



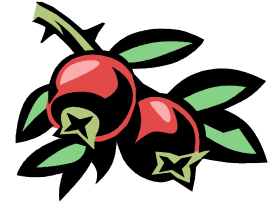
The Reader

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Carver Public Library

From the Director's Desk – Cranberry Harvest



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The other day while driving home from work, I noticed workers picking cranberries at one of the bogs on Route 58. While this is a common site in our area, I nevertheless paused and smiled at the splendor of the cranberry harvest. I can remember seeing flooded bogs while visiting friends of my grandparents in Carver when I was a child and since then I have always thought that the cranberries looked like jewels floating in the water. When I started my job as Library Director here in 1999 it was right in the middle of the cranberry harvest and I thought at the time that I had never seen anything as magnificent as those berries spar-

cling in the sun.

A little research taught me that cranberries are one of the few fruits that are native to New England and their history dates back hundreds of years. The Native Americans not only believed in the medicinal qualities of cranberries but also used them as a natural dye for household items and clothing. The Pilgrims served cranberries along with venison and wild turkey at the first Thanksgiving. Since then cranberry sauce has been a staple of our Thanksgiving meal and the creative uses of cranberries have expanded to include everything from bread to candy (have you ever had a “bog frog”?).

While the monetary value of the cranberry has bounced around the last few years, their cultural place in our community remains constant. After all, cranberry juice is served at our monthly Book Club meetings and the interior colors of the library were specifically chosen to reflect the beauty of the cranberry. Whether this year is your first time opportunity to witness the cranberry harvest or whether you're a life long resident of Carver who has seen it all, won't you stop and enjoy the beauty of this season at a cranberry bog? You won't regret it.

Set Those Clocks Back!

Aside from falling leaves and Halloween, the other big event in October is the end of daylight savings time. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on the last Sunday morning of the month! The history of daylight time in the United States is rather complicated, but very well explained at US Naval Observatory Website: <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/day>

[light time.html](#). Most of us think of it as the time when it starts getting dark out mid to late afternoon. Despite the predictions in the *Old Farmer's Almanac* for a snowy winter, we will hopefully make it through to the spring with new leaves on the trees, and daylight until 6:00 p.m. or later in the evening.



Apples and Pumpkins and Fairs, Oh My!

October is a bittersweet month, bringing the end of the warm weather, the end of the growing season, and the beginning of darker and shorter days. It is a time to enjoy apple picking and jumping through pumpkin patches. There are many local farms where you can enjoy a day with your family. The following Website lists farms in Eastern Massachusetts that welcome apple picking: www.applejournal.com/ma02.htm. Another Website, Apple of your Pie: www.appleofyourpie.com/, hails from Harvard, Massachusetts, and has much apple infor-

mation including different types of apples, apple history, apple-picking information, what to wear when apple picking, where to pick apples, and of course, apple pie recipes.

There is a statewide listing for “Pick-your-own-Pumpkins” by county, www.state.ma.us/dfa/massgrown/pumpkin_pyo.htm. Speaking of pumpkins, the Topsfield Fair began the Giant Pumpkin Contest in 1984 when the winning pumpkin weighed 433 pounds. In 2001 the winning pumpkin weighed 1,260.4 pounds. The Topsfield Fair is an annual event that is

“America’s Oldest Agriculture Fair, established in 1818”.

The pumpkin contest will take place on the Fair’s Opening Day, October 4th. The fair runs this year from October 4 through October 13, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily in Topsfield, MA. Their Website is www.topsfieldfair.org/.



Halloween Traditions

Halloween falls at the end of the month and there are many origins of Halloween traditions, allowing it to be the rich and varied holiday that it is today. The ancient Celts of 2000 years ago, celebrated the last night of October as the end of the old year and November 1st as the New Year. The last night of October was the night that ghosts of dead people would return to earth to cause trouble, but also to help the priests make predictions about the future. The Celts would spend the night around huge bonfires where they made crop and animal sacrifices and dressed in costumes made from dead animals. When the celebrating was over they would light the fires in their homes from the bonfire since it was believed to be protection for the upcoming dark days of winter.



