior center to reserve your seat at the Middle School Performing Arts Center. The van is available for transportation.

Lunch and a Tour
Groton Dunstable High School

Monday January 8
12:00pm

Join us at Groton Dunstable High School for a lunch of soup and sandwich in the school cafeteria and a tour of this beautiful building.
PILATES STRENGTH TRAINING:  
THE BASICS  
WITH PILATES  
FOR AWESOME ABS  

Wednesdays, 9:30am  
7 classes $84.00  
Payable to the instructor  

Boost your metabolism and burn more calories with  
this 60 minute class!  

All that you will need is:  
set of weights  
a mat and water  

Learn how to strength train safely for toning! Strengthen  
your bones, increase your flexibility, improve your balance  
and feel great in your body!  
The weight training segment includes the most effective moves to train your body to burn  
calories and release stored fat.  
Remember that weight training is  
the magic bullet to aging gracefully!  
At the end of the class we will  
work on strengthening the abdominal and back muscles using  
Pilates type exercises for better  
posture, flatter tummies and stronger backs!  
Come and be ready to have fun! This class is perfect for the  
first time exerciser to the fitness enthusiast! You will be  
given individual attention to ensure that you are getting the  
most from your workout and exercising safely!

The fastest growing sport in America!  
Join us at the Senior Center  
Monday, January 22 10am  

Pickleball Information Session  
Small court play (less running)  
paddles and whiffle balls  

What is Pickleball?  
A paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. It combines tennis, badminton and table tennis.  

Who can play?  
The game is open to players of all ages and skill levels, it can be competitive or social.  

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like more information please call the Council on Aging, 978-448-1170.  

This program is possible through the generous support of Friends of Nashoba Valley Medical Center, Inc.

Inspire Socialization  

Bridge  
1st and 3rd Fridays 12:30pm  
Cost: none  
Bridge is a member of the family of trick-taking games; a game of strategy, memory, tactics, probability, and communication.  
Great for brain health!  

Mahjong  
Tuesdays 1:00pm  
Cost: none  
Mahjong, is a popular Chinese game played with sets of tiles. Like many popular games, Mahjong has a small infinity of regional variations, from the Chinese prevailing wind system, to the American Mahjong with special bingo-like scoring cards.  
Join us anytime!  

Friday, December 29  

10:30am Bingo 12pm Lunch  
Cost: $5.00  
Why stay up until midnight when you can count down to noon at the Senior Center. The Senior Center will have the noise makers ready and sparkling cider chilled. Following the countdown there will be a party buffet lunch with BINGO for prizes beginning at 10:30am.  

Please call the senior center  
Tuesday, 1/26
Veteran’s Breakfast  
Thursday, December 7  10:00am  
Cost: None

**Veterans Wall of Honor**

We at the Council on Aging in Groton are proud of our veterans and would like to add to our Wall of Honor here at the center. We are asking you to share stories and pictures from your time of service. Anything and all you would like to share. Please drop them off at the center or email them to us at gcoa@townofgroton.org and be part of our Veterans Wall of Honor. If you are a spouse or a child of a veteran we would also love to hear from you about your loved one who served.

---

Do you need a break from the stress of the holidays?
Join us for an afternoon “tea” at The Center.

- Relax, reminisce and enjoy Mike on the piano softly playing all our favorites.

*Please register by Friday, December 8, 978-448-1170.*

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Groton Women’s Club sponsored luncheon

**Wednesday, January 24  12:00pm**

Entertainment: Groton Dunstable High School Chorus

Our holiday lunch will be inside out ravioli, tossed salad, bread with oatmeal spice cake for dessert. Following lunch we will enjoy the much anticipated holiday concert by the impeccable GDRHS Chorus.

*Please call the center by Fri. 12/15 for your reservation, 978-448-1170.*

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**November Events**

Please make your reservation by calling the center, 978-448-1170

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**Veteran’s Breakfast**

**Thursday, December 7  10:00am**

**Cost: None**

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**Speaker: Shared Christmas Stories**

Nine months a year the Groton Police Union sponsor a free breakfast for our area’s veterans and spouses. Head Chef, Police Chief Palma will serve eggs, sausage, bacon and hash brown potatoes with the assistance of his officers. At each breakfast, Bob Johnson, Groton’s Veterans’ Agent/Veterans’ Service Officer; will schedule a veterans themed presentation or speaker.

