



THE VILLAGER

JUNE 2017 VOLUME V, NUMBER 2

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YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THAT JACK Gurnon will finally let someone chop off his 15-inch-long head of hair. You also probably know he agreed to do it only if he could raise \$1,000 an inch for Beacon Hill Village. "If I were his mother, it would have been gone a long time ago," said his friend Joan Doucette.



If you live on Beacon Hill, or for that matter anyplace in downtown Boston, you know that Jack's Charles St. Supply is one of the few independent hardware stores in the country. You figured out long ago that the store's wry employees can find almost anything you need tucked away behind a nook or a cranny or way up on the top shelf, reached only by ladder.

You know that Jack can copy a broken key, or if you are desperate, he can pick your lock. He can put out fires in cars, a trick he learned from his father, who had to do that many times. His staff know the people on the street and can tell if someone needs help. They also can identify shop lifters.

You know that Charles St. Supply is not just a hardware store. It is a community center. But you may not know its history.

Please continue to page 7. ►

BHV Visits McMullen Museum



BHV members Elsie Herrmann, Glenda Tall, Dorothy Leef, Barbara Lindeman, Mary Scudder, Carol Silverman, Ora Damon and Joan Bragen view the photos of Cuban artist Rafael Soriano at Boston College's McMullen Museum during their private tour in March.

BHV WELCOMES

BACK BAY

John Hare

BAY VILLAGE

Sheila Geoghegan

BEACON HILL

J.T. & Cheryl Aldridge
 Len & Suzann Buckle
 Aurora Canale
 Harron Ellenson & Roger Snow
 Melody Toorish

DOWNTOWN/WATERFONT

Nancy Vickers

SOUTH END

Maxine & Don Goldberg

Gawande, Rescheduled



ALL OF US WERE DISAPPOINTED when we had to cancel Atul Gawande's talk in February because the Boston Public Library shut its doors in the midst of a snow storm.

But the show will go on. Save Monday, September 25, for Dr. Gawande's talk *Being Mortal's Village: The Value of Community and Choice as We Grow Older*. WBUR's Robin Young will join Gawande in the discussion.

Village members who registered for the original February 13 event are asked to reconfirm or release their reservations. Anyone interested in attending

the 5 p.m. presentation in Rabb Hall at the Boston Public Library or the reception afterward at the Lenox Hotel may contact the BHV office to inquire about availability. ■

From the Executive Director

Dear BHV Members:

*“The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away.”*

While historians argue as to who authored the quote, the substance is what matters, and it is the substance of the quote that lies at the heart of Beacon Hill Village.

BHV was founded by a group of individuals who had spent their careers honing their skills and finding their gifts. And in coming together, they ended up giving away those gifts – their time and talents – to help themselves and their older friends and neighbors live vibrant, independent lives where and how they chose.

Volunteers are an important facet of the Village... whether helping another member, helping the organization, or helping the greater community. This year’s successful Creative Kitchens Tour is an example of how a group of nearly 80 volunteers used their gifts of time and talent not only to create an enjoyable community event, but also to raise funds that support our ability to be there for all people who wish to age well in their own homes and in our downtown community.

In the coming months, you will have an opportunity to tell us about the gifts that have emerged during your lifetime, and if and how you might be interested in sharing them with your fellow members and/or the Village.

We will invite you to complete a questionnaire, telling us what interests you and what skills and talents you have that you would be willing to share with the Beacon Hill Village community.

In the meantime, enjoy the coming of spring and the gifts of color and sunshine.

Warm regards, Laura Connors

2017 Kitchen Tour By the Numbers See page 6.



Members of 2017 Creative Kitchens Tour Committee, left to right: Sally Brewster, Aideen Jenkins, Atheline Nixon, Reese Berman, Judy Siegel, Marion Nierintz, Judy Fitzsimmons, Diana Crane, Amy Haskell and Frim Field. Missing from photo: Barbara Bayliss, Rachel Claffin, Elizabeth Cook, Joanne Cooper, Susan Cox, Barbara Lindeman, and Ken Scott.

