



THE VILLAGER

MARCH 2018 VOLUME VI, NUMBER 1

A Book to Provoke Discussion

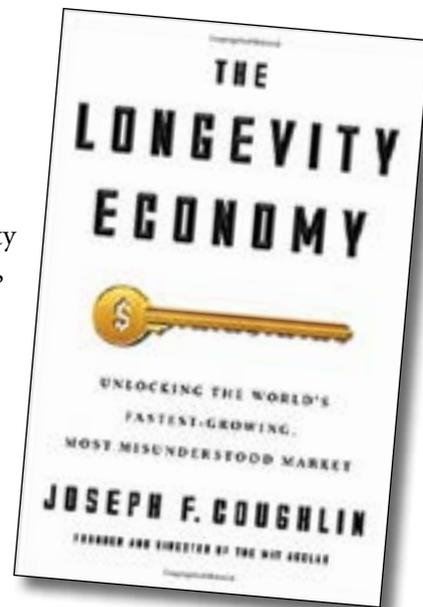
BY KAREN CORD TAYLOR

“EACH OF US WILL GROW OLD — IF WE’RE LUCKY.” That sentence in *The Longevity Economy*, a provocative book by Joseph F. Coughlin, director of MIT’s AgeLab, is not a common view. Most regard aging as a crisis, not as an opportunity or luck. Coughlin focuses on such attitudes and how they hold back our economy, products and culture.

Old people’s numbers are growing dramatically in the world’s wealthy nations. Society may not be ready for this onslaught. His concerns are worth considering, not only for business executives at which the book is aimed, but also among Beacon Hill Villagers, who will find his notions interesting to discuss.

People 50 and over account for 83 percent of the household wealth in the US. Nevertheless, industries see younger people as their markets, unless they are advertising pills to a stereotypically frailer population.

But there is good news, says Coughlin. Outmoded attitudes and practices will change, and members of Beacon Hill Village are both causing and benefiting from this transformation. There are “heightened expectations” for a better old age.



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The (Free) Places We’ve Been

BY DEBORAH DROSNIN



IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY (see *The Villager*, March 2017) we wrote about some of the many places BHV members have traveled together, both near and far. This time, we’re taking a look at some of the free things we’ve done as a group, all of which are accessible by public transportation.

In the music arena, First Monday at Jordan Hall, where New England Conservatory faculty and alums perform free chamber music concerts in the acoustically astounding Jordan Hall, is top on the list. BHV makes an evening of these concerts, with members gathering for dinner at an area restaurant before heading over

to Jordan Hall to claim the seats that have been reserved for our group.

Then there are the early afternoon chamber music concerts performed by members of the BSO at the Fenway Center and the noon Bach concerts at Emmanuel Church, many of which BHV members have attended, as a group.

Even more special are the private chamber music concerts performed by students at the Boston Conservatory in the homes of BHV members. These Music Salons have been wildly popular, each one filled to capacity. Thanks to BHV member Jean Pilcher for connecting the Village with the Conservatory, and to Hal Carroll and Amy Ryan for hosting the first Salon, and to Barbara and Steve Roop the second (pictured above, left). We know we’ll hold more of these.

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From the Executive Director

Dear BHV Members:

SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATIONS run on social capital. On that measure alone, Beacon Hill Village gets an A+. In the context of the Village, social capital means members helping each other, trusting each other and working together. These relationships – among members and between members and staff – and our shared value of interdependence, enable us as a Village to work together to achieve our goal of living vibrant, active and healthy lives as we grow older in the homes and neighborhoods that we love.

This edition of the Villager is filled with examples of social capital at work within our Village: a long-time friendship between two Village members that played a vital role during an unexpected medical emergency; a friendship between new BHV members created around shared experiences and interests; and support provided by a group of member and non-member volunteers for the challenges often presented by technology.



Members of the Member Engagement Task Force review *Interest and Talent Profiles* to match members with activities in which they expressed interest. From the left: BHV members Atheline Nixon, Madge Sargent and Ken Scott, social work intern Allie Hesketh and BHV staff member Patricia Butler

In June of last year, the BHV Member Engagement Task force invited members to let us know about interests, experience, skills and talents that they might be willing to share with the Village and each other. If you have not yet returned an *Interest and Talent Profile*, we encourage you to do so. (If you need another questionnaire, please contact the office.) Completing the profile is optional, but the more we know about our members' interests and talents, the better our ability to build the social capital that is so important to the success of Beacon Hill Village.

