

# PITA NEWS LETTER

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Bringing Plum Island Together



Fall 2019 Issue 3



## HISTORY OF PITA AND PITA HALL

By Michele Simone

I have been a year round resident of Plum Island for a little over seven years, and I was surprised to learn that the Plum Island Taxpayers Association Hall is pronounced "Pitta" and not "Peeta". And that was far from the only thing I didn't know! After chatting with some of Plum Island's lifelong, year-round residents, I learned a lot about the Island and its PITA hall, and I suspect I have only scratched the surface. It's my hope that this article will grab your attention long enough to share some facts and items of interest. And maybe, if I'm lucky, I will cause you to chuckle once or twice.

Plum Island Taxpayers and Associates was organized around 1946 as a way for the residents and taxpayers to come together and discuss the topics of the day that affected their lives, homes and the Island itself. And when we say "discuss" we use the term loosely, because if we're being honest, (and a bit cheeky) we must admit that most of us like to moan and groan a bit more than we should. We can safely assume the Association was a success and the "moaning and groaning" served a

## It's time to Renew membership for 2020 or join PITA

It's our Fall membership drive and we really appreciate your support! We contacted a number of members recently to catch up for 2019. We are asking for renewals for 2020 to continue our efforts. If you've not done so, it's only \$25/year individual membership or \$35/year family membership. See the Presidents Letter attached and membership form.

**Now you can renew Membership  
and join online - via PayPal at  
[Plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://Plumislandtaxpayers.org)**

Some benefits of PITA membership: Huge Townsend propane discounts, PITA hall rental discounts, and knowing that you supported our island projects.

## PITA CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FAIR SATURDAY DEC. 7

***"CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!"***

The Holidays are fast approaching, and so is our annual Plum Island Christmas Fair at PITA Hall on Plum Island! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us out on the Island this first Saturday in December for our twenty-sixth annual fair featuring hand-made arts and crafts by local artisans, Christmas Trees, Christmas Wreaths, a Giant Raffle and hot dogs, hamburgers, chowders and deserts. As always, Santa will arrive via fire truck at 2 PM to sit with the children. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 3:30 PM, at PITA Hall, 8 Plum Island Blvd., Newbury. Free Parking. For more information, or to participate as a vender/crafter contact Frank Pierce, PITA Hall Manager at (978) 463-0670.

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## EVENTS

- PI BEAUTIFICATION 7PM 1<sup>ST</sup> TUES
- Join PITA at [plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://plumislandtaxpayers.org)
- Rent PITA Hall inexpensively as a Member
- Find PITA now on FaceBook to contribute photos, comments and listen to @PitaTwita

## SALTBOX GALLERY'S 2019 FALL ART SHOW NOVEMBER 22-24,



Photo: Joe Frio

The member artists of the Saltbox Gallery will celebrate the arrival of Fall by presenting new works at Plum Island Taxpayers Association Hall, 8 Plum Island Turnpike, Newbury, MA, Friday through Saturday, November 22-24. A Reception featuring a beer tasting with True North Ale

## PITA History continued

greater purpose, because the island continued to flourish and residents formed a wonderful community and scheduled meetings to keep up with the happenings of each other and the island. This is a community of people who truly love where they live, and feel a great camaraderie with their fellow islanders. The residents of this small barrier island are filled with pride to live somewhere that offers a breathtaking view in pretty much every direction. Living on and even simply visiting Plum Island charges each person with a great responsibility to each other and to future generations to do all that we can to care for the Island. And that is the spirit in which the Hall itself was built.

PITA hall was first built in the 1950's, and was remodeled in the late 1980's. More recently, the kitchen in the hall was remodeled, and those who rent out the hall for special occasions have a beautiful kitchen available to them with a commercial oven and new counters and appliances as well as new function chairs. There is fresh paint on the walls in perfect sky blue and ocean blue colors, and of course the building itself is kept up with the generous donations from its members. The hall was built so the residents of the island had a place to meet to discuss some very real concerns such as erosion, storms, flooding and major weather events.

But it's not all doom and gloom and serious meetings. PITA hall is used for many wonderful occasions throughout the year, such as the upcoming Christmas Festival which will be December 7, 2019. The financial support from the Festival is responsible for the majority of the funds that are

raised for the upkeep of the Hall. If you haven't come out to the Christmas Festival before, you are really missing out! There are local artists selling their goods, (Note to self: Christmas Shopping!!! - original items you won't find on Amazon!!) a visit from Santa and of course, beautiful Christmas trees for purchase. And best of all? They will deliver the trees to your house! So no excuses to those with little cars (like mine). Your support truly makes a difference.