A Q&A with Our Intern, Lauren St. Pierre



Lauren St. Pierre (right) meets with Ken Scott and Atheline Nixon to discuss strategies for gathering BHV members’ interests and talents.

LAUREN, WHO WILL RECEIVE HER master’s degree in social work from Boston College this spring, has been an intern at Beacon Hill Village three days a week since last November. We interviewed her to find out how her internship unfolded.

BHV: Why did you want to work with older adults?

Lauren: I grew up with many older adults in my life. Those relationships gave me an appreciation for different parts of a life span that kids usually don’t think about.

It was my interest in advocacy and social justice that drew me to social work. I majored in psychology and legal studies, but as I coordinated older adult services when I was in college at UMass Amherst, I realized I wanted to do social work, not law.

BHV: What was your job at BHV?

Lauren: I worked primarily with the member engagement task force. We are working on an initiative to make sure members are as engaged as they want to be. Soon we will be taking an inventory of interests and talents that members bring to the Village. I’ve worked primarily with Ken Scott, Madge Sargent, and Atheline Nixon on this project and with Murray Frank on others.

BHV: What stood out for you in working with BH Villagers?

Lauren: BHV members have endless energy and curiosity. And they are consciously building this intentional community and are willing to put the time in to do that. It takes lots of work.

BHV: What did you learn through your internship?

Lauren: I have had the opportunity to experience the importance of being an expert in our own lives as we age. I learned to make sure efforts are driven from what members see as important, not what I might assume was important.

I have gained a lot from collaborating with both staff and members on projects. I feel lucky to have had this experience for most of this year.

BHV: What will your next step be?

Lauren: I am relocating to DC and looking for work in aging policy. In ten years I want to be in a leadership position to advocate for public policy that promotes the well-being of older adults and caregivers. ■

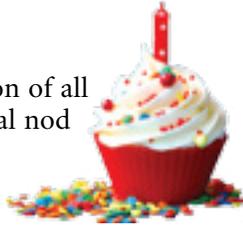
JUNE 2017 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Programs are one of the benefits of membership in Beacon Hill Village. Selected programs are open to guests of members, to prospective members who may be interested in joining the Village and to members of the public. Members have priority when registering for programs that have space limitations. BHV reserves the right to limit the number of programs that prospective members may attend. A reservation is required for all programs unless otherwise noted in the program description. Refunds will be made for cancellations received at least one week prior to an event unless tickets have been pre-purchased or non-refundable payments have been made and we are unable to fill your spot.

Wednesday, May 31 2:30 - 4 p.m.

All Member Birthday Party

Please join us for our annual celebration of all BHV members' birthdays, with a special nod to the nonagenarians (90+) among us. Refreshments will be served. *Meet at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street. Weather permitting, the party will be held in the Parish House garden. BHV members and their guests. Free.*



Monday, June 5 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Conversations with... Professor Claudia Olivetti



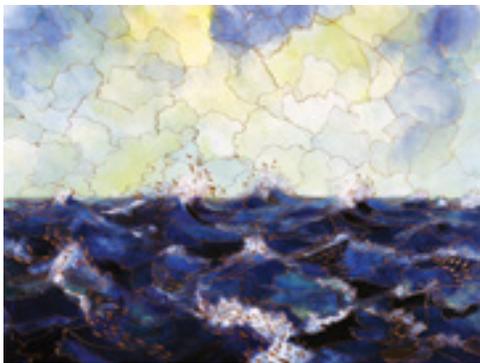
Much of what we hear these days in the media about income equality concerns men. Claudia Olivetti, Professor of Economics at Boston College, talks about her research on women in the labor forces of rich countries, and how differing government policies in areas like family leave affect the employment of women, their earnings, and even their fertility. Professor Olivetti brings deep historical knowl-

edge to the discussion of this very timely issue. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages at 5:30 p.m.; program at 6 p.m. *Meet at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street. BHV/BHS members: Free. Guests of members: \$20.*

Tuesday, June 6 10:45 a.m. tour

New England on Paper: Contemporary Art at the Boston Athenaeum

Showcasing contemporary prints, drawings, and photographs from the Prints & Photographs Department, the objects in this exhibition demonstrate the wide variety of artistic responses (representational and abstract) to the urban, rural, and community life of New England. Those who wish may stay for the noon Nietzsche lecture (see next entry). *Meet at the Boston Athenaeum, 10 1/2 Beacon Street, at 10:35 a.m. for 10:45 a.m. tour. BHV members, their guests and prospective members: \$5. Members of the Athenaeum: Free.*



Tuesday, June 6 noon - 1 p.m.

