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Newton at Home has been organized to enable Newton residents to age at home comfortably, independently, and with peace of mind through a membership-based organization that offers access to comprehensive practical services and fosters social support and a sense of community.

For more information call 617-795-2560 or go to <http://newtonathome.org>

## Letter from our Executive Director

*Greetings,*

We recently received two wonderful donations. One is from Sovereign Bank for \$2,000, the largest donation that we have received from a business. We have decided to use the donation to pay for reduced-fee memberships to help Newton residents who want to join Newton at Home but are only able to pay part of the membership fee. See the photo on page 2.



The other is from the Committee of Charity of the Lodge of St. Andrew,

the third largest Masonic Lodge in the world. Their \$5,000 grant for technology will be used to purchase computers, telephones, and computer consulting services.

Our Program Committee and Health and Wellness Committee are working very hard to provide a wide variety of events based on the interests that you have expressed. I encourage everyone to sign up for everything – okay, not realistic – but for more and more events, lectures, classes, and trips that interest you.

This is how the registration process works. When you get the NAH

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Two New Membership Options Available

*By Naomi Shore*

Newton at Home is offering two new membership options.

The first option is a six-month trial for prospective members at fees of \$245 for an individual and \$290 for a household. These fees provide a 25% discount off NAH's annual membership fees pro-rated over six months. At the end of the trial membership, these members will be offered a normal one-year membership at the regular fees, which remain \$660 for individuals and \$780 for households.

The second option is a nine-month partial-year membership for people who spend three consecutive

months out of town. The partial-year membership is perfect for new members or renewing members who spend three months of the year in the sun during the winter or at a summer home. They have full NAH member services during their nine months here but none while they are gone. This membership is also a prorated annual fee.

Both of these memberships would require the member to pay the full amount due upfront (i.e., no quarterly or semi-annual payments).

For more information about these options please contact Maureen Grannan, Executive Director, at 617-795-2560 or email her at [director@newtonathome.org](mailto:director@newtonathome.org).

## Executive Director *(Continued from page 1)*

monthly calendar or a special notice, please call 617-795-2560 to reserve your place. Five days before the scheduled event, office staff looks at the registrations to see if we have the necessary enrollment. We cancel the event if we don't have enough people signed up.

It is important for you to sign up more than five days before the date. If you call closer to the event, you may find out that we had to cancel because of low enrollment. If you registered early but then you cannot attend, please call us as soon as possible. That helps us accurately assess participation when we have to make the decision to go ahead or to cancel.

Enjoy spring!

Sincerely,  
Maureen Grannan, Executive Director

## Volunteer Spotlight

By Naomi Shore

*Editor's note: We are very proud of our volunteers and love featuring profiles of them in each newsletter. NAH is always searching for more volunteers. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Julie Plaut Mahoney, Coordinator of Volunteers, by calling 617-795-2560.*

### Jeanmarie Patriacca

Jeanmarie Patriacca is one of our invaluable volunteers. She responds to many transportation requests, but she handles other direct service requests as well. In fact, one of her favorite calls was to hang drapes, but more about that below.



Jeanmarie has been volunteering for 15 months and says, "I just love it." She came to volunteer after seeing an ad in her daughters' school bulletin. The girls are in the fifth and seventh grades. Sometimes she brings them with her when it works out for all their schedules. The whole family likes hearing about her volunteer adventures with Newton at Home and the girls often ask about NAH members they have met.



Left to right: Kim Williams, District Executive of Sovereign Bank; Maureen Grannan, Executive Director of Newton at Home; Nastassia Prakharenka, Branch Manager; and Tamara Bliss, President of Newton at Home hold the "check" for the Sovereign Bank donation to NAH. Nastassia explained at the ceremony, "We have heard from some of our customers about this amazing organization. When it came time to choose a nonprofit organization as a recipient for one of our donations it was very easy. This program has helped so many people from the Newton community and Sovereign/Santander Bank was pleased to assist anyway we could."