Warm regards,
Laura Connors

An Open Letter to the Village

FROM BHV MEMBER NANCY MACMILLAN

WE'VE ALL HEARD THAT IT takes a village to raise a child. Sometimes, it takes a village to save a life.

On January 1, 2017 – a Sunday – a Village member and dear friend, Dorothy Leef, became worried when I didn't show up for a concert she and I were scheduled to attend. She called BHV Executive Director Laura Connors, who was in Maine, on her cell phone. Although not in the office, Laura was able to access the Village database via the Internet and called my daughter, who was listed as my emergency contact. Unable to reach her immediately, Laura tracked me down at Mass General and, when my daughter returned her call, Laura was able to tell her where I was. MGH, with a couple of rehabs, was my "home" for the next six months. During my hospital stays, Beacon Hill Village staff, members, volunteers, and friends gave me and my family both practical support, ranging from collecting my mail to finding help in preparation for my homecoming, and emotional comfort, all delivered with kindness, compassion, imagination, and enthusiasm. Without the institutional and individual support of the Village, I wouldn't be here to write this note of heartfelt thanks.

I joined the Village some years ago because I wanted it to be a thriving organization when I needed it. No investment has ever given me a more generous return! ■



Nancy Macmillan (left) and Dorothy Leef enjoying lunch at Ma Maison on Beacon Hill



From the left, BHV member techies Stan Berman, Tom Keyes and Tom Kwei.

Tech Stuff

BY DEBORAH DROSNIN

WHEN IT WORKS, IT'S GREAT. When it doesn't, there's no greater frustration. You open your computer to read the *Boston Globe* along with your morning coffee but you get that nasty "no internet connection" message on your computer screen. Or

you really need to print an article for your writing class but your printer is no longer "speaking" to your computer.

Alternatively, everything is working, but you want to learn how to do new "stuff," such as download podcasts or use your smartphone to get driving directions or send an attachment by email. Or maybe you want to purchase a book to read on your Kindle or iPad or get a cordless phone so that you don't have to race across your apartment when you get a call. There's help for you!

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BEACON HILL VILLAGE MARCH 2018 CALENDAR

A reservation is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. 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.

Thursday, March 1 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Pruning Possessions

If you're like most of us, you have too much stuff but don't know what to do with the things you no longer need or want. A few years ago, BHV members put together an info sheet with suggestions on where to donate, where to sell, or how to just get rid of things. That handout, *Pruning Possessions*, is available on request, but needs an update and more ideas. Join Betsy Peterson and other BHV members to share ideas and information and to pick up tips from others. *Meet at Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street. BHV members only. Free.*

Monday, March 5 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Wine & Cheese Tasting/Class

Three wines, three cheeses. Join us for a private one-hour interactive class for wine lovers who want to get a good grounding in how to taste local wine, understand wine in general, and be more confident in purchasing. The wine expert from Massachusetts Wine Shop will discuss the different local vineyards in New England and share tips for buying, ordering or serving local wine. Each wine will be paired with a local cheese from Appleton Farms Cheese Shop. *Rescheduled from January 22. Meet in The KITCHEN at the Boston Public Market (corner Sudbury and Congress). BHV members, their guests and prospective members: \$30.*

Thursday, March 8 and 29 10 a.m. - noon

Embroidery with Randy

BHV member Randy Comfort has generously offered to teach BHV members the art of embroidering and to provide the materials necessary to get you started. Members already working on a project are also welcome. Sign up for one or both sessions. *Meet at Randy's home, in Chinatown. BHV members and their guests. Free.*



Thursday, March 8 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tech Help: Apple Devices Only

BHV member Tom Keyes will hold 45-minute one-on-one tutorials with BHV members to help them become more proficient with their Apple devices. *Meet Tom at the Newsfeed Café in the Johnson Building of the Boston Public Library. BHV members only. Free.*

Thursday, March 8 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Travel Group: Portugal and the Pyrenees



Elaine & Charley Davidson traveled with Road Scholar to Portugal, where they visited local wineries, ancient villages, Gothic cathedrals and UNESCO World Heritage Sites; and through the Pyrenees, visiting medieval villages and picturesque vineyards. Experience their journeys through Charley's photos. *Meet at Joan Doucette's and Harry Fisher's home, 72 Mt. Vernon Street. BHV members only. Free.*

Saturday, March 10 9:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Peabody Essex Museum- Georgia O'Keeffe

Join Joan Doucette on the commuter rail from North Station to Salem to see the exhibit *Georgia O'Keeffe: Art, Image, Style* at the Peabody Essex Museum. Self-guided. *Meet at the ticket booth at the North Station Commuter Rail Station (inside TD Garden) at 9:10 a.m. for the 9:30 a.m. train. Round-trip senior fare is \$7.50. Museum admission is \$18 (seniors). Return on the 1:24 p.m. train. BHV members and their guests.*

Tuesday, March 13 12:30 p.m.