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**Veterans Wall of Honor**

We at the Council on Aging in Groton are proud of our veterans and would like to add to our Wall of Honor here at the center.

We are asking you to share stories and pictures from your time of service. Anything and all you would like to share. Please drop them off at the center or email them to us at gcoa@townofgroton.org and be part of our Veterans Wall of Honor. If you are a spouse or a child of a veteran we would also love to hear from you about your loved one who served.

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**Holiday Tea Party**

**Wednesday, December 13  12:00pm**

Do you need a break from the stress of the holidays?
Join us for an afternoon “tea” at The Center.

- Relax, reminisce and enjoy Mike on the piano softly playing all our favorites.

*Please register by Friday, December 8, 978-448-1170.*

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**Groton Women’s Club sponsored luncheon**

**Wednesday, December 20  12:00pm**

Entertainment: Groton Dunstable High School Chorus

Our holiday lunch will be inside out ravioli, tossed salad, bread with oatmeal spice cake for dessert. Following lunch we will enjoy the much anticipated holiday concert by the impeccable GDRHS Chorus.

*Please call the center by Fri. 12/15 for your reservation, 978-448-1170.*

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**This program is made possible through the generosity of RiverCourt Residences**

**Wednesday, January 24  12:00pm**

**Righting a Wrong Against Humanity- Restoring Jewish Headstones and Monuments in Bagnowka Cemetery, Bialystok, Poland**

Presented by: Josh and Amy Degen

Join us and learn of the important work of Josh and Amy Deegan. In June of 1943, the Nazis entered Bagnowka Cemetery to wipe out any remaining traces of the Jewish community in Bialystok. Upon their visit to Bagnowka in 2015, Josh and Amy Deegan were devastated by the extent of the desecration at Bagnowka Cemetery and began the work to restore dignity to the deceased. Their work to restore and re-set monuments and headstones at Bagnowka is bringing a measure of peace to the dead and to right a wrong inflicted on humanity by the Nazis. Finally, and as importantly, we will ensure to the best of their ability that the Nazis’ plan to wipeout any traces of Jewish life and culture in Bialystok will be thwarted, forever.

*Please register by calling the senior center, 978-448-1170, by Friday, 1/19*
**Groton Senior Center Activities**

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<tr>
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**Accredited by National Institute of Senior Centers**

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**December 2017**

**Contact**
Lisa Templeton to place an ad today!
litemleton@4Lpi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6377

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE**
Always Available
For more information and to register please call or better yet, stop in and see us!

Mondays
Groton Swim 10:00am
Documentaries (2nd Mon) 10:00am
Talk with Tom - Current Events (4th Mon) 10:30am
  Supported by the Friends of Groton Elders
Strength Training 11:30am
Cribbage 2:30pm
COA Board Meeting (3rd Mon) 1:00pm

Tuesdays
Line Dancing 9:00am
Creative Creations 10:00am
One Stroke Painting Club 10:00am
Writing Creatively 10:00am
Garden Club 10:00am
Take a Walk with Us 10:30am
Hand and Foot Cards 12:30pm
Mahjong 1:00pm
Watercolor painting (1st and 3rd) 1:00pm

Wednesdays
Book Club (2nd Wed) 9:30am
Pilates 9:30am
Strength Training 11:00am
Groton Women’s Club Luncheon (3rd Wed) 12:00pm
  Sponsored by Groton Trust Lecture Fund
Pizza and a Flick (Wed varies) 12:00pm
  Sponsored by Ebi and Desiree Masalehdan
Nashoba Tech Lunch - $10 (Wed varies) 12:00pm
Holiday Celebrations (Wed. varies) 12:00pm
Lunch and Learn (4th Wed) 12:00pm
  Sponsored by RiverCourt Residences

Thursdays
Yoga—$3 per class 9:00am
  Supported by the Friends of Groton Elders
Vet’s Breakfast (1st Thurs) 10:00am
  Sponsored by Groton Police Association
Take a Walk with Us 10:30am
Ask the Nurse and Blood Pressure Screenings (2nd Thurs) 11:30am
  Presented by Nashoba Associated Boards of Health & Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice
Hand and Foot 12:30pm
Tai-Chi ($5 per class) 12:30pm
Meditation 7:00pm