## Affinity Groups Keep Branching Out

By Naomi Shore

Newton at Home's affinity groups are still branching out to include new interests. This spring we can highlight three.

The Dining Club enjoyed its first meal together in March at Spiga's Restaurant in Needham. At least once a month, this group expects to head to nearby restaurants for either lunch or dinner. There is a small steering group choosing the venues and they are eager for more input. All NAH members are invited to join the group when an outing is scheduled. Call 617-795-2560 if you would like to be more involved. Leave a message for Judy Simson.

The Art/Drawing Club is almost ready to head out doors for its first session of the year. Led by Frances

## NAH Begins Innovative Partnership with Newton-Wellesley Hospital

By Naomi Shore

Newton at Home has entered into an exciting innovative partnership with Newton-Wellesley Hospital, the “Newton-Wellesley Hospital – Newton at Home Re-admission Prevention Program.” A number of Newton residents being discharged from the hospital who need our services and are 60 years of age or older, will receive a 30-day NAH membership through the hospital.

This program is part of the hospital’s response to the changing insurance landscape. Because of new Medicare regulations, hospitals will not be reimbursed if patients with certain illnesses are re-admitted for the same diagnosis within 30 days of discharge. Therefore hospitals are restructuring their discharge plans to help enable discharged patients to stay healthy and avoid readmission.

With these imminent changes in mind, Maureen Grannan, our Executive Director, went to Newton-Wellesley Hospital to explain how the services we provide our members could aid in this goal. She highlighted

the transportation we could provide for follow-up medical appointments, our picking up prescriptions, and our making sure the home was stocked with food. She had multiple discussions with Ron Ponte, Director of Community Partnerships, and Monica Ferraro, Manager, Case Management/Social Work about how both organizations could work together to keep patients healthier once they return home.

The result is this innovative program. The hospital’s case managers will identify patients who may be appropriate for the program. Maureen will complete an intake interview for these clients. Meanwhile, NAH will provide a safety check of their homes. With the case manager, Maureen will review our participation in the hospital’s discharge instructions, reminding patients how they can secure transportation and other assistance through our office. Once the patient is home, someone from NAH will check in with this person daily.

This is another wonderful community partnership and Newton at Home is very excited about our collaboration with Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

## Support Group for Caregivers of People with Dementia

By Naomi Shore

Newton at Home has started a new support group for members caring for someone with dementia. Executive Director Maureen Grannan knew several member couples for whom this was the situation and invited them to join. All of the caregivers immediately expressed interest in attending the group.



The group is being facilitated by Liz Simons and Cynthia Pill, both of whom serve on our

Board of Directors. In preparation, Liz did research with the Alzheimer’s Association and she and Cynthia received training from the Alzheimer’s Association Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter. Liz, who has a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry, had conducted early research on Alzheimer’s in her professional career. She

was a research scientist and educator at the Boston University School of Medicine. She co-chairs the NAH Health and Wellness Committee with Cynthia. Cynthia has a Ph.D. in Social Work and has had a long career as a therapist.

Maureen says the impetus for putting this support group in place came from member requests. The Alzheimer Association was enthusiastic about our group and said they knew of no other villages doing this. Any NAH member interested in learning more about this support group should contact Maureen at 617-795-2560.

### Join the Dining Club for Lunch

The Dining Club has arranged lunch at Jamjuli Thai Restaurant on April 23rd at noon. Please call the office, 617-795-2560, to register for this event and receive further details. All NAH members are welcome to come.

## Volunteer Spotlight

*(Continued from Page 2)*

Now back to the drapes. One day, she went to a member's home where she knew that she was going to help her hang her drapes back up. There, she discovered a lively and engaging 90-year-old woman who had taken down the curtains and washed them all on her own but had decided that maybe it would be good to have someone help her put them back up. Jeanmarie says this experience helped her see "the beauty of Newton at Home. If we help people with just the little things, they can stay at home. It's easy on our end to help and it makes such a huge difference in their lives."

