

President's Corner

I love ice cream! I know I'm not alone. I eat ice cream all year round. I used to go out for ice cream once a week. The deal I made with myself was that I could get whatever I wanted as long as I didn't have ice cream in the house. When I stopped going, ice cream started creeping back into the house. It's so dangerous, but so yummy! I bring this up because our Ice Cream Parlor Special Program is set to end December 31. Only about half of the people who bought books have turned them in. If you haven't turned your's in, there is still time! COVID took away a large chunk of our walking time this year, so we are loosening the rules. You can use the same walk again and count a chain more than once. I hope this helps you get to the end! We want lots of people to finish! If you have any questions, you can email me at mfwalks2010@verizon.net

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving. I was one of the people who defied the CDC and went to my parents' house. We actually are in each other's bubble so it's not as bad as it sounds. While the turkey was resting, before it was carved, we sat in the living room and talked about what we were thankful for, even in this year where there doesn't seem to be much good happening. We are all basically healthy, my brother, sister-in-law, and I

by Mary Frink

still have our jobs, Mom and Dad still have their retirement, I have Gwendolyn (the most spoiled cat in the world!), it looks good for a vaccine in 2021, and the political turmoil seems to have died down long enough for every one to breathe. It's important to find things to be thankful for, even if they seem small.

I am very thankful for all of you! Walking has been a blessing through all of this. It got me out of my house which seemed very small some days. Even if I couldn't talk to people, I could see them which oddly made me feel less alone. Everyone worked so hard this year to keep up with the minute by minute changes and keep walks open as much as possible. Thank you all so much for keeping the faith and keeping us going!



Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, Dec. 5*
Group Walk:
Plymouth, MA
10:00 am
[Editor: see page 4]
- ❖ *Saturday, Dec. 12*
Group Walk:
Hartford, CT
9:00 am
- ❖ *Friday, Jan. 1*
Group Walk:
Boston Back Bay
8:30 am meet by
US Post Office in
the Prudential
Center, walk at
9:00 am
[Editor: see page 5]

See club or AVA website for starting location details on these events. For group walks, please aim to arrive 15 minutes earlier to sign-in.



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Devens in Photos

by Bev Lange

We enjoyed seeing friends old and new in Devens on Nov. 21.



We utilized the ample outdoor space, had pleasant weather, and were visited by a WWII veteran at our finish table inside the Fort Devens Museum.



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A Return to Devens

by Bev Lange

On November 21, after a fifteen-year absence, Walk 'n Mass returned to Devens, Massachusetts. It should be noted that New England's volksmarching history started with the Fort Devens Wanderers in 1981. From what I read, their early events were quite memorable with the aroma of bratwurst and the sounds of rollicking Germain bands at the finish line.

Most long-time New Englanders remember Devens as the site of Fort Devens which served as the Army's New England Headquarters. In 1991, the Base Realignment and Closure Office recommended that Fort Devens' active duty mission be eliminated and a small reserve and training area be maintained for use by the Reserve and National Guard. On March 31, 1996 after 79 years of service, Fort Devens closed as an active duty installation. The next day the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) opened. In 2007, the Devens RFTA was renamed Fort Devens. Today it supports more than 25 reserve and active component units.

We started our walks at the Fort Devens Museum. The museum was established to fill a need for the preservation of the history of the base after it was closed as an active duty installation. The museum houses artifacts from World War I through Vietnam.

This walk was originally scheduled for May 16 to coincide with Armed Forces Day (celebrated on the third Saturday in May). Armed Forces Day pays special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. Due to COVID-19, we had to postpone our event until November 21 which is near Veterans Day (celebrated on November 11). Unfortunately, I forgot to update our flyer to change it from Armed Forces Day to Veterans Day (my apologies). Veterans Day honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country,

and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Thank you to all of our Veterans for their service.

We were fortunate to have nice weather for our walk and the 44 participants seemed to enjoy getting outside and walking through some history. As you walked along the routes, you may have noticed that the streets are named after people or historical events. Signs are located near the street signs which give an explanation of the person or event. Both walk routes took participants around the historic Rogers Field parade grounds where the Army trained soldiers and held ceremonial parades or soldier reviews. The parade grounds are surrounded by Georgian Revival red brick structures. Robbins Pond and Mirror Lake served as our checkpoints. Robbins Pond is named for Medal of Honor recipient Marcus M. Robbins. Mirror Lake is an example of a kettle pond that formed when the glaciers that had covered New England melted away. The 10km route also included a visit to the Fort Devens Cemetery which contains graves of soldiers and families of six American wars.

Our thanks to Kara Fossey of the Fort Devens Museum for her assistance with securing our start location. And, of course, we must thank all of our volunteers for helping to make this event happen: Carol Giesecke, Linda Kipnes, Jean Morrissey, Beate Hait, Nancy Estrella, Margo Craven, Andrea Sorgi, Don Hamann, Joy Peach, Charlie Conway, Diane Bucher, Phil Lupsiewicz, Alida Lupsiewicz, Marianne Marshall, Leo Bourque, Mary Frink, Miriam Boucher, Agnes Laviolette, Ernie Laviolette, Ann Plichta, Karen Plichta, Diane Peterson, Sandi Barber, Keith Harlow, Dawn Harlow.