Pope Boniface

IV in the 800s named November 1, All Saints’ Day, and later in 1000 the Roman Catholic Church named November 2 All Souls’ Day. Our trick-or-treat tradition is said to come from All Souls’ Day parades in England where poor people would beg for food and those who were better off would give them “soul cakes”. In exchange for the cakes, the poor were supposed to pray for the wealthier people’s dead family members. The church hoped this tradition would move people away from the tradition of leaving food and spirits for roaming ghosts. The “soul cake” tradition moved into a tradition where children would be the ones “going a-souling” in the neighborhood for treats of food, drink and money.

The tradition of dressing up comes from the idea of hiding from the ghosts that roam the earth on Halloween. In dressing up, people were trying to look like ghosts so the real ghosts wouldn’t know they were human.

The American tradition of Halloween

has also evolved over the years. The different traditions were brought here by immigrants and it wasn’t until the middle of the 1800s when many Irish immigrants arrived, that Halloween became a nationally celebrated holiday. Even still, over the following 150 years the holiday has gone through changes arriving at our current trick or treat tradition for children.

There are many different types of books at the library to choose from when trying to decide how to celebrate your Halloween. *Better Homes and Gardens Big Book of Halloween* has many ideas for decorating, crafts and recipes. *Dressed for Thrills: 100 Years of Halloween Costumes and Masquerades* shows the costumes from the past 100 years. There are many party, recipe, costume and pumpkin decorating books as well.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow: A New England Halloween Tradition

October is upon us, the month of falling leaves, harvest and a slightly spooky foreboding that creeps in with the chill. Children love scary stories, and with Halloween around the corner you can come to the library to get just the right shivery tales for your parties and fall campouts. There are tales for all ages, with silly ghosts, witches and pumpkin chases for the younger crowd and tried and true classics for older readers.

One story which I recently told around a campfire and can still raise the hair on everyone's arms is The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, otherwise known as The Headless Horseman, by Washington Irving. This tale has been around for over 150 years and is still as creepy as ever, especially in the New England woods at night when you begin to pad out the hoof beats leading up to Ichabod Crane's famous ride.

Fortunately, this tale has been retold by various authors for children of many ages. A Step into Reading version by Standiford allows beginning readers to tackle the tale on their own (or parents to read a simplified version for younger children), and a picture book version (not just for kids) by Emma Harding is acclaimed for its eloquent language and rich (sometimes eerie) oil paint illustrations. There is always the famous Disney version as well, whose cartoon illustrations allow younger children to enjoy the tale without much of a fear

factor.

Shorter versions of the tale just right for bedtime and read-alouds can be found in compilations, like The Headless Horseman and Other Ghoulish Tales by Pearson, A Book of Ghosts and Goblins by Manning-Sanders or One Minute Scary Stories by Shari Lewis. They feature 1 to 10 minute versions of the tale along with other classic spooky tales like The Bunyip and The Leg of Gold.

Should I mention the Disney Scary Storybook Collection? Junior fiction readers have several options with a Troll illustrated classic by Hitchner, a Great Illustrated Classics version, and several written by independent authors such as San Souci, York and Berg. These versions are great for younger readers, who might not be able to comprehend all the political and social innuendo in Irving's work or put references into a historical perspective. There are also plenty of spin-offs, with everyone from Trixie Beldon to Scooby Doo, Wishbone and others solving mysteries and meeting the Headless Horseman.

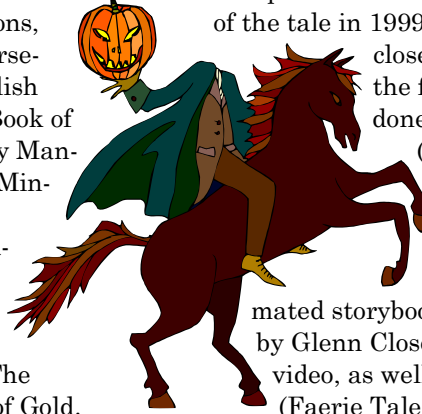
Like all great books these days, the Legend of Sleepy Hollow has seen many film recreations. Once again, Disney has the animated version,

which is often considered the classic, but Hallmark Home Entertainment also put out a wonderful film version of the tale in 1999, which sticks more closely to the tale than the fanciful adaptation done by Tim Burton

(great for older viewers who already know the premise) also in 1999.