In the past year and a quarter, she has met members who are energetic, kind, interesting, and appreciative people. Some of them are so busy and active that "I wonder how I can complain about being tired."

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## Affinity Groups Keep Branching Out

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Kadinoff, this group welcomes all levels of artists, as long as they enjoy working together outdoors. Frances plans to take the group to spots around Bullough's Pond. Members who work in watercolor, paint, or pencil are all welcome. To get on this special email list to receive the time of the outings, email Frances at [bachmama@verizon.net](mailto:bachmama@verizon.net).

Another new affinity group met in March and April and plans to reconvene in September. Verne Vance is leading readings of contemporary plays. Members get the name of the play in advance so that they can acquire and read it beforehand. At the group reading, Verne switches the parts around so that most people read a portion of more than one character's lines. Members are welcome to come to listen if they don't feel comfortable taking part at first. This group meets in the conference room near the office at the Scandinavian Living Center. To join the group, email Verne at [vvance@rcn.com](mailto:vvance@rcn.com).

If you are not on email but want to learn more about the affinity groups, please call the office at 617-795-2560 and ask for Judy Simson.

## Newton at Home Holds Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

*By Dorothy Anger*

Newton at Home honored its many volunteers at a brunch hosted by the Boston Marriott Newton Hotel. Julie Plaut Mahoney, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, welcomed more than 40 volunteers who attended and received kudos for their services to NAH. Maureen Grannan, Executive Director, reported that volunteers fill more than 95% of all member service requests.

During the program, Jayne Colino, Director of the Newton Department of Senior Services, representing Mayor Setti Warren, presented NAH with a citation from the Mayor recognizing the organization as an integral part of the Newton community in bettering the lives of older Newton adults.

Featured speaker Ned Rimer, co-founder of Citizen Schools, addressed the group on "The Power of Community." In his remarks he affirmed the importance of getting involved in meaningful ways and how communities are strengthened "when you get off the sidelines." Pointing out that Newton at Home volunteers were doing just that, he predicted that supporting elders experiencing isolation and infirmity would be our dominant challenge going forward. "Sympathy and casseroles are not enough for burdens of isolation," he said.



*Barbara Butterworth, Member Services Coordinator, and Debby Weiss, Volunteer, with roses of recognition at NAH Volunteer Appreciation Brunch.*

## Above & Beyond

By Naomi Shore

Newton at Home consistently provides services to our members through the amazing work of our volunteers. Among service requests, transportation is first on the list. But recently, NAH provided transportation for a car in an unusual circumstance.

Late on a Friday afternoon, one of our members went to Cambridge for a doctor's appointment. While leaving she fell on black ice, fracturing her ankle. On her way into the operating room at Mount Auburn Hospital, she called Maureen Grannan, our Executive Director, to make her request. She needed someone to drive her car home. It could not stay where it was at the doctor's office.

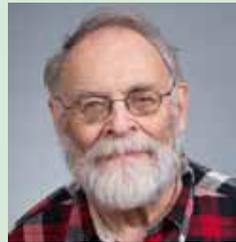
Maureen immediately began scanning our volunteer list for two people who could go to Cambridge at once and retrieve the car. Her eye hit upon her son, Ryan Grannan-Doll, and she called him. He had done direct service for this member and knew her. He said he would drive her car back if someone could get him there. Maureen tried several others who could not. Then she called Dick Morrison, who is not normally a direct service provider. Dick serves on the Marketing/Communications Committee and does a lot of volunteer work for NAH through this committee. But Dick said he would go immediately to pick up Ryan and head for Cambridge.

Both men were able to get to Cambridge, pick up the keys from the doctor, and drive back to Newton, now in two cars. Our member was extremely grateful to learn that her car was back at her home even as she was recovering in the hospital.