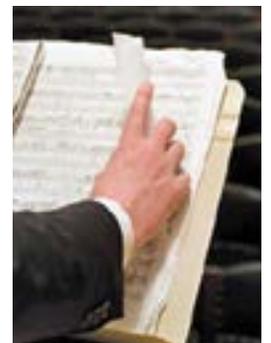
Lunch Group: Davio's

A northern Italian steakhouse that serves simple regional Italian food, including paninis, pizzas, pasta and fish, and a three-course power lunch for \$25. *Meet at 75 Arlington Street. BHV members and their guests. Pay individually.*

Wednesday, March 14 5:30 - 7 p.m.

BSO 101: Leonard Bernstein as Symphonist

This free adult education program at Symphony Hall is designed to enhance listening ability and appreciation of music. The BSO Director of Program Publications and a BSO member will talk about upcoming performances of Bernstein symphonies. A free tour of Symphony Hall is offered afterwards. *Meet in the lobby of Symphony Hall at 5:15 p.m. BHV members and their guests. Free.*



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>BOOK GROUP BHV members meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 2-3:15 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. <i>Closed.</i> Contact the BHV office if you are interested in joining a new book group.</p>	<p>KNIT & STITCH BHV members generally meet twice a month to knit, crochet, embroider or do other stitch work. In March, the group will meet at the Beacon Hill home of Joan Doucette, on Wednesday, March 14 and 28, from 3-5 p.m. Contact Diana Crane (dscrane565@comcast.net) if interested and to be added to Diana's email distribution list.</p>			<p>Meditation (8:30) Pruning Possessions (2-3:30) Men's First Drink (4:00)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (11:45-12:45)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	
	<p>Meditation (8:45) Calendar Mailing (10:30) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) Wine & Cheese Tasting (5-6:30)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (10-11) Terrific Tuesdays (4:00)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>Trader Joe's (10:00) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) Market Basket (noon)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>Meditation (8:30) Embroidery with Randy (10-noon) Tech Help (11-2) Travel Group: Portugal and the Pyrenees (5-6:30)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Taxi Coupons (11-noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (11:45-12:45)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>Peabody Essex Museum by Train with Joan (9:15-2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>
<p>Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. (set clocks ahead one hour Saturday night)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>Meditation (8:45) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (10-11) Lunch Group: Davio's (12:30)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) Knit & Stitch (3-5) BSO 101: Leonard Bernstein as Symphonist (5:30-7)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>Meditation (8:30) IKEA (9:30-2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (11:45-12:45) BSO Fenway Concert (1:30 concert; lunch at noon)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>St. Patrick's Day</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>
<p>MEDITATION Meets every Monday at 8:45 a.m. and Thursday at 8:30 a.m., except as otherwise indicated, at the Beacon Hill home of BHV member Susan Cox. Contact Susan (ssn.cox@gmail.com) for more information.</p>	<p>Meditation (8:45) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) MIT Museum (10:30-noon) plus lunch</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (10-11) Bowling (10:30) Book Group (2-3:15)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) Trader Joe's (10 and noon)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>Meditation (8:30) National Braille Press (10:30-11:30) plus lunch</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Tech Help 2 (2-5)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>
<p>Palm Sunday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>Meditation (8:45) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) Conversations with... Robert Mannino (5:30-7)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (10-11) North Bennet Street School (10:30-11:30) plus lunch</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>Total Fitness w/Cindy – Beacon Hill (11-noon) Knit & Stitch (3-5)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p>Meditation (8:30) Embroidery with Randy (10-noon)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>Grocery Shop (10 and noon) Total Fitness w/Cindy – Back Bay (11:45-12:45) Good Friday First Night of Passover</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>Second Night of Passover</p> <p style="text-align: right;">31</p>
<p>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 Brigham Circle every Friday at noon. A driver will help carry your groceries. BHV members only: \$10</p> <p>TAXI COUPONS Come to the BHV office on Friday, March 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>TRIP TO MARKET BASKET Door-to-door transportation to Market Basket in Chelsea on Wednesday, February 7, at 10 a.m. A driver will help carry your groceries. Space is limited. BHV members only: \$10.</p> <p>TRIPS TO TRADER JOE'S Door-to-door transportation to Trader Joe's in Assembly Row in Somerville on Wednesday, March 7, at 10 a.m., and Wednesday, March 21, at 10 a.m. and noon. A driver will help carry your groceries. Space is limited. BHV members only: \$10.</p>						
<p>HEALTH & WELLNESS: Beacon Hill Athletic Club (\$5/class) <i>North Station, 261 Friend Street</i> Aerial Conditioning (Fri at 8:30) <i>North End, 85 Atlantic Avenue</i> 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) <i>Beacon Hill, 3 Hancock Street</i> Senior Conditioning (Mon. & Thurs. at 10)</p> <p>Total Fitness w/Cindy Sullivan – Beacon Hill: Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street, Mon. & Wed., 11 a.m. – noon. \$5 for BHV members</p> <p>Total Fitness w/Cindy Sullivan – Back Bay: First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street (at the corner of Berkeley). Tues., 10-11 and Fri., 11:45 -12:45. \$5 for BHV members.</p> <p>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.</p>						
<p>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 generally meets on the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. Contact BHV member Roger Cox (rcox1@comcast.net) for the location and to be added to Roger's email distribution list. BHV members and their guests.</p>						



