

# Giving thanks part of who we are

**G**iving thanks – it’s such an important part of who we all are. From saying “thanks” to a host, to celebrating Thanksgiving for all that we have, saying “thanks” is one of the things that makes us human.

## LIGHTS OF FAITH

I’m writing this during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Sukkot is a harvest holiday, when Jews traditionally give thanks for the incoming harvest of the year. Traditions include living outside in a “Sukkah” – a booth that reminds us that we are connected to nature, to everything around us, and waving a *luluv* and *etrog* – plants and a fruit – in all directions, to show that we, and the bounty of nature, know that God is everywhere.

Sukkot is the original holiday of thanksgiving – many people say that this is the origin of the pilgrim’s American Thanksgiving holiday! Saying “thank you” is a basic part of Judaism. Appreciating the world; and appreciating that we are given so much. Jewish tradition has blessings to teach us to appreciate every moment. We have blessings for when we wake, sleep, eat, and use the bathroom. There are others three times a day to make us aware of the natural world, for when we see the sun rise, begin to set, and when we see three stars at night.

Saying “thanks” reminds us that we did not



cause, that we did not create, what we receive. We’re not “entitled” to a perfect sunset, to delicious food. The food came from the work of many: from the farmer, from the transporter, from the seller. And, ultimately, it was created by the same One who creates the miracle of the sunset every day,

who also provided for rain and sunshine.

Prayer is so much about thanks; about realizing that we have much to be grateful for. I hope you’ll all join me and Congregation Shirat Hayam at the Open Doors on Nov. 15, when we will give a tour of the congregation, and share thanks together. For more information contact the Congregation at 781-582-2700.

May we all find time to give thanks daily, and share our thanks together.

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*This column is devoted to perspectives and ideas on spiritual subjects from members of the Duxbury Interfaith Council. The ideas expressed here reflect the views of the individual authors and not necessarily the Council as a whole*

## For shame, thief!

**S**hame on you! To the person who scoffed off with the large oriental fish bowl on consignment at the Duxbury Consignment Shop. You are a thief! Not

only did you steal from me but you stole from the consignment shop and more importantly – you stole from the scholarship fund! You may have gained a fishbowl but you have lost your

moral compass. Shame on you and may the porcelain fall on your itchy fingers!

Evelyn Milardo  
Duxbury Consignment Shop

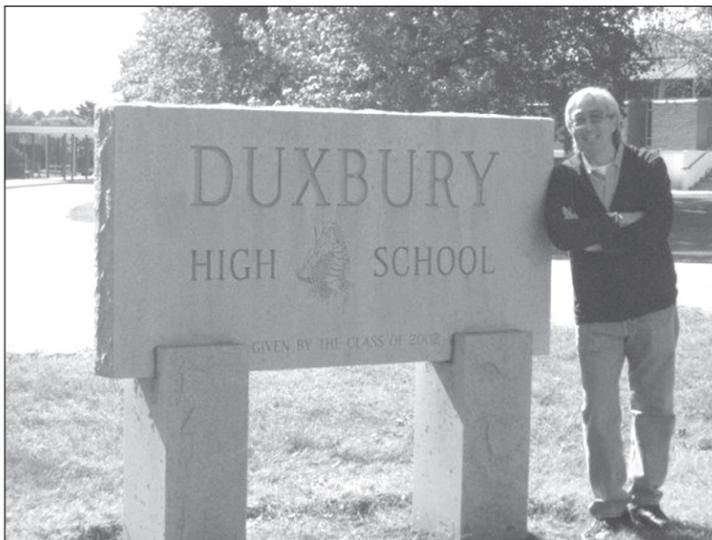
# Mexican exchange student visits town after 30 years

**J**ulio Enrique Patron Wong, from the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, returned to Duxbury after 30 years to attend the Duxbury High School Class of 1979 reunion on Oct. 3.

Wong and his girlfriend had plans to visit the area and upon doing some Internet research, realized his DHS class reunion would be coinciding with their trip.

Julio spent his senior year at DHS while living with the Landers family, then of Lover’s Lane.

While in Duxbury, Julio shared his trip down memory lane with his girlfriend, visiting the house he had lived in (the home’s new owner was gracious enough to allow the couple inside for a visit.) Duxbury High School, the Duxbury Free Library, Duxbury Pizza and the beach. They can’t wait to come back for another visit!



Former exchange student Julio Patron Wong spent his return trip visiting his former school, as well as his favorite spots around town!



# Duxbury’s early settlers – the project begins

BY LAMONT “MONTY” HEALY

**E**arlier this year people at the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society suggested that I might be able to help them show the locations of land grants made to the early Duxbury settlers. The intent is to learn more about our earliest European residents and our town’s place names. I’m a retired land surveyor with 50 years of experience and this seemed like the ideal project for my interests and skills.

The “official” property history of the town begins with the Plymouth Colony Second Land Grant of 1627, even though some people had settled here prior to that date. The Plymouth Colony First Land Division granted “1 acre garden lots” in and around Plymouth.

The Second Land Division was the 1627 Grant in which each person – man, woman and child – received 20 acres (a family of five, for example, would receive 100 acres). An attempt was made to provide each owner with five acres in breadth along the bay, and four acres in depth perpendicular to the shore, with increases in depth as required by the size of the family.

The people who laid out these properties, the “Layers Out,” were William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Howland, Francis Cooke, Joshua Pratt and Edward Bangs, the leading citizens of the town, possibly assisted by a surveyor. Each of these men received a peck of corn for every share they laid out. These men were given a great deal of latitude, as some properties had more water “frontage” and some had none, and their decisions were final. They were to skip over the poorer land (which became “Common Land”) and the properties were to be laid out prior to a “drawing of the lots.”

The Second Division started at the Eel River (Plymouth) and went north to Plymouth Center, skipping over the First Division and then continued north through what is now Kingston and then “around to the other side of the bay” (Duxbury.)

It should be noted that as of 2009, to the best of my knowledge, no plan or list of these settlers has been found. I believe such a list, or maybe even a plan, does exist in an attic, museum, church or other depository. In the meantime I hope to make use of a “full list of colonists in 1627” (published in *The Pilgrim Republic*, as well as other places) that lists all the families, their ages, the ships they arrived on and the date of their deaths. Possibly, we can match this list with the known settlers and their property and then work on the others that were left out.

Others have made efforts to define these properties (Henry A. Fish, Dorothy Wentworth, Edwin D. Johnson, the Westons, to name a few) and their work is invaluable to us. It should be noted that the “Duxborough” records, covering the period 1630-1665, kept by a clerk were lost or destroyed by fire. At this time this looks like a huge jig-saw puzzle, but by plotting out some of the critical deeds, I believe it can be solved.

To provide some insight into different approaches that we may use, in cases where we cannot find any evidence of the original grant, we may be able to use deeds to adjacent land grants to determine abutting owners or who the land was originally granted to. A parcel can also be defined by plotting out later deeds of portions of the property and then piecing them together.

In the course of completing this project, mistakes will be made, so any conflicting research that anyone can provide would add to a more accurate result. If you know something we don’t, please e-mail me at [monty15@msn.com](mailto:monty15@msn.com).

*Next time: The Governor Thomas Prence property around Soule Avenue, Landing Road, Pilgrim Road areas.*