An acclaimed animated storybook version narrated by Glenn Close is also available on video, as well as a Shelley Duvall (Faerie Tale Theatre) live action version. The newest addition to the collection is an animated 3-D video, The Night of the Headless Horseman, which I have just purchased for our collection. Other versions (Wishbone and Scooby Doo included of course!) are also available, including a comedic 1992 Jeff Goldblum film, so your possibilities are endless.

With so many ways to enjoy this legend, it's easy to make it an annual tradition. Just as you watch Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and read The Night before Christmas every holiday season, you can now watch The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and read Jack Prelutsky's poem The Headless Horseman Rides Tonight during October's Harvest Moon, or, if you dare, on All Hallow's Eve!



Family Programming for October

Family Storytime, Make-it, Take-it Crafts, Family Scrapbooking, Pajama Storytime, A Harry Potter Halloween Party, and our weekly storytimes guarantee that there will be plenty of reasons for you to visit the library with your family this month! Check out our calendar on our website, read the library section of the Carver Reporter, or look for program listings on CCAT. Better than that, come down and pick up a calendar at the Children's Desk while your family chooses from the thousands of books, movies, magazines, CD-ROMS and audio tapes we have available for lending!

Carver Public Library

Carver Public Library
2 Meadowbrook Way
Carver, MA 02333

Phone: 508-866-3415
Fax: 508-866-3416
Email: cjulius@carverpl.org

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What Do You Need to Know Today?

Knitting has been gaining in popularity in recent years; some people even call knitting "the new yoga"! There are over 200 websites devoted to knitting – here are just a few.

www.woolworks.org

A noncommercial, volunteer-run site full of information for knitters.

www.tkga.com

A site sponsored by The Knitting Guild Association.

www.knittingpages.com

Another non-commercial site with resources for both beginning and expert knitters. Has a collection of knitting patterns, charts, resources and links, including links to free patterns.

www.knitting-crochet.com

Free patterns, tips and tricks, exchanges and much more on this user-friendly site.

www.theyarnco.com

New York City's best source of knitting supplies has a website with free patterns and knitting instructions.

Adult Book Club ~ October 30, 2003 – The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson

Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* has unnerved readers since its original publication in 1959. A tale of subtle, psychological terror, it has earned its place as one of the significant haunted house stories of the ages. Eleanor Vance has always been a loner--shy, vulnerable, and bitterly resentful of the 11 years she lost while nursing her dying mother. Eleanor has always sensed that one day something *big* would happen, and one day it does. She receives an unusual invitation from Dr. John Montague, a man fascinated by "supernatural manifestations." He organizes a ghost watch, inviting people who have been touched by otherworldly events. A paranormal incident from Eleanor's childhood qualifies her to be a part of Montague's bizarre study--along with headstrong Theodora, his assistant, and Luke, a well-to-do aristocrat. They meet at Hill House--a notorious estate in New England. Hill House is a foreboding structure of towers, buttresses, Gothic spires, gargoyles, strange angles, and rooms within rooms--a place "without kindness, never meant to be lived in...." Although Eleanor's initial reaction is to flee, the house has a mesmerizing effect, and she begins to feel a strange kind of bliss that entices her to stay. Eleanor is a magnet for the supernatural--she hears deathly wails, feels terrible chills, and sees ghostly apparitions. Once again she feels isolated and alone--neither Theo nor Luke attract so much eerie company. But the physical horror of Hill House is always subtle; more disturbing is the emotional torment Eleanor endures. Intense, literary, and harrowing. *Amazon.com*