There are several other fun events that are held at the Hall, such as the upcoming Art Show which will run November 22-

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**[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)**

## PITA History continued

through the 24th. There will be an Artist's reception Friday evening the 22nd from 5-8 pm to kick off the show.

The Hall is used for endless reasons, and most recently it has been used to hold yoga and fitness classes, Weddings, Celebrations, Birthday Parties, Meetings for Organizations and even for emergencies. I did not know that the Newbury Police department has a small room on the rear of the building with their own door, computer and radio for communicating with the Police force. If there is an emergency and a Police Officer needed to be stationed on the Island, he or she would have a headquarters and all the equipment they need.

Speaking of emergencies, in response to the ongoing erosion, PITA has partnered with Gregg Moore of the University of New Hampshire and purchased a drone. It is very exciting because the drone will be ready to be deployed at a moments notice and can fly out before and after a severe storm. It can "map" the island, and the drone will use the same technology and protocol they use at UNH and the information it gathers will be uploaded to a main hub, then the imagery will be translated and turned into usable data. This will help accurately record what is happening to our island, storm by storm and season by season. What could be more important than that?

In addition to major items of interest, like a drone and the accurate information that will come from the drone, PITA has been able to renovate and update the playground at the end of the island, re-stone the driveway at PITA Hall and add a new boardwalk.

In a small community like ours, we are very lucky to have a hub -- a common space where we can all be heard, grievances aired out, and celebrations held -- all in one beautiful and convenient location that we are all very proud of.

So that concludes my lesson and information for the day! Stay tuned for the next update after we have survived another winter in the Northeast, on an Island. Never a dull moment!

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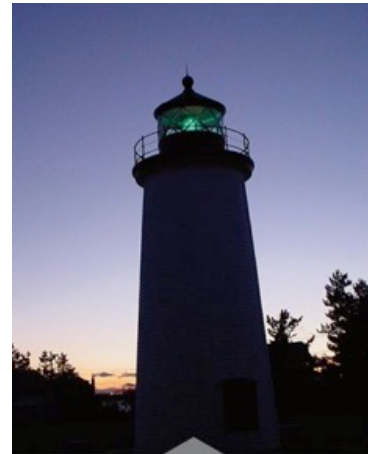
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Saltbox Fall Art Show continued from Page 1

Co. and food from the Plum Island Grill is scheduled for Friday evening from 5 to 8 PM. Artists sale Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM. In addition to fine painting and photography the event will include artisan jewelry, pottery and sculpture. Free Parking. Artist's include: Margie Florini, Joe Frio, Karyl Hayes, Robert Hahn, Anne Krupsky, Michael Milczarek, Deborah Pinciario, Zoe Prior-Grosch, Edward Rice, Karen Nastuk, Darcy Scanlon Moulton, and Candy Way.

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: KATHY CULBERT

### A RETURN TO ART

by Sandra Turner

With encouragement from her mother, and motivation from classes in watercolor, art became a life-long passion for this Plum Island native.

Painting served as a great source of joy throughout the years and was there for her during a difficult period of time...

Kathy's art and nursing career were interrupted when she was diagnosed with cancer and underwent intensive chemotherapy that involved over 2 years of additional treatments. She was forced to quit her job due to devastating side effects including fatigue, memory issues and neuropathy in her dominant hand.

Unwilling to give up on her art, she started painting in short intervals to build up her stamina. She found that the process evolved when painting multi-layered projects began to improve her memory. This self imposed art therapy took her mind off of the ongoing treatments, gave her purpose and brought about a return to her passion.

Kathy's art evolved into decorative painting with nautical themes on vintage furniture as well as household and holiday decor. Her latest work is painting watercolors on New England nautical charts. Her artwork is sold at the Plum Island Kitchen & The Nauti Pearl in Newburyport and from her house by appointment.



Kathy works almost daily in her home studio on the Plum Island basin. The beautiful tidal waters, shorebirds, marsh view and sunsets are a constant source of inspiration for this island artist.

Kathy Culbert facebook.com/plumislandartist  
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## SUMMER IS GONE

By Maura Moore

This poem was written back in 1973 by my mother for my sister who was in 6th grade at Newbury Elementary school. I have read this poem to my children's first grade classes on poetry day. This past January my mother passed away at the age of 88. I believe this is a lovely poem and the people of Plum Island will enjoy reading it. I am pleased to say, that my oldest daughter, Maureen Moore inherited the poetry gene. I would like to dedicate this to my mother Ann Toohig Hickey. May you rest in peace, Mom.

