

This Issue

Newton NorthTigers Serve Great Food	P1
Winter Buddies Program Tripled this Year	P1
Letter from Executive Director	P2
New BOD Members	P2
Volunteer Spotlight	P3
Member Spotlight	P3
NAH Vendor List	P3
Leaf Raking	P4



Members of Newton at Home and the Senior Center enjoyed lunch at the Tiger Loft Bistro in December.

Winter Buddies Program Tripled this Year

By Naomi Shore

Participation in the Winter Buddies Program has more than tripled this year.

Newton at Home member and program participant Alice Kurk says, “Newton at Home is very nice to me and my relatives live far away and can’t drop by to help. I’m really looking forward to the help this winter and their checking up on me. They will make sure I have food and medicine since I can’t drive for myself.”

NAH matches a member to a volunteer buddy who lives in close proximity. The volunteer buddy contacts the member buddy to warn about coming storms and assess the need for essential supplies

(Continued on page 4)

Newton North Tigers Serve Great Food

By Naomi Shore

Several years ago, former Newton North High School Principal Jennifer Huntington had an idea to help build support for the new high school building — invite the community to benefit from the Career & Technical Education Department’s students’ training.

“This way people would understand the importance of having this comprehensive program here in Newton,” Huntington said.

In the years since the high school opened, Newton at Home has partnered with the carpentry and automotive repair programs. Under the careful supervision of teachers, our members have benefited from students’ work. This year, NAH has partnered with the culinary arts program and the Tiger Loft Bistro to serve lunch to members.

Culinary arts students study restaurant management. Other students take a course or two to see whether

they would like to work toward a culinary arts degree. Students design the menu, contact the vendors, cook, and serve. Diana Robbins, head of the culinary arts program, includes entertainment to showcase student performers and other educational programs in the school. In December, the Honors String Ensemble performed during the luncheon.

NAH members have been impressed with the students’ welcoming attitude and hard work. They are also impressed with the school and love the intergenerational aspect of the program.

“The students are loving it! And it’s very important that our students experience their learning in tangible ways. It changes their learning and gives them confidence in ways you can’t teach,” Robbins said.

If you are interested in more information call the office at 617-795-2560. Reservations for the luncheons fill up quickly.

Letter from our Executive Director

Greetings,

I know it is the middle of winter but we are planning a really exciting event in the spring so for the moment move with me to May.



On May 18, Newton at Home is co-sponsoring “Telling our Stories, Celebrating our Lives,” a program which will be part of the Newton Festival of the Arts. Twelve writers will be chosen to present a portion of their life stories. These stories will demonstrate spirit, courage, humor, and/or reflection. We would like to have our members share their wonderful stories. We will post more information as the date approaches. Please consider participating in this program either as a writer or an audience member.

Looking back on 2014, approximately 100 volunteers put in 200 hours in our annual leaf raking and fall clean-up campaign. Children, teens and adults all joined to tidy up the yards of our members. (See photo on page 4.) Thanks again to Swartz Tru Value Hardware for their donations of rakes and leaf bags.

Since November, we have participated in a collaborative program with Newton North’s Tiger Loft Bistro. Once a month Newton at Home and Senior Center members can sign up for delicious lunches prepared by the students in the culinary arts program. In addition to interacting with the students, our members enjoy an educational or arts program during lunch. (See story and photo on page 1.) Lunches will continue in February, March, and April. Please see the NAH calendar for future dates.

Finally, we are back in winter and excited to report that our Winter Buddies program has more than tripled this year. A growing number of families have volunteered to be Buddies. Whenever the snow is threatening, our volunteers are there to offer support and practical aid to those members who have signed up.

Stay warm and active.

Maureen Grannan
Executive Director

New Board of Directors Members

By Naomi Shore

At the annual election for the members of the Newton at Home Board of Directors, four people joined as first time members of the Board. They are John Adkins, Rachel Kagno, Anna Lemieux, and Stephen Logowitz.

In addition, some of the officers have changed though all were on the Board previously. Tamara Bliss remains President, Dave Chosiad is now Vice President, Bob Larner remains Treasurer and Debby Weiss is now Secretary.

John Adkins joined the Board as he ends a long career as an attorney. He also frequently writes and lectures on legal topics. He is a founding member of the Governor’s Advisory Board to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law and Economic Justice. He is also a founding member of the Board of the Ronald McDonald House.

Rachel Kagno is a Senior Public Relations Specialist at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She also is on the Board of the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce and chairs its Membership Committee. In addition, she is President of the Holliston Arts Council and also a member of the Boston Women Communicators and the New England Society for Healthcare Communications. Rachel resides in Holliston with her husband and two sons.

“Joining the Newton at Home Board of Directors seemed like a natural fit for me personally and professionally. Over the past few years, I’ve been taking care of my elderly parents and know first-hand how frustrating it can be to find the right services to help them age in place. As a public relations and marketing professional at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, I appreciate the collaboration NAH has with our social workers to identify patients who can benefit from NAH services after discharge, and hopefully avoiding readmission to the hospital,” Kagno said.