Boston Athenaeum Lecture and Lunch

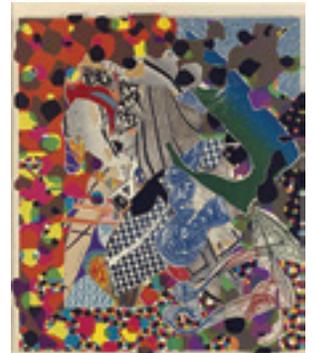
Nietzsche: Philosopher of Lightness and Dynamite

Few, if any, other contemporary philosophers have achieved a level of influence to rival that of Nietzsche. In this lecture, Christopher Hamilton will trace the outlines of Nietzsche's thought, exploring his most famous theories – eternal recurrence, the *Übermensch*, slave revolt in morality, and the death of God – revealing a thinker of immense generosity and subtlety, full of lightness and mischief. Hamilton is a senior lecturer in philosophy of religion at King's College London. Lunch at Carrie Nation. *Meet at the Boston Athenaeum, 10 1/2 Beacon Street at 11:45 a.m. for the noon lecture. Seats are not reserved. BHV members and their guests. Free.*

Friday, June 9 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Addison Gallery of American Art

Frank Stella Prints, the artist's first major print retrospective since 1982, will be on display during our visit to the Addison Gallery in Andover, home to one of the most important collections of American art in the country. The exhibition of 100 prints offers a view of Stella's stylistic evolution – a series of reinventions from the minimalist geometric abstraction of his early years to the baroque exuberance of his later gestural work. Also on view during our visit is *Respect Existence or Expect Resistance: Civil Rights Era Photographs from the Collection*, 38 photographs that attest to the important role that photography played in the Civil Rights movement. Lunch at the Andover Inn (pay individually). *Van departs Café Tatte, 70 Charles Street, at 9:30 a.m., and Starbucks, 165 Newbury Street (between Dartmouth and Exeter), at 9:35 a.m. BHV members: \$30. Guests of members and prospective members: \$40. Price includes van transportation and tour of the Gallery.*



Monday, June 12 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Group: Ma Maison

High profile Chef Jacky Robert's sophisticated restaurant remains faithful to the classics of French cuisine with unexpected interpretations of favorite recipes. *Meet at 272 Cambridge Street. BHV members and their guests. Pay individually.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
Notes			All Member Birthday Party (2:30-4)  May 31	Meditation (8:30) Men's First Drink (4:00)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Tai Chi (noon-1)	MEN'S FIRST DRINK Join the men of Beacon Hill Village for a late afternoon drink as they continue their exploration of Boston's watering holes. Men's First Drink meets on the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. Contact BHV member Roger Cox (rhcox1@comcast.net) for the location and to be added to Roger's email distribution list. BHV members and their guests. BOOK GROUP BHV members meet on the third Tues. of each month from 3 - 4:30 p.m. at 74 Joy Street, first floor conference room, to discuss a book previously selected by the group. Members take turns facilitating the discussion. Contact Reese Berman (reeseberman@verizon.net) if interested in joining this group.						
	Meditation (8:45) Calendar Mailing (10:30) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon) Conversations with... Prof. Claudia Olivetti (5:30-7)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (10-11) New England on Paper: Contemporary Art (10:45-11:45) Lecture: Nietzsche (noon-1) and lunch Terrific Tuesdays (4:00)	Market Basket (10:00) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon) Trader Joe's (noon) Knit & Stitch (1-3)	Meditation (8:30)	Addison Gallery of Art (9:30-2) Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Taxi Coupons (11-noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Tai Chi (noon-1)							
	5	6	7	8	9							
	Meditation (8:45) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon) Lunch Group: Ma Maison (12:30)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)	Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon) Wellness: Oral Health (2-3)	Meditation (8:30) River House Cocktail Party (5:30-7)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Tai Chi (noon-1)	12	13	14	15	16		
History & Landscape of the Fens Walking Tour (12:30-2:30)	Meditation (8:45) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (10-11) Book Group (3-4:30)	Trader Joe's (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon) Knit & Stitch (1-3)	Meditation (8:30) The Royall House & Slave Quarters (10-12:30)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Tai Chi (noon-1)	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Meditation (8:45) Candlepin Bowling (10:30-1:30) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (cancelled)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)	Total Fitness w/Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon) deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum (9:30-2)	Meditation (8:30) Yelp & Open Table 101 (10:30-noon)	Grocery Shop (10 & noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy - Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Tai Chi (noon-1)	26	27	28	29	30	KNIT & STITCH BHV members meet twice a month to knit, crochet, embroider or do other stitch work. In June, the group will meet on Thursday, June 7 and 21, from 1-3 p.m., at the home of Fran Goldberg in the Back Bay. Contact Diana Crane (dscrane565@comcast.net) if interested in attending and to be added to Diana's email distribution list. MEDITATION Meets every Monday at 8:45 a.m. and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. (except as otherwise noted on the calendar) at the Beacon Hill home of BHV member Susan Cox. Contact Susan (ssn.cox@gmail.com) for more information. BHV members only.	