Let's not wait another fifteen years before exploring this historical location again!

Bulletin Board

Reminder—new deadlines

WnM Coupons: the deadline for using coupons awarded in 2019 was extended to

December 31, 2020. Please contact Bea Hait if you wish to purchase IVV books or other specialty items using coupons.

WnM 35th Anniversary

Program: deadline extended 1-year to **December 31, 2021** for members to earn 35 points and receive free WnM tote bag.



Do you have a favorite volksmarching story to share? Did something especially memorable happen on a walk? Send your story to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

Next Club Meetings Monday, December 7 Monday, January 4

6:30 pm

Virtual Meetings via Zoom
Contact Mary at
mfwalks2010@verizon.net
to RSVP and receive
meeting details

Important Announcements from AVA HQ

The AVA national office is relocating in early 2021. Please do **NOT** mail in any event or distance books until **after January 10, 2021** to avoid your items getting misplaced during the move. The new address for AVA HQ will be announced soon.

The **2021 AVA Convention** is scheduled to take place in and around Madison, WI from June 26—July 4, 2021. Registration opens soon, please visit ava.org/2021-convention for more details.

Answer to November's **Where Is It?** Ann was walking through the Adams gardens in **Quincy**.

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: January 21st

Plymouth Seasonal—new Start Location

The Walgreens/Rite-Aid at 179 Court Street has closed, however, the CVS at 330 Court Street (corner of Cherry St. & Court) has agreed to host our walk box instead. The box is located in back of the front counter within eye site. For our **December 5 group walk**, we will meet at Cordage Park by the 10 Cordage Park Circle building; weather permitting. Hope to see you there! -Margo Craven, Plymouth POC



November Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held November 2, 2020

Group Walks:

- Fri., Nov. 27, Fall River, 10:00 am
- Sat., Nov. 28, Concord, 9:00 am
- Sat., Dec. 5, Plymouth, 10:00 am
- Fri., Jan. 1, Boston Back Bay, 9:00 am

Ice Cream Parlor: 136 books completed

Sunshine: Get well card to Karen Plichta.

Walk Coordinator:

- Tiverton—23 participants.
- Participation numbers for WnM yearly/seasonal walks way down due to COVID.
- In conjunction with Twin State Volkssport Association's walk in Middlebury, VT on Sunday, October 10, 2021, WnM will host event at Turners Falls, MA on Sat., Oct. 9. Walk routes prepared by the Varnons.

AVA News:

- Group "cut and paste" stamps to create unique event stamp now available.

- Mary Frink to send Chris Mellen and Andrew Schmidt, Northeast Regional Director and Deputy Director, respectively, WnM comments on changes to AVA Bylaws. Biggest concern was Article 16 whereby AVA must notify member clubs of changes to Bylaws but does not allow members to vote on them. If anyone has additional comments, they are encouraged to send them directly to Chris and Andrew with a copy to Mary Frink so she is aware of the issue being forwarded.

New Business:

- **December 7** and **January 4** club meetings via Zoom, **at 6:30 pm**. Please contact Mary Frink if you wish to receive meeting link and attend.
- Mary authorized to get yearly subscription to Zoom which should provide more flexibility and capability.

