

President's Corner

I'm back! I'm sure no one really noticed that I went on vacation. My first one in 2 years! Miriam Boucher and I went to Iceland for 5 days. I highly recommend it! The scenery is beyond amazing and we did a LOT of walking. It seems to be a culture that encourages walking, especially in the city. They have a really good bus system and that was how we got around. Miriam did check to see if there was an IVV walk there, but no luck. We probably did at least 10K worth of steps every day sightseeing. I have lots of pictures, so if you want to see some, let me know the next time we meet and I'll pull out my phone!

Registrations are still coming in for our Boston Signature Event on August 28 and 29. We are up to 22 people pre-registered from Oregon to Massachusetts. If you are planning on attending, please pre-register, especially if you want to attend the social events on Friday and Saturday nights. We will be looking for volunteers to help staff tables and a checkpoint for the Castle Island walk. We will also need help with the social events. As I have said

by Mary Frink

many times, our club couldn't function without everyone pitching in, so thank you in advance!

I had asked in my last article for ideas to write about. Someone said I should write about axe throwing and walking. For those who don't know, besides being WnM President, I am a competitive axe thrower. I am in many leagues and I participate in tournaments. You wouldn't think that axe throwing and walking would have anything in common, but they do! One night at league can get me between 5,000 and 6,000 steps! Admittedly, it's a lot of back and forth, so not as interesting as a walk. As with walking, it's a really great way to get out of your head. You have to focus on what you are doing. You can't be thinking about other things. I find that with walking as well. You have to be paying attention to the directions and checking out where you are. You can let your mind wander, but that's usually when I miss a turn and get lost.

Any other ideas of topics I should write about?

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, May 2*
Group Walk:
Fall River 10:00 am
- ❖ *Sunday, May 3*
Group Walk:
Saco, ME 1:30 pm
(SMVA)
- ❖ *Wed., May 6*
Group Walk:
Roslindale 10:30 am
- ❖ *Saturday, May 9*
Group Walk:
Lowell 10:30 am
- ❖ *Wed., May 13*
Group Walk:
Boston Special
Places 10:00 am
- ❖ **Sat., May 16 to**
Wed., May 20
***Northeast Region*
*Weekend***
Lake George area,
NY escvwalks.org
- ❖ *Saturday, May 30*
Group Walk:
Sandwich 10:00 am

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.

Welcome New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are delighted to announce our newest club members:

- ◆ Susan A Emerson of Stow, MA
- ◆ Cindy Zattich and Chris Fisher of Maynard, MA

We look forward to seeing you out on a trail soon!



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Thank You!

by Chris Lipson

Thank you to Walk 'n Mass for a wonderful walk and memorial in memory of my late husband, Chuck Lipson. I greatly appreciate all the work that went in to setting this up, the display was very nice. It was also great to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. It may not have seemed like a big deal to some but it was to me, Chuck's children, and grandchildren.

I also want to thank Bea and Keith for the delicious birthday cake, it made a special day even better. Again, thank you everyone!



Mary Frink



Beate Hait



Beate Hait

Keith Harlow helped present the surprise birthday cake to Chris in Holliston where we also remembered Chuck and his many contributions to WnM

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A Walk to Remember Chuck Lipson

by Bev Lange

On March 28 we officially opened our walking season by holding our annual soup social. As in past years, the event was held in Holliston, Massachusetts. This year's event was a bit more special because it was a walk in honor of long-time Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club member, Chuck Lipson who passed away in 2021. We were pleased that so many of Chuck's family were able to join us both on the walk routes and at the soup social.

The total number of participants was 76, representing five states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Florida and Rhode Island). The walk routes were slightly different this year with the rail trail loop going in the reverse direction from previous years. Unfortunately, due to storm damage, the Casey at the Bat statue had been destroyed (a new statue will be unveiled on May 2). However, walkers were still able to enjoy the rail trail, Rita's Labyrinth, as well as many other sites such as the one-arch railroad bridge and 8-arch Bogastow Brook Viaduct. The other loop was also similar to past years except for the addition of a lovely excursion to Pleasure Point Beach on Lake Winthrop. Although the day was a bit chilly, the sun was shining and everyone seemed to be enjoying both the walk routes and each other's company.

Following the walks everyone gathered to enjoy delicious soups and many other scrumptious foods and to participate in singing a hardy rendition of *Happy Birthday* to Chris Lipson. It was also an opportunity to view all the great photos of our friend and fellow volkswalker, Chuck Lipson, and to share so many wonderful memories of him with his family. What a great tribute to Chuck!

The event ended with the drawing for a walking stick and everyone was thrilled when the winner was Chuck's son, Perry. Perry was exuberant and quite happy that he had won!

Thank you to everyone who donated food items for us to enjoy; there was a large



selection of soups and desserts. I also want to thank my co-POC, Beate Hait for everything she does to make these events happen and to all our wonderful volunteers for their contributions: the Ahluwalia kids (Nico, Priya, and Rayna), Charles Boddy, Diane Bucher, Abel Clark, Margo Craven, Verna Devine, Nancy Estrella, Mary Frink, Carol Giesecke, Monica Hait, Dawn Harlow, Keith Harlow, Bill Hatch, Bill Howe, Susanne Laundry, Marianne Marshall, Tom Narcavage, Bonnie Neggers, Diane Peterson, Ann Plichta, Karen Plichta, Phyllis Swartz, Brian Timmons, and Patty Timmons.

A special thank you to Chris Lipson and all of Chuck's family members who were able to join us in honoring Chuck.