GROCERY SHOPPING TRIPS Door-to-door transportation to Stop & Shop in Somerville every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and noon and Friday at 10 a.m. and to Stop & Shop in Mission Hill every Friday at noon. A driver will help carry your groceries. BHV members only: \$10.

TAXI COUPONS Come to the BHV office on Friday, June 9, between 11 and noon, to pick up your taxi coupons at this monthly distribution. Pay \$5 for a \$10 coupon book; maximum of two books per person, per month. BHV members only. 74 Joy Street, third floor.

TRIP TO MARKET BASKET Door-to-door transportation to Market Basket in Chelsea on Wednesday, June 7 at 10 a.m. A driver will help carry your groceries. Space is limited. BHV members only: \$10.

TRIPS TO TRADER JOE'S Door-to-door transportation to Trader Joe's in Cambridge on Wednesday, June 7 at noon, and Wednesday, June 21, at 10 a.m. and noon. A driver will help carry your groceries. Space is limited. BHV members only: \$10.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS Terrific Tuesdays meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. at 75 Chestnut Street to discuss and plan outings related to the arts. The group often stays for dinner after the meeting. Contact Roberta Meyers (bonmarchebabes12000@yahoo.com) for more information and to be added to Roberta's email distribution list. All BHV members welcome. Registration not required.

HEALTH & WELLNESS:
Beacon Hill Athletic Club (\$5/class)
North Station, 261 Friend Street
 Aerial Conditioning (Fri at 8:30)
North End, 85 Atlantic Avenue
 Total Body Strength (Mon. at 8:30 & Fri. at 8:15)
 Muscle (Wed. at 9:15 & Thurs. at 8:30)
 Stretching (Thurs. at 9:30)
 Rejuvenating Yoga (Tues. & Thurs. at noon)
 Restorative Yoga (Wed. at noon)
 Gentle Yoga (Fri. at 9:15)
Beacon Hill, 3 Hancock Street
 Senior Conditioning (Mon. & Thurs. at 10)

Total Fitness w/Cindy Sullivan - Beacon Hill: Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street, Mon. & Wed., 11 a.m. - noon. \$5 for BHV members
Total Fitness w/Cindy Sullivan - Back Bay: First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street (at the corner of Berkeley). Tues., 10 - 11 a.m. and Fri., 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. \$5 for BHV members. Call the BHV office for more information. Registration not required.
Tai Chi w/Joshua Grant: Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street, noon-1. \$200 for BHV members for 10-session class. Individual classes: \$25/class. Contact Joshua (gulong16@gmail.com) for more information.

Wednesday, June 14 2 - 3 p.m.