New Year's Day Group Walk

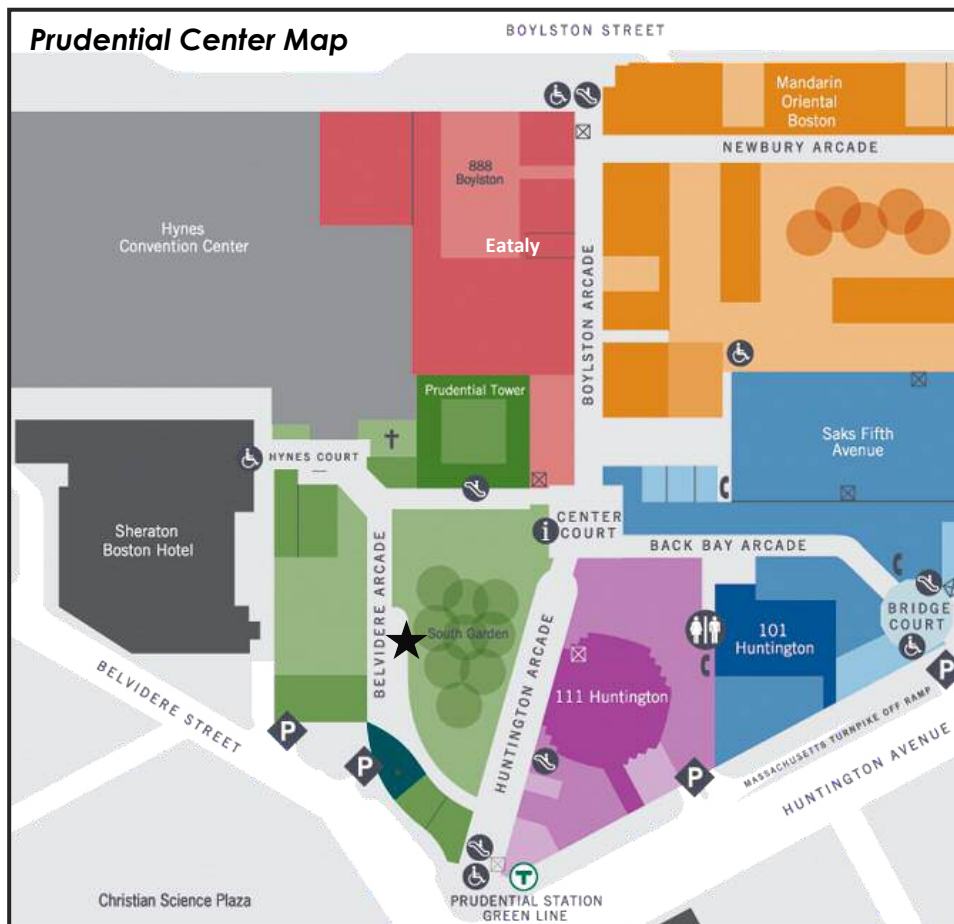
by Monica Hait

Walk 'n Mass continues our New Year's tradition by enjoying our Boston Back Bay walk routes. On

Fri., January 1, the group walk begins at the Prudential Center. We will meet near the US Post Office in the Prudential Center's Belvidere Arcade (beside the South Garden, see star on map). Please join us at 8:30 to sign-in and we'll begin to walk at 9:00.

Street parking is free and spaces are usually available near the Pru when we meet. The **T** is a good transit choice if you don't like to drive into Boston.

Please wear masks or face coverings and adhere to all MA state health & safety guidelines.



Walk Coordinator Speaks

As this year with unique public health challenges comes to a close, hope you are doing well and that we'll be able to get together more frequently in 2021. It is promising that there are several options for a COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon, but it will take a while for most residents in the U.S. to be immunized so that we can again safely congregate and share meals. That being the case, there are no plans to host a Soup Walk this spring to start our schedule of traditional volkswalking events. We'll see how the year goes and perhaps we can revive a Potluck and Pie-themed walk in the fall.

We consistently implemented safety procedures at the three traditional events held this year, which included requiring the wearing of masks/face coverings, having sanitizer at all stations, sanitizing pens between uses, and providing single-serve bottles of water rather than using our large, insulated jugs to

by Beate Hait

dispense water. At both the Holliston event in August and Tiverton event in October we set up the Start/Finish area and Checkpoints socially distanced outside. In Devens at the end of November, the Start/Finish was inside but we had walkers fill out the start cards outside to reduce the overall time people spent in an enclosed space, and the Specialties table and checkpoints were set up outside.

At this time, initial exploring and planning are underway to host traditional day events in Pawtucket (June 19) and Barrington (TBD), RI as well as an event in Turners Falls, MA (Oct. 9) in conjunction with Twin State Volkssport Club's event in Middlebury, VT (Oct. 10) for a multi-event weekend.

In the meantime, we encourage you to walk our year-round and seasonal events either on your own or on the day of a scheduled group walk.

Walking A to Z

It started August 9, 2003 in Dover, NH when I got my first stamp in the Walking the USA A-Z book and ended October 17, 2020 in Tiverton, RI with my final stamp to complete the walking alphabet. My 17-year odyssey is over, and it took 9 years from my second to last stamp in Xenia, OH (I don't do wildcards) to get my Tiverton, RI stamp. I never thought the letter 'T' would be the toughest, but who knew there weren't that many T places in the country. Except for Xenia, OH, all my walks were done in just four states (NH=6, ME=5, MA=13, RI=1).

Thank you Walk 'n Mass for doing Vineyard Haven in 2007 where I think it rained during the walk, but I was getting that stamp for V. Southern Maine hosted a walk in Gardiner, ME in 2003, which is a small city south of the capitol in Augusta and I remember this being a fine walk, and they also have Yarmouth, ME as a year-round walk. A special shout out for Walk 'n Mass for Zoar, MA in 2004, which is in the middle of nowhere, where I walked in the woods with my mother and Elizabeth Nielson

by Claudia Cauchon

who wouldn't let us cut some of the trail that the POCs said we could detour around because a tree had fallen down on part of the route. You were never allowed to "cheat" when you walked with Elizabeth Nielson.

I am going to admit I could have finished this book years ago when Walk 'n Mass did Tiverton, RI the first time. I can't remember the year, but I was excited because I knew I would finish this book I've had for years. I finished the walk only to find out I didn't have the book on me. I had left it in my other AVA book holder back at my apartment! I couldn't believe it because I kept going on and on the whole ride down about how I'm finally finishing my A-Z. Someone said I should just use an insert card but, just like I don't do wildcards, I don't do insert cards for special programs, so I waited for the next 'T' walk to show up. After a while I didn't think there would be another so thanks to Walk 'n Mass for their perseverance in having Tiverton even in chaotic times. It ended up being a beautiful day for a walk!