IKEA

Thursday, March 15 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. IKEA

It's the store that needs no description. Join Joan Doucette and other BHV members for a shopping excursion to IKEA in Stoughton. The group will take UBERs (6-person SUVs) and split the cost of transportation (\$30-35 per person; bring cash). *Meet at Café Tatte, 70 Charles Street, at 9:30 a.m. BHV members and their guests.*

Friday, March 16 1:30 p.m. concert; lunch at noon BSO Fenway Concert

BSO musicians perform works by Beethoven, Sibelius and Brahms at this free concert at the Fenway Center, known for its outstanding acoustics. *For lunch before the concert, meet at Uno Pizzeria, 280 Huntington Avenue, at noon. Concert only, meet at the Fenway Center (closest T stop is Northeastern on the Green "E" line), 77 St. Stephen Street, at 1:15 p.m. BHV members and their guests. Free.*



MIT Museum

Monday, March 19 10 a.m. at Charles/MGH MIT Museum

Among the most beloved features of the MIT Museum are Arthur Ganson's kinetic sculptures. Press a pedal or turn a crank and you'll put Ganson's machines into motion. Also on display is *Big Bang Data*, which explores the intersections of culture, technology and society in the digital age. After our self-guided tour of the Museum we'll have lunch at Amuse Restaurant in Le Meridien. *Rescheduled from January 4. Meet at the turnstiles at the Charles/MGH Station at 10 a.m. or at the MIT Museum, 265 Massachusetts Avenue, at 10:30 a.m. BHV members, their guests and prospective members: \$5.*

Tuesday, March 20 10:30 - noon (plus lunch) Bowling

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



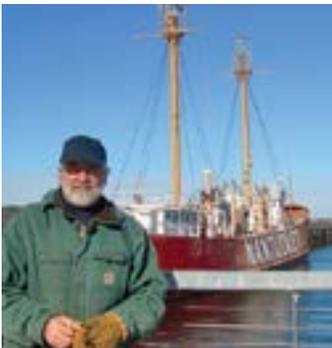
National Braille Press

Thursday, March 22 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (plus lunch) National Braille Press

Learn how a braille book is produced during our one-hour tour of the National Braille Press, a non-profit founded in 1927. It's a complicated process involving transcription, proofing, embossing, pressing, tactile graphics and finishing. Lunch afterwards at Pizzeria Uno. *Meet at the National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen Street (closest T stop is Northeastern on the Green "E" line), at 10:15 a.m. for our 10:30 a.m. tour. BHV members and their guests: \$5.*

Friday, March 23 2 - 5 p.m. Tech Help: Apple Devices Only

BHV member Stan Berman will hold 45-minute one-on-one tutorials with BHV members to help them become more proficient with their Apple devices. *Meet Stan at the BHV office, 74 Joy Street, 1st floor conference room. BHV members only. Free.*