Wellness: Oral Health

A recognized speaker and advocate for older adult oral health, Leonard Brennan, DMD, will talk about all things dental: oral disease, dental aging, oral procedures and recommendations, and the relationship between oral health and pneumonia. He'll also give tips on how to keep your oral cavity in good health. Dr. Brennan has been practicing medicine for over 30 years in Portland, Maine, and is the co-director of the Harvard University's Dental Geriatric Fellowship Program. *Meet at Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street. BHV members only. Free.*

Thursday, June 15 5:30 - 7 p.m.

River House Cocktail Party



What better way to spend a June evening than on the rooftop of River House. Bring a finger-friendly hors d'oeuvre or bottle of wine or other beverage and enjoy the company of your friends and neighbors at Beacon

Hill Village. *Meet at River House, 145 Pinckney Street. BHV members and their guests: \$5 (to cover the cost of rooftop rental).*

Sunday, June 18 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

History and Landscape of the Fens

Join the Emerald Necklace Conservancy on a public guided walking tour of the Back Bay Fens portion of the Emerald Necklace. Hear the story of how Frederick Law Olmsted transformed an area of polluted waterways and mudflats into a scenic fens and the later 20th century revisions that resulted in the landscape we see today. The tour will explore the 500-plot Victory Gardens, Japanese Bell, and the James P. Kelleher Rose Garden. *Meet in front of Au Bon Pain, 369 Huntington Avenue, at 12:30 p.m., for the short walk to the Visitors Center, 125 Forsyth Way. Tour begins at 1 p.m. Closest T Station is Northeastern on the "E" Green Line. Free.*

Thursday, June 22 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Royall House & Slave Quarters



Home to the largest slaveholding family in Massachusetts and the enslaved Africans who made their lavish way of life possible in the eighteenth century, the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford is now a museum whose architecture, household items, archaeological artifacts, and programs bear witness to intertwined stories of wealth and bondage. *Van departs Café Tatte, 70 Charles Street, at 10 a.m., and*

Starbucks, 165 Newbury Street (between Dartmouth and Exeter), at 10:05 a.m. BHV members: \$30. Guests of members and prospective members: \$40. Price includes van transportation and admission to and tour of the Museum.

Saturday, June 24 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Newport Flower Show

The theme of this year's annual flower show, held on the historic grounds of Rosecliff Mansion, is *Fête Des Fleurs: Paintings and Parterres*, showcasing the French influence in garden design. Enjoy judged horticultural specimens and floral designs, special garden exhibitions, free lectures and demonstrations, and shopping at the Oceanside Boutiques and Gardeners' Marketplace. *Van departs Café Tatte, 70 Charles Street, at 10 a.m., and Starbucks, 165 Newbury Street (between Dartmouth and Exeter), at 10:05 a.m. BHV members: \$75. Guests of members and prospective members: \$85. Price includes van transportation and admission to the flower show. Lunch is on your own.*

Monday, June 26 10:30 - 1:30

Candlepin Bowling

Join BHV members for candlepin bowling at Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square, Somerville. Lunch at the Flatbread Company. Cost for bowling approximately \$10. *Meet at the turnstiles at Charles/MGH at 10:30 a.m. BHV members and their guests.*

Wednesday, June 28 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum

Expanding Abstraction: New England Women Painters, 1950 to Now, showcases the work of women painters with strong connections to the region. Despite their relative exclusion from mainstream and male-dominated conversations on postwar abstraction, these artists have made significant contributions to



the field. Lunch on the Museum's patio, with time to explore the outdoor sculptures and visit the gift shop. *Van departs Café Tatte, 70 Charles Street, at 10 a.m., and Starbucks, 165 Newbury Street (between Dartmouth and Exeter), at 10:05 a.m. BHV members: \$55. Guests of members and prospective members: \$65. Price includes van transportation, admission to and tour of the Museum, and lunch.*

Thursday, June 29 10:30 a.m. - noon

Yelp and Open Table 101

Join BHV Office Administrator Angelina McCoy for a *Yelp* and *Open Table* tutorial. Learn how to search *Yelp* for rated restaurants and businesses, see reviews and photos, and even write your own reviews. Discover how to use *Open Table* to make reservations at restaurants, earn points towards dining checks, and explore restaurants by cuisine all over the U.S. If you don't already have the *Yelp* and *Open Table* apps downloaded on your smartphone, Angelina will help you do that. *Yelp* and *Open Table* are also desktop-friendly. *BHV members only. Free.*

ENCORE!