Fridays
Shopping - $4 for van 9:00am
Groton Swim 10:00am
Strength Training 10:00am
Hearing Screenings (2nd Fri.) 11:15am
Bridge (1st and 3rd Fri.) 12:30pm

If you would like a copy of our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you, please call us at the senior center, 978-448-1170 or email us, gcoa@townofgroton.org

Documentary

Finders Keepers
A Different Kind of
Monday, December 18
10:00am

Funny and insightful, recovering addict and amputee John Wood finds himself in a stranger-than-fiction battle to reclaim his mummified leg from Southern entrepreneur Shannon Whisnant, who found it in a grill he bought at an auction and believes it to therefore be his rightful property.

Next documentary: January 15, 10am

Imaginary Witness

Pizza and a Flick

This program is made possible through the generous donation of Ebi and Desiree Masalehdan

Wed, 6 12:00pm

“Founder”

The true story of how Ray Kroc a struggling salesman from Illinois, met Mac and Dick McDonald who were running a burger operation in 1950s Southern California. Kroc was impressed by the brothers’ speedy system of making the food and saw franchise potential. Kroc soon maneuvers himself into a position to be able to pull the company from the brothers and create a multi-billion dollar empire.

January 3

The Big Sick
This movie is Rated R for language

Comedy based on a true story: Kumail is a Pakistani comic who meets an American graduate student named Emily at one of his stand-up shows. As their relationship blossoms, he soon becomes worried about what his traditional Muslim parents will think of her. When Emily suddenly comes down with an illness that leaves her in a coma, Kumail finds himself developing a bond with her deeply concerned mother and father.
Transportation Information
Lahey, Mass General, Brigham and Women’s, Dana Farber, Emerson Hospital, Boston VA and Bedford VA

Serving outlying Medical services

**Boston, Concord, Burlington, Waltham and the VA**
This service is also open to residents in surrounding towns, however the van will leave from the Groton Senior Center for non-residents.

**Wednesday:** Serving **Boston area hospitals** Mass General, Dana Farber, Brigham & Women’s, Boston VA, St. Elizabeth. Please make your appointments between the hours of 11am and 1pm.

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays:** Serving **Concord, Waltham, Lahey and Bedford VA and surrounding area.** Please make your appointments between the hours of 10am and 2pm.

**Round Trip Fees:** Boston $15, Emerson $5, others $10
No charge for the VA.

Please call if you absolutely cannot get an appointment within the requested days and we will do our best to accommodate you.

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**Local Trips**

*within Groton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, Westford, Ayer, Harvard and Littleton*

Medical  Social  Shopping

**Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays:** Van leaves COA at 9:30am Mondays and 8:30am Tuesdays and Thursdays with last trip completed by 3:00pm.

**Wednesdays:** Visit to Loaves and Fishes (no charge for this) the van leaving the COA at **10:00am** and with the last trip completed by **2:00pm**

**Fridays:** Special shopping trips and senior center activities

**Friday Special Shopping:** 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

1st **Friday:** Shopping on DW Highway, Nashua

The mall, Savers, BJ’s, Trader Joe’s back to Mall

2nd **Friday:** Shopping in Lunenburg: Wal-Mart

3rd **Friday:** Westford Market Basket Plaza (afternoon)

4th **Friday:** Nashua Drop at BJ’s or Christmas Tree Shop, Kohls, Burlington Coat Factory, LL Bean.

**Round Trip Fees:**

Reservations for all COA Van rides must be made using the COA Van line, 978-448-1141.

Reservations cannot be accepted on the general phone line. Please leave a message with name, phone number, time of appointment and location. Staff will return your call by the end of the workday. **When you make your reservation please let staff know if you are transported by a wheelchair.**

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10 Weeks
Kathy Shelp and Susan McCarthy
Instructors

**Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6, 13, 20 27, and March 6, 13 (snow date)**

Many older adults experience a fear of falling. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase your activity levels.

A Matter of Balance is an evidence-based program developed Boston University: It demonstrates reliable and consistently positive changes in the important health-related and functional measures of fall prevention.

This program is made possible through the generosity of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

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**HELP!**

**AARP Tax Program Needs Volunteers**

AARP provides free tax preparation to our residents. Please help them help us and become a volunteer preparer or greeter.

