



# NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

*In Memoriam*  
Charles M. Cohn,  
January 6, 1943 -  
January 31, 2018



## NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS CELEBRATES OFFICIAL LAUNCH

More than 125 members helped celebrate NN's official opening at Northampton's new Arts Trust Building at 33 Hawley Street on Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>. The event featured speeches by Mayor David Narkewicz, Councilor at Large Bill Dwight, and music presented by guitarist Jon Gailmor, who sang his original song, "My Home," and the Richard Murphy jazz ensemble. Volunteers and board members prepared and served appetizers and drinks as well as a huge spread of salads, sandwiches and desserts, donated by Whole Foods, River Valley Co-Op, Stop & Shop, and the Big Y.



Katharine Baker, NN Vice President, encouraged members to consider becoming "Founder Sustainers," who during NN's first year of operation designate a monthly contribution to NN through their bank. Founder Sustainers will receive a CD of Jon Gailmor's "My Home" for their support.



Leigh Bailey, NN President, noted NN's growth and success. As of this newsletter's publication, there are more than 350 members, with over 40 trained volunteers who have completed more than 100 services for member recipients! She also recognized NN's business sustainers and supporters, including Northampton Rental, Goggins Real Estate, Ahearn Funeral Home, Florence Savings Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank, and the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*.



**SAVE THE DATES SATURDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> :** March with NN in the Annual Pride Parade!  
**THURSDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> :** Northampton Neighbors Annual Member Meeting, 5-7 pm



**INTEREST GROUPS** are up and running!  
There are currently groups meeting for Scrabble, Hiking, Knitting, Gardening, and Political Discussion, with hopes to develop a Downhill Skiing group and Science Fiction Reading group. Do you want to start a group or find out more information? Email us at: [info@northamptonneighbors.org](mailto:info@northamptonneighbors.org), or call 413-341-0160.

**VOLUNTEER SERVICES** are going very well thanks to our amazing NN Volunteers! They have performed **more than 100 Volunteer Services**, including transportation, technical assistance, handyman tasks, and more! Interested in being an NN Volunteer? Download the application from our website, and also see Page 2 of this Newsletter for more opportunities to make a difference.

## REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

I will be posting the details of our 2017 total income and expenditures soon in a report on our website. Highlights are that we received \$25,730 in income/donations in 2017, of which just over half were from our board members (\$13,002), \$3040 were from local businesses, \$8468 from members, and \$1220 from non-members. At our launch party last month we made a plea for members to become Sustainers of Northampton Neighbors. In response we have received \$2501 in immediate donations from members, with a further commitment to monthly contributions of \$551, or \$6612 more over the next 12 months.

In order to make us sustainable, we will need more financial support from our members. We are determined to not charge membership fees. We need more members who have not contributed to step forward. This does not have to be a major financial commitment. No one should contribute more than they can, but everyone should contribute something. This is a matter of social justice. We are now beginning an outreach program to identify and offer services to older Northampton residents who are in need, specifically to welcome minority and marginalized groups. Our expenses this year will include at least \$26,000 to fund an administrative assistant, and there are many other costs involved with training volunteers and providing services, from software and printing fees to insurance and office supplies.

The best way to support your NN is to become a sustainer—for \$50 a month, for \$25 a month---or any amount you can afford, no matter how great or how little. If all members give a little, we will accomplish a lot. For a sustainer form, go to our website and click “Donate Now” and then click “Download a Donation Form”. To make a one-time contribution, send a check to Northampton Neighbors, Box 231, Northampton, MA 01061. To contribute online, go to the “Donate Now” button on our website. Supporting your NN will feel good.

Gerard Paquin, treasurer (nohobike@comcast.net)

## NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS IS GROWING!

There are many ways to volunteer besides providing direct services to members, including as:

**Call Managers:** Answer the phone and match members with volunteers. Must be comfortable using a computer.

**Fundraisers:** we are looking for members with experience in grant writing, outreach and working with foundations.

**Event Planning:** help in organizing and planning social and informational meetings

**Member/Volunteer Support:** Providing oversight and guidance to members and volunteers. Social work experience and knowledge of local service agencies is appreciated.

**Communications:** writers, editors, and graphic artists experienced in print, electronic and/or social media

**Outreach:** Looking for bilingual volunteers and those interested in working with diverse, low-income, subsidized housing communities and intergenerational and LGBT community projects.

**Strategic Community Partnerships:** We are developing collaborative agreements with community organizations including the HRYMCA, The Cancer Connection, Survival Center, VNA/Hospice, CDH etc., and are looking for members who are familiar with these organizations.

If you have the interest, experience and time to volunteer in any of these areas, NN would like to talk to you. Please contact us at 413-341-0160 or email at [info@northamptonneighbors.org](mailto:info@northamptonneighbors.org).