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## Tracing Our Treasures

After four and a half months of intense preparation by a host of staff and volunteers on November 12 Newton at Home presented its Fall fundraiser, Tracing Our Treasures, at the Scandinavian Living Center. Professionals from the Appraisers’ Registry of New England donated their services to appraise items brought in by some 95 guests, including an autographed football, an original Matisse print, and a photo of Mohammed Ali.

The festivities began with a reception in the Nordic Hall and the Kaffestugan, featuring music, food, individual meetings with the appraisers, and a contest in which 12 items pre-selected by the Appraisers’ Registry were displayed and guests could buy guesses as to what the appraised values would be, with prizes donated by local businesses. Both during the reception and after the main event guests mingled with the appraisers for two-minute appraisals of their own items. Registry President Caroline Savory said that she and her appraisers very much enjoyed the event. “It’s fun to work with a group that has such a strong interest in the history of the items. In fact, we were somewhat overwhelmed by the number of people who brought items in beyond the 12 which had been pre-selected for appraisal. Next time, we’ll have to bring more appraisers.”

In the hour-long main event in the Nordic Hall, the 12 pre-selected items were appraised in Antiques Roadshow fashion in front of the audience, with an appraiser talking to each

owner about the item and giving an appraisal. The most valuable item (\$8500), brought in by NAH member William Gaasch, was a book published in 1785, *Withering on Foxgloves*, in which a British doctor related his experience in treating patients with congestive heart failure (then known as dropsy) with foxgloves leaves (digitalis), a treatment which “had been kept a secret by an old woman in Shropshire who had made cures after the more regular practitioners had failed.” Withering’s publication led to the worldwide use of digitalis to treat congestive heart failure for over 200 years. The book was brought to the United States in 1954 and passed on as a gift to a number of distinguished cardiologists, most recently Dr. Gaasch.

The second highest appraised item (\$6500), brought in by NAH member Marcia Gold, was a T-ring which had belonged to Bob Gold’s mother. When they met after losing their first spouses, Bob gave Marcia the ring as a “commitment gift,” and she has worn it every day for 27 years. “I’m not interested in selling the ring, but it was a terrific experience to have it appraised. Everyone should search their homes for something to bring in next time. It was a fun event for everybody.”

Newton at Home is grateful for the generosity of the businesses whose support made the event possible: Platinum supporters The Village Bank and West New

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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 a sense of community.

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

## Letter from our Executive Director

Greetings...

And congratulations on getting through another tough New England winter! I like to think that Newton at Home played no small role in helping many of you do it with our myriad activities and one outstanding special event that ushered in the season. This was last November's Newton at Home fundraiser, "Tracing Our Treasures." And it was so much fun. We had 100 guests who heard the fascinating back-stories of treasured items that their Newton neighbors brought to the event. They also got to test their appraising skills by guessing the value of twelve pre-selected antiques whose value was then revealed by a panel of professional appraisers. Individuals who came closest to the professional appraisal walked away with one of many prizes donated by area businesses and organizations.

"Tracing Our Treasures" was truly a fun/fundraising event and we were absolutely delighted with the results. Not only did it bring folks together to have a great time, it was a stunning financial success as well generating \$14,000 for the organization.

We plan on holding more of these kinds of events in the future starting with an April 12 appearance by Bill Novak, author of the new book, "Die Laughing: Killer Jokes for Newly Old Folks." Bill, a Newton resident who has ghost written biographies of Nancy Reagan, Lee Iococa and Magic Johnson, will speak and then sign copies of his book at a dessert reception as part of the Newton Festival of the Arts at Newton City Hall.

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## Treasures *Continued from page 1*

ton Hearing Center; Caroline Savory and the appraisers from Appraisers' Registry of New England LLC for donating their time and expertise; and our community partners who donated over \$3,300.00 in food and in-kind donations and advertised in the event program.

Sally Fitz and Mary Renke-Scorzelli made over 200 canapes for the reception; Wegman's and Russo's donated beverages and deserts; Leslie Fishman played classical piano in the Nordic Hall; Miles Murphy played jazz piano in the Kaffestugan; Bonnie Greenberg took candid photos; senior Ben Feldman from the Newton North High School TV Department filmed the main event and projected it live onto a large overhead screen; volunteer graphic artist Garrow Throop designed the program, invitations, and the Tracing Our Treasures logo; a slew of volunteers handled set-up, clean-up, parking, and registration; and a Newton police officer watched over the valuables on display.

**Sponsors:** The Village Bank, West Newton Hearing Center, The Presti Group, O'Brien Wealth Partners, Rosenberg, Freedman & Lee LLP, Visiting Angels of Newton/Canton.

**Advertisers:** All Newton Music School, Cappella Clausura, Cataldo Ambulance Service, Tim Dreher Physical Therapy, Plowguys, , Scandinavian Living Center, Senior Support Solutions Treffler's.