### SUMMER IS GONE

Summer is gone with all It's fun  
we really enjoyed playing under the sun  
swimming in the ocean diving in the waves  
oh what wonderful carefree days

We woke early in the morning  
to walk along the shore  
making footprints in the sand  
while the waves did roar

We climbed upon the jetties  
to watch the fishing boats  
while the morning air was  
chilly so we had to wear our coats

To see the sunrise on the water is a beautiful sight  
the red & gold of the morning sun that vanishes the night  
To watch the seagulls dive for food so swift and gracefully  
all this is worth getting up for as early as can be

Yes, I'm happy here on Plum Island sand & water and all it's  
nice fresh air  
but I know that June will come again and with it will be  
the carefree days of Summer  
that mean so much to me



### Plum Island Beautification meetings, the 1st Tuesday of the month

All are welcome to PI Beautification meetings, the 1st Tuesday of the month at PITA hall at 7:00.

Any questions or ideas please email Lynne Petty at [lynnepisland@gmail.com](mailto:lynnepisland@gmail.com)

### Advertise in the PITA Newsletter and get free posting on our Web Site

PITA Member - \$25 /year  
business card, \$50 for  
expanded size

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## VOLUNTEER

Become a volunteer for PITA projects or help organize events at PITA Hall.

PITA is looking for the following volunteers:

- Hall manager assistant
- Web help
- Newsletter editor and writers
- Activities organizer
- Suggestions - if you want to be involved in any way

Send an email to: [info@plumislandtaxpayers.org](mailto:info@plumislandtaxpayers.org) or contact one of our board members (listed on page 2, contact info on our web site at [www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org) )



## Rent PITA Hall

<i>Weekend Rates</i>	
Member	\$325
PI Resident Non-Member	\$375
Non-Member	\$450
Commercial	\$550
Weekday Monday-Thursday (\$100/half day)	\$200

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1 November 2019

**PRESIDENTS LETTER**

Re: PITA Annual Membership 2019 - 2020

Dear PITA Member,

It's that time of year once again and I'd like to update you on our efforts during the past year. Our noteworthy accomplishments include:

**Parking Lot Gravel at Plum Island Hall:** Several truckloads of pea gravel were spread at Plum Island Hall in an effort to resurface the existing parking lot. Emergency stanchions have also been installed in the parking lot and at the corners to our building to protect our LP gas supply and our oil tank which are necessary for the Hall to continue to operate as an emergency shelter for Island residents and for police and emergency services personnel.

**Plum Island Hall Container Storage:** We replaced our old storage container with a newly purchased metal unit and added a side door for easy access. This storage container holds our emergency equipment and supplies such as blankets, pillows and fold-away cots for use at the Hall during emergencies.

**MRBA Working Group:** PITA continues to perform as the sponsor and host to the Merrimac River Beach Alliance (MRBA), the working group of federal, state, town and city officials whose combined efforts have been instrumental in responding to the most pressing issues facing Plum Island residents. As a result of our group effort, the Army Corps of Engineers will once again be dredging sand from the Merrimac River in an effort to replenish sand offshore along Salisbury Beach and Plum Island in an effort to mitigate the effects of coastal erosion.

**Mobility Mats:** The Mobi-Mat project continues to be a tremendous success and has provided seasonal access to our beaches for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and other vehicular traffic including strollers and official ATVs. By surveying and marking the public rights-of-way and placing Mobi-mats over the sand, we've had better control of beach foot traffic and prevented our residents and guests from walking on and damaging beach grass, or trespassing on private land.

As you know, we continue to be appreciative for the continuous support that PITA has received. Please remember that your membership dues help to keep our Hall open and available not only for your use, but also for use by all our Plum Island social, public and community organizations. Also, as a member, you can enjoy the benefits of our discounted propane buyers group. Please take a few moments to fill out the enclosed membership renewal form. If you would like to enclose an additional contribution of support, any amount no matter how small will be greatly appreciated and will have an immediate positive impact.

We continue to look forward to another great year with you and yours as members of PITA.

With kindest regards,

Ron Barrett, President



**PLUM ISLAND TAXPAYERS AND ASSOCIATES**  
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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2020

**PLEASE NOTE:** You may fill out this form and pay online now: Please go to <http://www.PlumislandTaxpayers.org>

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Plum Island Address: ☐ Same as above

Individual Membership: \$25 per year  
 Family Membership: \$35 per year

Dues Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Amount for projects:

➤ Please consider additional contributions—  
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➤ I would like to be contacted for PITA  
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☐ Yes ☐ No

If you like, tell us your special skills or interest for  
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