BY DEBORAH DROSNIN

ENGAGING PEOPLE IN LATER LIFE as a vital source of talent to benefit society is the goal of Encore.org, a national organization founded in 1998 by social entrepreneur, thought leader and writer Marc Freedman. In his most recent book, *The Big Shift: Navigating the New Stage Beyond Midlife*, Freedman issues a call to “accept the decades opening up between midlife and anything approximating old age for what they really are: a new stage of life, an encore phase.”

Mr. Freedman coined the term “encore careers” in *Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life*, named one of 2007’s five best “guides to help people prepare for and enjoy life in their 50s and beyond.”

BHV members and staff recently met with two Encore Fellows to learn about volunteer and stipended opportunities in Boston through *Generation to Generation*, a recently launched national campaign whose goal is to connect adults 50+ with youth organizations to help young people thrive.

Among the seven youth organizations partnering with *Generation to Generation* in Boston is 826 Boston, a non-profit youth writing and publishing organization in three Boston public schools. This program empowers traditionally underserved students ages 6-18 to find their voices, tell their stories, and gain communication skills to succeed in school and in life. 826 Boston provides after-school tutoring, field trips, creative writing workshops, in-school tutoring, help for English Language Learners, and in-depth publishing projects, and is looking for older adults to help out.

Another *Generations to Generations* volunteer opportunity is available through Generations Incorporated, which needs literacy volunteers in partner schools and after school programs in low-income communities.

The two Encore Fellows who met with BHV are part of the Encore Fellowships Network, which has matched hundreds of fellows in time-limited paid positions in Boston and other cities to create a bridge for private sector professionals to transition into new high-impact roles in social purpose organizations. Opportunities to become an Encore Fellow are available.

In addition, each year Encore.org showcases exceptional social innovators over the age of 60 through its Purpose Prize award. “We wanted to find individuals who had discovered an innovative approach to an important social problem,” said Jim Emerson, EVP of Encore.org. BHV Founder Susan McWhinney-Morse was named a Purpose Prize Fellow in 2008. ■

2017 Kitchen Tour By the Numbers



8th of April

4th Annual Tour and the **4th** year Tom Kershaw has hosted a pre-tour luncheon and post-tour reception at the Hampshire House

8 kitchens – 7 on Beacon Hill and 1 in the Back Bay - depicted in charming drawings by Susan Cox

80+ volunteers

350 ticket-holders

2 shuttle vans

4 Grand Drawing prizes won by
Tom Clafin
Laura Derderian
Joanne Legge
Anne Van Nostrand



Anne Van Nostrand and Joanne Legge

93 sponsors,
donors and advertisers

\$45,000+ in funds raised

17 dedicated committee members:

Co-chairs Reese Berman & Aideen Jenkins, Barbara Bayliss, Sally Brewster, Rachel Clafin, Elizabeth Cook, Joanne Cooper, Susan Cox, Diana Crane, Frim Field, Judy Fitzsimmons, Amy Haskell, Barbara Lindeman, Marion Nierintz, Atheline Nixon, Ken Scott and Judy Siegel

IN MEMORIAM Richard O'Brien Louise Stulb

I Am A Teacher

BY SYLVIA BLUMENTHAL

THESE WORDS WERE SPOKEN WITH much conviction by Beacon Hill Village member Diana Crane as she remembered a statement made by her mother more than 50 years ago: “You should be a teacher.” It took moving to a couple of states and having other jobs before she followed her mother’s advice.

Diana lives in a brilliantly lit condo on Beacon Hill. She has a magnificent view of roof-tops from a small balcony.

Diana was born in New York City and says she is a city girl. She left for boarding school in Connecticut and for Bennett College in upstate New York where she was a theatre major. She moved even farther away from the big city to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she finished her degree at Coe College. Diana thinks back to those years in Cedar Rapids. “It was all so flat and covered by big farms.”

