



Elsje Zwart
 Executive Director

A Letter from the Executive Director

Can you feel the buzz? 2023 is upon us and all the hard work and effort to shine the spotlight on Gloucester is happening. The year started off with a bang as Mayor Greg Verga welcomed Gloucester residents to celebrate the new year with a ball drop, coinciding with Gloucester, UK's celebration at midnight, 7 pm our time. I suspect this may become a tradition. There was lots of excitement at City Hall when a very tall crane on a Iron Tree Service truck slowly dropped the sparkling lite orb as the countdown, led by the Mayor and Bob Gillis, one of Gloucester 400+'s tri-chairs, ushered in the new year.

We continue to find ways to give voice to and learn how to appreciate not only our history since 1623, but also, through the work of our Diversity and Equity Committee, the stories of the land and peoples living here for tens of thousands of years prior to the arrival of the Europeans. We are working with SmokeSygnals, an indigenous consulting firm, to understand how we can best grow in mutual understanding of our history and culture.

So welcome to the new year. Our gritty and adventurous, and sometimes challenging story will be told in vivid detail all year long.



The crowd at City Hall — photo by Kirk R. Williamson

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

OVERTURE TO 2023



Many of you were in attendance at the more formal opening of the new year. A color guard brought the solemnity and dignity befitting the

beginning of our 400+ commemoration. Members of the Cape Ann Symphony played a special composition entitled Overture 2023 by composer Robert Bradshaw, and Mayor Verga welcomed the audience with the



words: “We’ve got an exciting year ahead of us full of events and celebrations to acknowledge this incredible milestone for our community.”

Isabel Pett read remarks by storm-delayed Peter Stevens of SmokeSygnals, offering an indigenous point of view of what 2023 means to the aboriginal peoples living on the lands we now know as Gloucester. Gloucester’s Poet Laureate Emeritus was sidelined with covid and his stirring poem titled “Hymn for Gloucester at 400” was read by former mayor Bruce Tobey.



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 Overture photos by Sherman Morss



Overture to 2023 (continued) — The storm outside did not deter the mood of the celebrants as we listened to David Walt, a founder of Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute (GMGI), look to the future of Gloucester and envision a thriving, even flourishing community built on marine technology with bio-tech savvy young people involved in the fishing and marine industry in our city.

A fitting closure was the symphony again playing “Adventure” as folks bundled up and went into the storm, so Gloucester, as was the entire event, filled with all the pomp and circumstance a 400+ year suggests.



COMING UP

It may feel sleepy outside with this snowy weather, but our 2023 events calendar is already off to the races! Following a successful kick-off with our January 15th Overture, we’re



trading our suit jackets for winter coats at the January 28th **Boston Bruins Alumni Event** at Talbot Rink. Watch the Boston Bruins Alumni, made up of many of the legends we watched in yesteryear, face off against the legends of the Gloucester High School Alumni Hockey Team for only \$10 a ticket!

Keep your eyes on our website for more fun surprises to get you through Gloucester’s “locals season”. Think tours of historical properties, singer-songwriter showcases, educational lectures, and more!

In the meantime, take a listen to the first volume of **Gloucester 400+’s Musical Archive**, produced by Dan King and Tony Goddess at Manship Artists Residency. “Folk” is a rewarding look into our local music focused on a collection of Folk musicians who’ve been playing around the area, some for many years and some just beginning.

To listen, visit:

<https://dankingandfriends.com/gloucester-400-music>

400 STORIES PROJECT



Congratulations to Gloucester High School senior, Allie Nicastro, who was recently accepted into the Massachusetts College of Art & Design! Read all about Allie in our student story: <https://bit.ly/3iFWiOn>

Our list of student-centered stories is growing but we could still use some help. Do you know of a student who has a great story to tell? They can tell it by video, by poem or by just writing a traditional story. Email terrywebergloucestera400@gmail.com for guidelines or any questions!



A sampling of Allie’s artwork, from left to right: PAPA, 2022; Atlantic Traveler, 2022; Gloucester Harbor as interpreted from the State Fish Pier, 2022



400 STORIES PROJECT — Story Deadline Announcement

A Gloucester400+ official commemorative book will be published in November and available to the public.

