



Newburyport and COVID-19: Share Your Story

In an effort to document the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the city of Newburyport, the Newburyport Public Library Archival Center and the First Religious Society Unitarian Universalist Church invite the Newburyport community, young and old, to share their experiences and impressions of how the coronavirus has affected their lives.

As we have all witnessed, the events surrounding COVID-19 are changing by the day. They are specific to us, our families, friends and communities. We are asking the community to help document this period in history, so it can be shared for generations to come.

There are two collection projects in progress:

1. **The NPL Archival Center COVID-19: Share Your Story Collection**

The NPL Archives staff and volunteers have been actively collecting material regarding the coronavirus since mid-March. These materials include official coronavirus updates, oral histories, personal narratives, signs, handmade masks and photographs. We welcome anything from the Newburyport community to help build this important collection.

2. **The First Religious Society COVID-19 Time Capsule of Memories and Hope**

This project aims to capture the personal stories and reflections of FRS members and friends during the time of COVID-19.

As described by Rev. Rebecca M. Bryan,

"We hope to provide our descendants with firsthand accounts that will help them understand and learn from this time in history. When stories are told, their meanings live on forever. We would like these stories to offer hope, insight and knowledge for those who are to come."

For a more a complete description of the FRS Time Capsule project, view the short video recording of the April 5th 2020 FRS service: <http://bit.ly/FRS-sermon-45> .

FAQs

What are you collecting?

We accept personal contributions in all forms.

Some examples: A diary, letter, paragraph, poem, interview, essay, or perhaps a drawing, painting or photograph. Audio and video files are also accepted. Some of our younger patrons have made “quaranzines,” which is a homemade magazine of thoughts, impressions and cartoons.

Where will this material be kept?

All material will be preserved in the NPL Archival Center and made accessible to researchers. The FRS Time Capsule project contributions will be added to the already existing FRS collection at the NPL Archives.

How do I donate?

The Newburyport Public Library Archives welcome your donation(s) in either digital or physical formats.

For submitting digital files:

1. Complete and submit the online Donation Form (link below and also on NPL website).
2. Send an email with your digital files attached to: sspieldenner@newburyportpl.org

If your submission is in a physical format (handwritten manuscript, printout, artwork, etc.):

1. Complete and submit the online Donation Form (link below and also on NPL website).
2. Either mail your donation directly to the address below, or drop it off at either the Patio Pick-Up area (corner of Harris and State Streets) or at the Circulation Desk in the main lobby.

Newburyport Public Library Archival Center
94 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
Attn: Sharon Spieldenner

Online Donation Form: <https://forms.gle/iU6AjVKtFNBG44tV8>

Any Questions? Please call: 978-465-4428 or Email: info@newburyportpl.org

Newburyport Public Library website: <https://www.newburyportpl.org/>