### Intergenerational Senior Walk

Newton at Home in collaboration with the Newton Senior Center and Newton Pride is sponsoring the first annual Intergenerational Walk as a part of the Heartbreak Hill Roadrace activities on April 14th. Participants will begin walking a flat course around City Hall at 10:30 am. Newton at Home members are encouraged to ask family members of all ages to participate in this fun event.

## Verne Vance Wins the T.F. Evans Award of the Shaw Society



Congratulations to Verne Vance, a member of our Board of Directors, former president of the Newton Board of Aldermen, and former chair of the Newton School Committee, who won the 2012 T.F. Evans Award by the Shaw Society

of the United Kingdom in an international competition. The Shaw Society works to perpetuate interest in and study of the dramatic works of the Nobel Prize-winning British playwright, George Bernard Shaw and gives the award annually to the person who submits the best drama-related writing in the manner, and that "reflects the wit and wisdom," of Shaw. The award carries a prize of 500 British pounds and was presented to Verne at the Shaw Society's meeting in London.

## Volunteer Spotlight

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### Garrow Throop



In many ways, Garrow Throop has helped create the face of Newton at Home – through his graphic designs for our logo, newsletter, invitations, banners, signs, and brochure. Garrow has been a graphics designer for

over 40 years. When he started, he worked on Madison Avenue in the "Mad Men" era. He has been doing projects for Newton at Home for the last three and a half years. But he continues to experiment with new things, as you can see at his exhibit in the Newton Free Library, *BrushScapes: A collection of whimsical designs*, now on view in the main hall.

His neighbor told him about Newton at Home and he called to volunteer. He says that "From the beginning, it sounded very interesting to me and I like to be involved in the community." He had retired from running his business full time and wanted to try new things. He did a lot of photography for a while and traveled. But three years ago, he realized that he wanted to keep his hand in graphic design and NAH could use his skills in multiple ways.

## Volunteer Spotlight

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Garrow had worked with his wife's non-profit music group and this gave him a sense of what it took to produce good material on a non-profit budget. His interest is in the design element of any project so his influence and contributions run across many committees and their work. He is also a committed member of

the Marketing/Communication Committee and works with the Website Committee and currently with the Membership Committee.

He continues to enjoy his work for NAH because "I find great people and like the feeling of contributing. I am just glad I can afford to take the time to participate with what I think is a very needed organization in my community."

### Newton Choral Society

David Carrier, Music Director

2012-2013 Season



#### ■ Gabriel Faure *Requiem* ■

Susan Consoli, Soprano

David McFerrin, Baritone

Ross Wood, Organist

**Saturday, May 11, 2013 8:00 PM**

Second Church in Newton

60 Highland St., West Newton

CAPPELLA CLAUSURA  
*presents*

## Six by Four



### Six Works by Four Great Composers

Marianna von MARTINES,  
Fanny Mendelssohn HENSEL,  
Rebecca CLARKE, and Erna WOLL  
with FULL ORCHESTRA

*Sat. April 27, @ 8pm*

University Lutheran, Cambridge

*Sun. April 28, @ 8pm*

Parish of the Messiah, Newton

Tickets \$15.-\$25. Available at the door or online at:

[www.clausura.org](http://www.clausura.org)

*The following businesses have made in-kind donations to Newton at Home. We urge our members and volunteers to patronize these businesses and to tell them you appreciate their contributions to NAH.*

Balloon City  
Blacker's Bake Shop  
Boston Marriott Newton  
Food To Your Table  
Garographics

Hammond Realty  
Houseworks  
Lumiere Restaurant  
Russo's  
Scandinavian Living Center  
Shaw's Market

Sostek Home Care  
Swartz True Value  
Jimmy Tingle  
VideoLink  
Whole Foods Market



For more information call 617-795-2560 or email [info@newtonathome.org](mailto:info@newtonathome.org) or visit [www.newtonathome.org](http://www.newtonathome.org)