Robert Mannino

Monday, March 26 5:30 - 7 p.m. Conversations with...Robert Mannino

U.S. Lightship Museum President Robert Mannino will share stories about the restoration of the Nantucket Lightship/LV-112, a US Coast Guard floating lighthouse that guided ships past the treacherous Nantucket Shoals from 1936 until 1975. After its decommissioning, the Lightship fell into disrepair and was on the verge of being scrapped until Mannino founded a nonprofit to buy it for \$1. Under his leadership, the Museum continues to raise money to restore and preserve this piece of maritime history. Docked in Boston, the Lightship is open to the public as a museum and floating learning center (stay tuned for a BHV tour). *Meet at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, at 5:30 p.m. for light hors d'oeuvres and wine; program begins at 6 p.m. BHV/BHS members: Free. Guests of members and prospective members: \$20.*



North Bennet Street School

Tuesday, March 27 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (plus lunch) North Bennet Street School

In existence for more than 100 years, the North Bennet Street School offers eight full-time programs, including violin making, bookbinding, cabinet and furniture making, carpentry, and piano tuning. During our tour of the School's 60,000 square feet of industrial space, we'll see the students at work and talk with them about their projects. Lunch in the North End after the tour. *Meet at 150 North Street (off Cross Street) at 10:15 a.m. for our 10:30 a.m. tour. BHV members: \$10. Guests of BHV members and prospective members: \$15.*

The (Free) Places We've Been continued from page 1.

Did you know that MIT has a world class collection of indoor and outdoor art, spread across its vast campus? Thanks to Joan Doucette we've had private tours of many parts of the collection, with more to come. And together we've visited many of the small, lesser known college and university art galleries where, in some cases, the exhibit's curator has given us a private tour. Three of particular note are Harvard's Ethelbert Cooper Art Gallery of African & African American Art, Lesley University's Lunder Arts Center and the Mass College of Art, all easily reached by T.

The North Bennet Street School, a trade school in Boston that offers full-time one- and two-year programs in violin making, bookbinding, cabinet and furniture making, carpentry, and piano tuning, doesn't routinely offer tours, but were happy to do one for our group in exchange for a small donation to the school, a non-profit.

Wouldn't it be interesting, members of the Program Committee thought, to visit some of the religious institutions in the Boston area that reach out to communities



BHV members bound for the Walnut Street Synagogue

beyond their own religion. That thought resulted in visits to the The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, the Walnut Street Synagogue, where we learned about the challenges faced by an orthodox female rabbi, and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, which opens its doors to the homeless and Chinese and Muslim communities among others. ■

A Book to Provoke Discussion continued from page 1.

Not that all benefit equally. Like other trends, heightened expectations are more available to the well-educated and wealthy.

Here are some of them:

- Coughlin compares the largest retirement community in the world, located in Florida, to Beacon Hill Village, which he dubs "unorthodox". He calls the retirement community, built around golf and socializing, "leisure-oriented, age-segregated, insular." He claims that residents of segregated communities contribute less to society. Do these descriptions fit? He mentions that older people are seen as either "greedy or needy." What other adjectives could you add to this description?
- He notes that 87 percent of those over 65 want to stay in their home and community. "Products built with the assumption that the future will be more age integrated, not segregated, are likely to fare better than their rivals." Given the popularity of Florida's retirement communities, is he right?
- Coughlin tells how the story of aging became one of leisure and consumption, but also decrepitude. He describes the birth of pensions and Social Security. Does his history ring a bell? Were other forces at work? Is he accurate that aging is considered a problem?
- He says the business sector uses aging to promote the purchase of leisure and gilds it with the term "the golden years." But what about meaning in life? What if you want to keep working? What about fun? Do you plan things

small in scale that can be accomplished quickly because you no longer see life as infinite? He recommends that older folks set goals and achieve them. What about the fact that aging sometimes does mean reduced mobility and opportunity?

- Internet dating sites get his attention. He sees many over 65 looking for community rather than a single relationship. Has this been your experience?
- A question for all is what do you want your legacy to be. What do you want to leave behind — a book, a website, quilts you have made or the furniture you've built?

We hope these questions and concerns prompt many discussions. ■

Especially for New Members...

TWO EVENTS ESPECIALLY FOR NEW members are coming up, a New Member Orientation on Feb.15 and a New Member Social, on March 6. Both are great opportunities to learn more about the Village and meet other members and (at the Orientation) Village staff. As an added bonus, you'll likely recognize a few faces and voices when you attend a program or call the office.