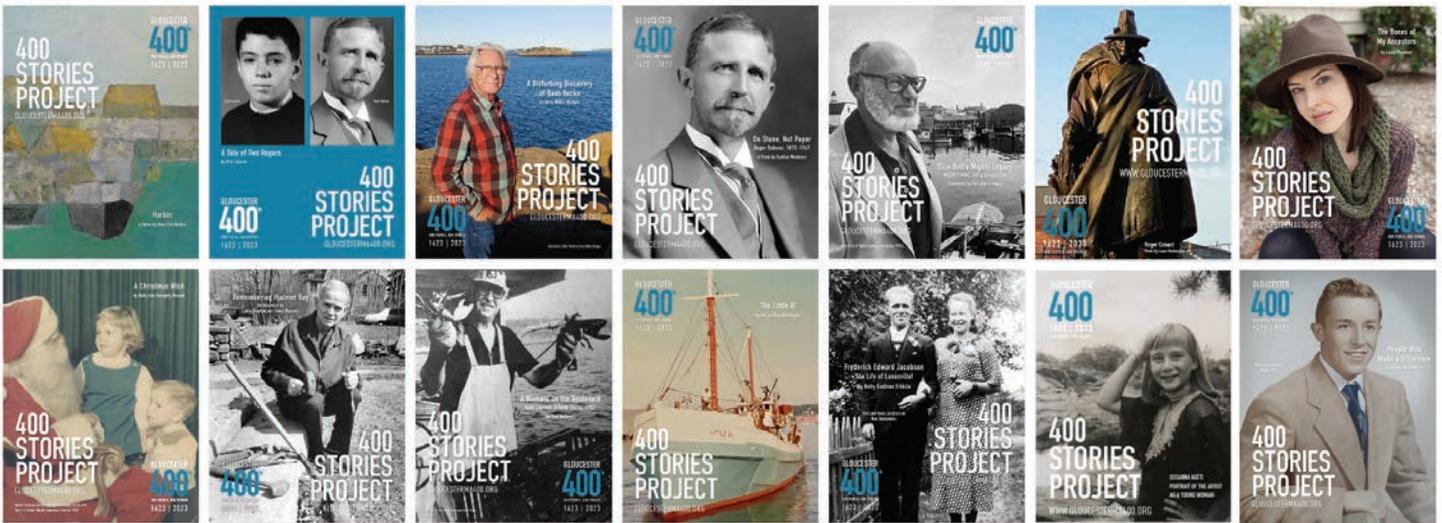
If you would like your story or poem to be considered* for inclusion in the book, please submit your story/poem by MARCH 17, 2023.

**Please be aware that we cannot include every story or poem we receive in the official commemorative book due to space and cost constraints. We will select a cross-section of stories and poems that best represent Gloucester's people and experiences from the past 400+ years as well as complement and expand upon previously published Gloucester400+ endorsed books.*

All accepted submissions will be posted online on our website throughout 2023 until further notice.

We will also share stories, poems and videos on our social media. Each accepted submission becomes part of the historic Gloucester400+ Stories collection.

Guidelines for writing stories are available at www.gloucesterma400.org. To submit your story, poem, (or video) or if you have any questions, please email Stories Project Manager Terry Weber at terrywebergloucester400@gmail.com.



NEWS REGARDING USE OF THE 400+ LOGO

A decision was made to make the Gloucester 400+ logo more available to merchants. An updated retailers license is available from the office. It allows for the use of the official Gloucester 400+ logo on merchandise, pre-approved by G400+ and for a fee of \$1.00.



VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT!



A big thanks to **Dave Leeco**, former editor of the *Gloucester Daily Times*, for his prolific stories of the 2023 events. Besides a full time job, Dave still finds time to write about his city, creating awareness and enthusiasm for the work of G400+ and its partners. His editorial eye has scanned many of our releases and he continues to write compelling stories covering G400+.



THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We had a terrific response to our year end mass mailing appeal. The checks came in — in small and large donations and totaled almost \$20,000! We are deeply grateful and moved with this generous outpouring of support from the citizens of Gloucester. Thank you — you know who you are!

Our sponsors are always close to our hearts. As always, we list them with gratitude and thanks.

RAFFLE

The winning ticket for the two lobster trap rocking chairs was pulled Sunday night after the last note of Overture 2023 had been played. The lucky winner, Salvatore DiMercurio, was very excited to learn the chairs are his. “My daughter will be very happy,” he said.

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

We are in need of a volunteer Volunteer Coordinator. Is anyone feeling called to accept the challenge? If you are highly organized, like people, love being in the middle of things, want to participate in the exciting events and projects being planned, please let us know. We already have a good volunteer list; now we need someone who can help organize them. About 5 hours per week. If you are interested, please contact us at:

info@gloucesterma400.org.

Special thanks to the City of Gloucester and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for their generous support, and the many smaller businesses and individuals, including Ann-Margaret Ferrante and Bruce Tobey. We are deeply grateful. We invite everyone to participate, whether it be a gift of time and talent, attending an event, or making a donation, to join us. You can give online at: www.gloucesterma400.org/donate

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