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Our New Logo

NAH is pleased to debut our new logo in this issue of *Connections*. The simple roofline sketch represents NAH's intention to reach out to households throughout the city. The tree signifies the vibrancy of our community and our Garden City moniker. We wish to thank designer **Daigo Fujiwara** of Watertown for the generous donation of his services.

Photographs in this edition were provided by Carol Robinson.

The Growing Village Movement

At the national Village-to-Village conference in Washington DC in October, participants shared the excitement of being part of a growing grassroots movement. There were 170 attendees from across the United States, including the leaders of 20 villages that have opened their doors and over 30 villages that are in the planning stages. In a keynote address titled "Aging in Community: The Wave of the Future," Elinor Ginsberg, Sr. VP of AARP, encouraged village leaders to work with their state

AARP office. Her expectation is that in 15 to 20 years villages will be so widespread that they will be the norm for Americans who are growing older.

"I was totally energized by this experience because we are all learning so much from each other," said *Newton at Home* President Tamara Bliss. She has had requests for information from places as far away as Evanston, Illinois and Buffalo, New York since her return.

NAH Holds its First Annual Election

NAH held its first annual election on November 11. At that meeting **Verne Vance** and **Bob Larner** were elected to the Board of Directors and **Cynthia Pill** became Vice President of the Board. **Tamara Bliss** was reelected as President of the Board, **Ruth Glotzer** as Treasurer, and **Wellington Scott** as Secretary. **Renata Selig**, a founding Director, was reelected to the Board, as was **Alice Schaefer**, who had been elected to an open board seat in August.

Verne Vance has decades of public service in Newton as a member of the Board of Aldermen and School Committee. He has the distinction of being the only person to serve as both President of the Newton Board of Aldermen and Chair of the Newton School Committee. Before he retired, Verne was a partner at Foley Hoag, LLP where he specialized in intellectual property, environmental litigation, commercial

litigation, and municipal law. He has lived in Newton for over 35 years and currently resides in Chestnut Hill.

Robert Larner is an economist who recently retired from full-time employment with CRA International. He lives in West Newton and is an active member of the parish committee of Corpus Christi-St. Bernard's Parish of Newton. He has been a very effective member of the NAH Member Services Committee and has agreed to chair that committee. His wife, Ann, was Chair of the School Committee for many years. Bob is also featured in our interview on page three.

NAH's bylaws call for the election of seven to 15 Directors who serve three-year terms. NAH's four officers – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer – are elected from the Board and serve one-year terms as officers.

A Call to Service

On Friday, October 16, 2009 President Obama joined former President George H.W. Bush at the Points of Light Institute at Texas A&M University. President Obama used the occasion to ask all Americans to make service a part of their daily lives. "Service is how we will meet the challenges of our time," he said. "I am asking you to have a public service mindset. I'm asking that no matter where you live, or what job you do, or what obstacles you face, you're always looking for ways to make service part of your life."

Here is the story of one person whose service has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people. Dr. Howard Voss retired to Florida in 1995 from private practice and from a faculty role at the New York University School of Medicine. Soon afterward, he began volunteering 10 to 20 hours a week at a health clinic for the uninsured

in Stuart, Florida. When it looked like the clinic was going to have to close, he worked with a group of 20 physicians to take over operation of the clinic. Later on, he accepted a full-time position as medical director of the clinic, at no salary. This clinic sees thousands of uninsured patients each year. In 2004, Dr. Voss was named the Physician Humanitarian of the Year in Florida. (Dr. Voss's story is courtesy of the Union College Newsletter.)

While most of us cannot hope to achieve what he has achieved, his example can be an inspiration to all of us. In our own small way, we can all contribute to making NAH a success and making the world a better place.

Our Thanks to All of You

We want to thank all of you who helped make the September NAH volunteer appreciation event a success. The turnout was tremendous. While we have a growing list of volunteers to meet our current and future needs, we continue to seek out volunteers. A complete list of volunteer opportunities is at www.newtonathome.org/volunteer.php. One high priority area is web design, where we need people experienced in developing and maintaining websites. We will use our website to provide updates on our activities. We could also utilize volunteers to help with this newsletter, to do editing and proofreading, to research and write articles, and to do graphic design. Because transportation is a primary concern for many potential members, we are seeking volunteers to serve on a transportation task force to develop a local and metro-area

transportation plan for NAH. We also need volunteers to join our Technology Committee to help in creating, managing, and analyzing NAH's applications and databases, to work with technology vendors, and to help NAH committees with their technology needs. Finally, we will need project managers to help in the area of member recruitment.