Invitations with details have been mailed to new members. *If you haven't already RSVPd, please call the office to let us know whether you'll be able to attend.* ■

IN MEMORIAM

Bernie Borman

Connie Hill

Marvin Schorr

Herman Woerner

MEMBER PROFILE

Marilyn & Robert Root and Leon Trilling

BY KAREN CORD TAYLOR

A COUPLE AND A WIDOWER, living in the Back Bay for many years and possessing PhDs, met through Beacon Hill Village and thought they might get together again since they had a few things in common.

Getting together again has turned into getting together many times and Marilyn and Robert Root and Leon Trilling have compared notes and learned one another's stories. Marilyn, who grew up in Illinois, and Robert, from Manitoba, met and married as graduate students at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Leon was born in Poland, coming to the States in 1940 and earning his degrees at the California Institute of Technology.

Robert and Leon are both physicists, speaking the same science language, which probably helped foster the friendship. Robert, a theoretical particle physicist, worked for many years in industry. He now runs his own company called Prism Science Works, which manufactures light sources for ultra-high speed photography. He and Marilyn actually do the work themselves at a facility in Readville. Leon, an aeronautical engineer and astrophysicist, had a long career as a professor at MIT.

Marilyn's career was different. While she now works with her husband as the business development executive at Prism, for many years she was a teacher of teachers in the College of Communication at Boston University with a specialty in rhetoric. She retired in 2003 as a professor and the associate dean of that college. She also served as a member of the Wakefield Housing Authority when the couple lived in that town. "My legacy is to remind people how difficult it is to adjust to change," she said. "You have to understand how to do it."

Although Leon's academic career in astrophysics is about as refined as a career can be, he is most proud of his work for METCO, the innovative, 50-plus-year-old program that places minority students living in Boston and Springfield in high-performing suburban schools. He said he does it because life can be unfair, and he wants to address the weaknesses in our society. "When I came here, I was given opportunity," he said.

He wants those opportunities for all, from members of the Passamaquoddy tribe whom he got to know while working in northern Maine to minority kids who benefit from exposure to varied cultures and demanding educa-



From left: Leon Trilling and Robert and Marilyn Root

tion, gaining confidence and experience in a wider world. With 3,300 kids participating in METCO every year, the program is now in its fourth generation, Leon said proudly.

The three met recently at Leon's building to be photographed and interviewed for this article. "I learned so much more about you today, Leon," said Marilyn.

There is likely to be a lot more that all three will learn about one another as they meet for more dinners and more conversation. ■

Tech Stuff continued from page 2.

BHV has a talented and dedicated group of member and non-member volunteers who have helped BHV members with these and other issues. And they make house calls! Thank you to BHV members Stan Berman, Charley Davidson, Tom Keyes, Tom Kwei and Steve Rothenberg, and to non-member volunteers Brittan Morris, Stephanie Reyes, Qitong Xiao and Raja Shamas.

We're also bringing back our popular Tech Help sessions, when a volunteer will be available at the BHV office or other location to meet with you for a private 45-minute tutorial. On Feb. 20, Tom Kwei will be at the BHV office from 1-4 p.m. to help members with their Apple devices. Call the office to sign up. Additional sessions in March; details in the March Calendar. ■

BHV WELCOMES

BACK BAY
Fran Mack
Chuck & Barbara Waite
Ron Barbagallo

BEACON HILL
Heather Campbell & Vin Miles
Ellen & Tim Guiney
Kimberlea & Stephen Jeffries

Mary Thomsen & Harold Weintraub
Jane Timken

WEST END
Jean Sipe



BEACON HILL VILLAGE

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Boston, MA 02114

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THE VILLAGER

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www.beaconhillvillage.org

THE VILLAGER *design by Joanne Legge*

5th Annual Creative Kitchens Tour

Saturday, April 7 🍷 1-4 p.m.

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S Creative Kitchen Tour, Beacon Hill Village's popular fundraiser that lets you play voyeur, peeking into eight distinctive and creative kitchens on Beacon Hill and the Back Bay. Tickets are \$50 in advance (\$60 on the day of) and may be purchased at www.beaconhillvillage.org or by calling the office at 617.723.9713. A limited number of tickets are available to a pre-tour luncheon at Hampshire House on Beacon Street (\$135 for tour and luncheon). Tickets for the luncheon and tour are \$135. Complimentary cocktail reception 3-5 p.m. at the Hampshire House. ■

BHV on the Go...



Top: Jean Pilcher (at left), Hal Carroll and Amy Ryan with Boston Conservatory musicians at the Music Salon at Hal and Amy's home. See story, *The (Free) Places We've Been*.
Bottom: BHV members listening to a private gallery talk at the Mass College of Art