This is a program that prepares taxes for free for seniors and low income residents in our area.

Training will be provided. This can be an experience which a volunteer will find very rewarding.

If interested, contact Roger Kipp at 978-597-6207.
JOY OF LIVING
Meditation Group
7:00 PM Thursdays
at the senior center
Each session includes a video, teaching with clear instructions on the basics of meditation practice, guidelines for daily practice, advice for bringing mindfulness into your everyday life, and questions to reflect upon throughout the week.
No registration necessary, simple join in!

Hearing Screenings

Friday, December 8
2nd Friday of each month
11:15am-1pm
By Appointment
hearing screenings and hearing aid cleanings. Please be sure to make an appointment by calling the center, 978-448-1170.

Inspire Health

Exercise for your Health

Groton Swim
at the Groton School Pool
Mondays, 10am no cost
Fridays, 10am no cost

Line Dancing
Tuesdays 9am $3 per class

Strength Training
Mondays, 11:30 $3 per class
Wednesdays, 10:30am $3 per class
Fridays, 10am $3 per class

Pilates
Wednesdays, 9:30am 8 classes $80

Yoga
Thursdays, 9am $3 per class

Tai Chi
Thursdays, 1pm $5 per class

Meditation
Thursdays, 7pm No cost

Walk with Us

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:30am—11:30am
At the Peter Twomey Center
(behind the middle school)
A great way to get exercise, walk with friends, meet new ones, chatting and walking inside with no weather worries!!

If you would like a copy of our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you, please call us at the senior center, 978-448-1170 or email us, gcoa@townofgroton.org
NEWS FROM SHINE
Medicare Open Enrollment
Oct 15th - Dec 7th
Don’t Wait Until It’s Too Late!

Every year, Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) plans can change their premiums, co-pays, deductibles, formularies (list of drugs covered) and preferred pharmacies. In the case of Medicare Advantage Plans they can also drop providers from their Plan. It’s important to review your options EVERY year to make sure you have the plan that works best for you for next year. This year we are anticipating that there may be some new plans and choices for you to make. Along with these new plans and choices we expect there will be some aggressive marketing with an unusual high volume of plan sponsored meetings.

REMEMBER!! YOU NEED TO BE SURE THAT YOUR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN AND OTHER PROVIDERS ARE COVERED IN THE PLANS NETWORK BEFORE YOU CHANGE TO A DIFFERENT MEDICARE PLAN. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE SURE YOUR MEDICATIONS ARE COVERED AS WELL.

Assistance is available from the SHINE program. Call the senior center, 978-448-1170, and ask for a SHINE appointment. Trained SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare.

Everyone Needs The “FILE OF LIFE”

Medical emergencies can happen anytime. Paramedics arrive to the scene with no information about the person in need. Seconds count! Does the person have prior medical conditions, allergies, what medications are they taking? Who should EMT’s call? How do EMT’s contact family members?

The “File of Life” gives first responders all of these answers and allows them to immediately begin the best possible treatment, notify your loved ones, and pass the vital data on to awaiting physicians at the emergency room.

All you need to do is fill out all of the information requested in the “File of Life”, and then put it on your refrigerator. EMT’s will know to look there. Please stop by the Center and pick up a “File of Life”.

Beginners
Watercolor Painting
The first and third Tuesdays of the Month
December 5 and 19
1pm-2:30pm
Cost: $5 per class for supplies

Try something new!
No pressure!
Fun!
No previous training necessary!

Every month enjoy great conversation while creating an impressionistic watercolor painting from beginning to end. Landscape scenes will be the focus with suggestions taken from the class. Please call the senior center to register, 978-448-1170.

Alcohol Ink Trivets
with Kathy and Kathy
Tuesday, December 12  10am
No cost

Alcohol ink is a fun, creative and a very forgiving medium. You can’t make a mistake!
Join Kathy #1 and Kathy #2 for a great morning of conversation, creation and fun!

Please call the center to register, 978-448-1770.

Home Visits

There are situations that prevent senior residents from coming to the Senior Center. The COA staff understands this, we are more than happy to visit a senior at home to provide service.

If you or someone you know would like a visit to discuss COA services, referrals, or a social visit, please us, 978-448-1170.