From left to right, Ruth Glotzer (Treasurer), Tamara J. Bliss (President), Renata Selig, Bob Brandwein and Cynthia Pill (Vice President)

Meet our Volunteers

Alice Schaefer and Bob Larnar are two of the wonderful people working to make NAH a reality. Both of them have recently been elected to the NAH Board. Here are their stories.

Alice Schaefer knows what it is to arrive in a city where you don't know a soul. She and her husband moved to Newton Centre in 1972 after teaching in a Quaker school in Iowa. It was difficult at first.

Eventually things began to change. She began knocking on doors. She organized block parties. She got to know quite a few of her neighbors. She likes the concept of *Newton at Home*. "Who knows?" she says. "You might find there is a handyman living next door." She feels a lot of people want to make a connection, they just don't know how.

Alice has been involved with NAH since the very beginning. Jeremy Warburg Russo, a fellow Quaker and the founder of NAH, invited her

Bob Larnar grew up in the District of Columbia when there was no home rule. The public schools were segregated. "Whites only" signs were everywhere.

He met his wife, Ann, when they were in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. They didn't even have a car in those days. They moved to their present home in Newton in 1973. There they raised three children, all of whom walked to the local elementary school. "People do care about the education of their children here," he says. When their eldest daughter and her two children came to live with them for 11 months, her oldest went to the same elementary school her mother had attended. Bob and his wife have no plans to move.

to attend the first meeting in the fall of 2007. It was a small meeting, with only eight or ten people attending. Alice is a member of the Volunteer and Staffing Committee and as a member of the Technology Committee she maintains the member database. She was elected to the board in August of this year.

When Alice's husband was alive, the two of them gave puppet shows for children's birthday parties. She also worked at the Puppet Showplace Theatre in Brookline. Her son is now a well-known puppeteer who performed this fall in the Newton elementary schools.

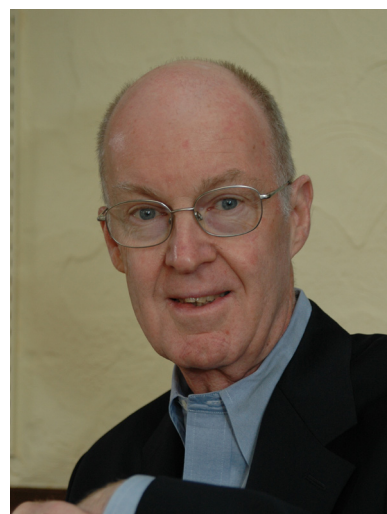
Alice is very interested in the concept of time banking. "Everyone has something to give," she says.

Bob has a PhD in economics and retired this past January after 32 years with CRA International, where he has retained senior consultant status. With an extensive background in research and analysis, he recently agreed to chair the Member Services Committee at NAH. Bob likes the model of the Capitol Hill Village, where 30 percent of the volunteers are 30 years old or younger. The village promotes the idea that volunteers are not just giving someone a ride, but they are also getting the opportunity to interact with an interesting person.

Bob is studying Spanish and planning a trip to Costa Rica. He and his wife enjoy traveling. "I don't think there is ever a place we've gone traveling outside the country that we haven't enjoyed," he says.



Alice Schaefer, volunteer



Bob Larnar, volunteer

From the Committees

The **Provider Services Committee** will have its first meeting later in November. **Betty Chan** and **Helga Lustig** have been appointed Co-chairs. Provider Services will screen vendors in a wide variety of categories, such as accountants, dog walkers, home care providers, plumbers, and travel agents. Where appropriate, they will negotiate discounts. The committee will also develop NAH's overall transportation plan.

The **Member Services Committee** is circulating a draft of the services that NAH will offer our members as part of the annual membership fee. If you would like to see a copy and comment on the draft, send us a note at newsletter@newtonathome.org. The committee members are currently developing a schedule of fees for NAH members.

The **Volunteer and Staffing Committee** recently had a table at the City of Newton's semi-annual volunteer fair. To date, at least 20 people who attended have told us they are interested in volunteering with NAH. This committee and the **Welcoming Committee** are following up to find the best fit with NAH's current needs.

The **Marketing and Communications** and **Program Planning Committees** are getting the word out by holding coffees at volunteers' homes. They are planning to introduce NAH to eight to 15 Newton seniors at a time. If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee in your home or co-host at someone else's home, and you have Newton friends and neighbors you would like to invite, please contact us at newsletter@newtonathome.org.

The **Marketing and Communications Committee** also has sent a survey to potential members on our interest list. Although we've collected a great deal of information already about "wants" and "needs," this survey is designed to help us learn more about what is most important to potential members. We will report on the survey results in a future newsletter.

Ed Selig has been named the acting Chair of NAH's **Finance and Fundraising Committee**. The committee is developing a fundraising plan and has been investigating the types of liability insurance that NAH will need for its staff, volunteers, and directors.



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