Anna Lemieux is an Assistant Vice President and Project Manager at The Village Bank. She has over 23

(Continued on page 4)

Member Spotlight

By Ashley Renee Hampson

Peter DiFoggio has spent the past 60 as a member of the Newton community. As a World War II veteran, DiFoggio brings a rich global and local perspective to NAH. His diverse leadership experience as a civil-



ian has taught him there are many qualities essential to being a productive community member.

Leadership: After serving in the 366th Air Force squadron in the Air Force, DiFoggio understood the value of

leadership both by military and civilian leaders. When DiFoggio returned home, he channeled his abilities to assist community members both young and old. He held leadership positions on the Council on Aging, the

Volunteer Spotlight

By Naomi Shore

When Jennifer Dolan realized her father, Ed Dolan, needed some activities after he retired she convinced him to volunteer with Newton at Home. When a friend's mother first told Jennifer about NAH, Jennifer



remembered that her father had many handyman skills that could potentially help members.

After Jennifer spoke to Julie Plaut Mahoney, Coordinator of Community Partnerships and Volunteers, she

herself also joined NAH as a volunteer. She serves as a Winter Buddy for two members. She also stops by a member's house to take out her trash once each week. While there, she takes time to chat with the member over a cup of tea.

Jennifer leads a busy life as a teacher at Newton South High School and is also planning her upcoming wedding.

“My own grandmother lived far from me but I knew

Newton School Committee, the Newton North Little League Association and others.

Compassion: As a leader with the Boy Scouts, one of DiFoggio's proudest moments was giving two blind Scouts the chance to sit in the cockpit of two famous aircraft. In his professional life, he demonstrated compassion throughout his 24 years as a nursing home administrator. He trained his staff to care for each resident as if he or she were their own parent.

Recognition: As a member of the Newton at Home community, DiFoggio is the first to recognize the value of the service provided by volunteers as a noble and necessary service to the community. He is able to live independently in his home of 60 years thanks to the individuals who help transport him to shopping, to medical appointments, and more. As for luncheons and other opportunities to connect with NAH members, Peter says, “Sign me up!”

she had wonderful people who gave her support where she lived. This is a nice way to give back where I am and where I grew up,” said Jennifer.

Editor's note: We are very proud of our volunteers and love featuring profiles of them in each newsletter. NAH is always searching for additional volunteers. Please consider contacting Julie Plaut Mahoney, Coordinator of Community Partnerships and Volunteers, by calling 617-795-2560.

Newton at Home Vendor Lists

A reminder to all of our members that Newton at Home maintains a vendor list for many services including plumbers, electricians, roofers, painters, carpenters and many more. All of our vendors are recommended by members who have used their services. If you are an NAH member and are looking for a service for you or your home, remember to call the office, 617-795-2560, and ask about our Preferred Providers List. Often vendors on the list give discounts to our members.

New Board of Directors Members

(continued from page 2)

years of banking experience in retail management, lending, and project management. She is the head of the Bank's Website Committee. Anna is also an active participant in the Bank's Community Commitment Initiative, volunteering for various organizations and events in the Newton and Wayland communities. She resides in Marlborough, MA.

"I was approached by my company's Community Relations Officer who said there was a need for a Board member at NAH. Having lost my grandmother a little over a year ago, Newton at Home struck a chord with me. My parents took care of my Nana which allowed her to stay at home and be as independent as she could be. She was lucky but not everyone is, and NAH is a great organization that allows people to stay in their homes and get the assistance they need to be independent," Lemieux said.

Stephen Logowitz a Newtonville resident, is a graphic designer, a design communications consultant, and has been a design instructor. He founded three design companies and has won numerous design awards. Stephen is long-time board member for the All Newton Music School, recently serving as President of the Board of Trustees, and the Newton History Museum/Newton Historical Society.

"As my wife and I contemplate our later years, we find we're both interested in staying in our home for as long as practical. We like our community: we like the fact that our neighbors are diverse, that our friends are near, and that ours is a livable and walkable city. The thought of someday relocating to an isolated facility exclusively populated by elders holds little appeal. That is why, looking ahead, we chose to be supporters of Newton at Home and why, when asked, I chose to serve on its board. It is my hope that through my service, I can help make others aware of this unique and wonderful offering," Logowitz said.



Leaf Raking

This year, approximately 100 volunteers put in 200 hours in our annual leaf raking and fall clean-up campaign. *Left to right: Matthew Gonzalez, Noah Gonzalez, Hannah Gonzalez, and Leslie Gonzalez.*

Winter Buddies

(continued from page 1)

such as food, water and medications. They also assess plans for snow removal and remind members to charge cell phones and keep batteries handy. The buddy will call every day during a storm and connect the member to appropriate help if needed.

Any member may call the office at 617-795-2560 to sign up for the Winter Buddies Program.

Volunteers should contact Julie Plaut Mahoney, Coordinator of Community Partnerships and Volunteers, at 617-795-2560 or email her at volcoord@newtonathome.org to sign up to be a buddy. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for families to work together as a unit to assist a NAH member.



For more information call 617-795-2560 or email info@newtonathome.org or visit www.newtonathome.org