New York pulled her back to the East Coast. After college, Diana began work in the photography division at Time, Inc. and lived on New York City’s east side. Shortly thereafter, she met the man who would become her husband. He was an usher at a wedding where she was a bridesmaid. He was an avid skier and took a job in New Hampshire’s Waterville Valley where he started the ski racing program. So she left her job and moved with him, giving birth to their son in 1973.

Diana stayed in New Hampshire from 1970 to 2004. She and her husband parted ways when he moved to the West Coast, and she stayed in the east. She got a management degree from Antioch’s New England Graduate School and worked in several non-profit organizations, including the YWCA in Manchester, where she was the executive director.

Her life as a teacher began at an adult education center teaching English to immigrants and refugees. She realized

how much she loved teaching and decided to do it for the rest of her life. She enrolled in the Graduate School of International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, getting a master’s in education, and completed her student teaching in Mexico living with a local family. She then returned to New Hampshire. During all these years she kept looking toward Boston, feeling she belonged in a big city.



Diana Crane

Finally, in 2004 Diana moved to Boston and began working at Massachusetts General Hospital teaching English to service employees. This led to more teaching opportunities at the Longwood hospitals and the Irish International Immigrant Center. She helped design a curriculum for students preparing to take the citizenship exam, a course she still teaches as a volunteer. She retired in 2014, but has continued a busy life, traveling and taking advantage of all that Boston offers in arts. Even more importantly, she wanted time to focus on her two young grandchildren.

She keeps her New Hampshire connection by spending time in the family’s Squam Lake home. Many of her activities are with Beacon Hill Village and with her BHV friends. She now delights in telling her son that she can’t babysit because she’s signed up for a BHV activity. ■

THE BIG CHOP continued from page 1

In the 1940s, Ralph Block, also known as Jack, started a hardware store at 89 Charles Street, where Artu restaurant is now. Then he relocated to 43 Charles Street, now Toscano. (The street numbering was slightly different then.)

Dick Gurnon, Jack’s father, went to work for the first Jack in 1948 and ended up buying the store in 1952.

All went well until a late spring night in 1963 when Dick got a call at home in Danvers. “Your store is on fire,” said the caller.

By the time Dick arrived, he had lost everything. Except friends.

A Louisburg Square resident called him, invited him for coffee and asked, “How much do you need to rebuild?”

Dick named a figure. The neighbor wrote a check. No lawyer, no contract, no questions. Dick would pay it back whenever he was able. He opened three months later at 54 Charles Street and has been there ever since. Jack sold items rescued from the fire in their Danvers yard.

Dick passed the store on to Jack in the 1990s. Meg, Jack’s sister, worked there for many years, and Jack’s wife, Cassie, is responsible for the clever window displays. Jack and Cassie have lived above the store for many years. The neighborhood watched their twin girls, Emilie and Sarah, now in college, grow up.

Jack and his staff can solve almost any problem, from helping you find the right tool to recommending a plumber or a mason. The Gurnons and their store are essential to this neighborhood, and once again they are proving it. ■

The “Big Chop” Live Event

Saturday, May 6 • 11:00 a.m.

Charles Street Supply • 54 Charles Street

Donate to help **chop the mop** and restore Jack to his tidy self by visiting www.beaconhillvillage.org or www.youcaring.com/thebigchop



**BEACON HILL
VILLAGE**

74 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02114

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 56848

THE VILLAGER

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www.beaconhillvillage.org

THE VILLAGER *design by Joanne Legge*

A Passover Celebration



Beacon Hill Village members, their guests and staff – of all faiths – once again joined together for a Passover Seder at the Women’s Lunch Place, led by BHV member Murray Frank. The Seder is just one example of how Beacon Hill Village helps create community by bringing people together, whether for social, educational or cultural programs and events. The meal was served buffet style, with all of the food contributed by the more than 45 people in attendance. Thanks to WLP Executive Director Elizabeth Keeley, the Women’s Lunch Place offered BHV the use of their space without charge, and our members repaid that generosity by contributing more than \$650 to the WLP. Shown in photos clockwise from upper left: Fran and Michael Goldberg; Janice Ruell, Marcia & Steve Rothenberg, and Joan Doucette; Murray Frank; Mary Hirsch and John Stanton; Carol Silverman.