Beate Hait



Beate Hait



Bev Lange



Bev Lange



Bev Lange



Bulletin Board

Walking in the Footsteps of Lewis & Clark: Northwest Regional Conference

September 24-27, 2026

Astoria, Oregon

Hosted by the Oregon Trail State
Volkssport Association

<https://www.otsva.org/nw-regional-conferenceava-50th-anniversary.html>

A reminder -- The \$1 participation discount for WnM members applies at our YR and S events as an incentive to do these walks and can be used whether doing an event on your own time or on a group walk date. All participants pay \$4 at our traditional, date-specific events.

WnM Challenge Participation cards -- Once you've accumulated 50 points on a card, you may submit it in lieu of payment at a WnM event -- and then start a new card!

--Bea



Next Club Meeting Monday, May 4

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk

Do you have a volksmarching travel story or favorite walk memory to share? Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: May 21st



Holliston Trail Pictures

Co-POC Bev Lange shared some snapshots taken as she made the rounds during the walk to confirm all was well on the trail. Smiles were seen frequently!



Walk Memories: Fleeting Fame

by Karen Plichta

A favorite memory shared by myself and possibly 6 or 7 other Walk 'n Mass members was on New Years' Day 2021. After we departed the Prudential Center and crossed over into Copley Plaza a WBZ news reporter approached us. He was asking questions about our 2021 outlooks after the outbreak of COVID 19 in 2020. He wanted to know what I was looking forward to in 2021 and I said to be together and share time with my friends and relatives. I was hopeful that 2021 would be much better than 2020. As I was the first person to be asked questions I had a hard time coming up with a thoughtful response. However, as the reporter asked the other walkers similar questions they were prepared with better answers. Naturally with Marianne in the crowd she opted to promote our club as best as possible in the limited amount of time the reporter gave us.

Being told by the reporter that we'd be on either at 4, 5, or 6 that night I immediately put the TV on once I got home. And sure enough there we were: the Volkspotters in Copley Plaza talking about our hopes for the New Year of 2021. And now that we had that brief exposure, I got a phone call a couple days later from a friend letting me know he'd seen me during that news broadcast. AHHH our fleeting 2 minutes of FAME...how nice it was!!



April Meeting Highlights

Meeting held Apr. 6, 2026 in Franklin, MA.

Boston Castle Island — Aug 28 & 29:

- AVA indicated to contact them if WnM needs anything.
- ESCV is sending a bus of attendees for Saturday's events.
- WnM's signature event is now listed on AVA's multi-event weekend page.

Membership: Welcome new members Cindy Zattich and Susan Emerson.

Sunshine: Sympathy expressed to Blake Mitchell on the death of her mother.

Walk Coordinator:

- Holliston: 76 walkers at the Chuck Lipson memorial and soup walk. Wonderful to see Chris and her family as well as all other participants.

by Marianne Marshall

- **Walks needed!** Under consideration is Cambridge in late Sept/early Oct, Nantucket, and a picnic walk in Milford.
- Planning underway to hold "Strolls with Trolls" as a northeast region weekend event in Rhode Island in the fall of 2028.

AVA—March & April Checkpoints:

- AVA needs a host club/POC for new special program Ports of Entry.
- April Checkpoint details how AVA members can save on travel via MemberDeals.
- 2027 AVA Biennial Convention will be held in Springfield, Missouri from June 28-July 2, 2027.

Upcoming Club Meeting:

Next meeting Monday, May 4 at 6:30 pm at the Stop & Shop in Franklin.

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Holliston, MA – March 28 — What a terrific turnout for the Chuck Lipson Memorial Walk and Soup Social. Chuck's family made up 36 of the 76 total participants! See article on page 3. I thank all the club members who volunteered at this event and especially my co-POC, Bev Lange, for her unflinching assistance and for writing the follow-up article.

Upcoming Volkswalks — We're still working on some traditional/day events for this year. Weston is happening as this newsletter is being completed. The next one is the Boston – Castle Island walk on August 28 & 29 (Friday and Saturday). We hope that many of you will participate in the walk and perhaps attend the Meet & Greet on Friday and/or the AVA 50th Anniversary Cake Celebration on Saturday. We will also welcome participants from the AVA Walking Waves cruise leaving Boston on August 30 and other volkssporters from around the U.S. The start point is the Courtyard by Marriott in South Boston. Staffing for this event will start in June. For event details and pre-registration, please see the brochure on our website: walknmass.org

In the meantime, please participate in our year-round and seasonal events – either on a day of your choosing or on the day of a

scheduled group walk. Remember that a benefit of club membership is a \$1 discount on the participation fee when walking a WnM year-round or seasonal event.

Check ava.org for other volkswalk routes in the Northeast and throughout the USA.

Walk Challenge 2026 — It's exciting to see completed cards (recording 50 points) being submitted in lieu of paying the participant fee at a WnM event. When you complete a card, start another! Please help to make this walk incentive program be our most successful.

May 16–20, 2026 – Northeast Region Revolutionary Weekend in the Lake George, NY area: Volkswalks in Johnstown, Crown Point, Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga Village, Schuylerville, Lake George, and Round Lake.

SPECIALTIES — IVV books to track the number of events and the distances you cover are available for sale at each traditional/day event. You may also contact Bea to have them mailed to you (\$6 per book + 78 cents postage (increasing to 82 cents in July) for up to 3 books). New Walker packets also available for \$10 plus \$2.50 postage.

Group Walk Photos:

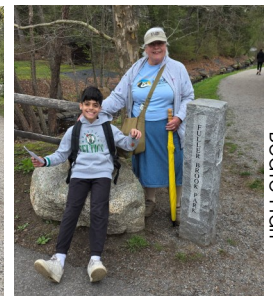


Concord on April 20 for Patriots' Day parade and fun



Beate Hait

Carol Giesecke



Beate Hait



Marianne Marshall

Above: Wellesley group on April 18