**In-Kind Donors:** Appraisers' Registry of New England LLC, The Barn, Folkloria, Judith's Kitchen, Keyes Drugs, Limited Editions, The Local - Newton, MT Nails, Newtonville Books, O'Hara's, Paddy's, The Paper Mouse, Rox Diner, Salon Capri, Salon DeCinzia, Trader Joe's, West Newton Cinema, West Newton Pizza and Grill.

## Newton at Home Spring Fundraising Event: William Novak

The Newton at Home Spring Fundraising Event will be *A Night of Laughter with Bill Novak*, Thursday, April 12, 2018, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton. Tickets are \$35.00, with the proceeds going to support the work of Newton at Home. A noted author and humorist, Mr. Novak has co-written or ghostwritten numerous celebrity memoirs and is the editor, with Moshe Waldoks, of *The Big Book of Jewish Humor*. His works include:

### A Night of Laughter

April 12, 7-9pm  
Newton City Hall,  
War Memorial Auditorium



## Bill Novak

Co-author of

*The Big Book of Jewish Humor*,  
*Die Laughing: Killer Jokes for the Newly  
Old Folks* and many more

As author:

- *High Culture: Marijuana in the Lives of Americans*
- *The Great American Man Shortage and Other Roadblocks to Romance (and What to Do About It)*
- Lee A. Iacocca with William Novak, Iacocca: *An Autobiography*
- Sydney Biddle Barrows with William Novak, *Mayflower Madam: The Secret Life of Sydney Biddle Barrows*
- Herb Schmertz with William Novak. *Good-Bye to the Low Profile: The Art of Creative Confrontation*
- Tip O'Neill with William Novak, *Man of the House: The Life and Political Memoirs of Speaker Tip O'Neill*
- Nancy Reagan with William Novak, *My Turn: The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan*
- Earvin "Magic" Johnson with William Novak, *My Life*
- Oliver L. North with William Novak, *Under Fire: An American Story*
- Claire Sylvia with William Novak, *A Change of Heart: A Memoir*
- *An Incredible Dream: Ralph Roberts and the Story of Comcast*
- Max Kargman with William Novak, *The Education of Max Kargman*
- Susan Whitman Helfgot with William Novak, *The Match: Complete Strangers, A Miracle Face Transplant, Two Lives Transformed*

As editor:

- William Novak and Moshe Waldoks, *The Big Book of Jewish Humor*
- William Novak and Moshe Waldoks with Donald Altschiller, *The Big Book of New American Humor: The Best of the Past 25 Years*
- *Die Laughing: Killer Jokes for Newly Old Folks*

There will be a dessert reception after the performance. The event will be part of The Newton Festival of the Arts and is sure to be a fun time for all.

## Member Spotlight:

### Judy Zohn

Co-Director Newton-Brookline  
Office of Consumer Affairs



*Photo by John Atkins*

Judy is home grown. She graduated from Boston High, Boston University (B.A. in Psychology) and the Radcliff Management Training Program (later merged into the Harvard Business School), did personnel work for about one year each at Gilchrist's Department Store and Beth Israel Hospital, and then spent four years as Assistant Director of Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

In 1962 she married Harry Zohn, an immigrant from Vienna who attended Suffolk University on a \$50 scholarship, went on to become the first Suffolk University graduate to earn a PhD, was Professor of German at Brandeis for 45 years, was a director of the original Boston Goethe Society, and was active in diplomatic events in Boston. Judy traveled with him throughout Europe, including many visits to Vienna, on his frequent speaking engagements and for vacation trips. Harry passed away in 2001.

She has two children, Marjorie, an instructor of public speaking at Harvard and executive coach, and Steven, Professor of Music History at Temple, a widely recognized expert on Telemann, and a baroque flutist.

In 1963 Judy and Harry moved to West Newton, near the Square, which was itself a small community. The locals and the merchants knew each other, and the Square offered a variety of community stores: Barron's Department Store, 2 family-owned drug stores and hardware stores, and a First National "Supermarket." Having an elementary school and shopping within a short walking distance was a great convenience.

Judy and Harry were co-presidents of the Davis School PTA until it closed in 1976, then were co-presidents of the Warren Junior High PTA until it closed in 1982 after an alumni scholarship fund was established. They then joined the PTA Board at Newton North

High School. Judy also volunteered with the Newton Neighborhood Network, which monitored commercial building activity, and with West Newton's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Committee, that functioned with the support of the Newton Planning Department.

In 1981 Judy started volunteering for the Newton-Brookline Office of Consumer Affairs and in 1983 became Co-Director. The Office, one of 19 in Massachusetts, provides free consumer mediation to Newton and Brookline residents under the auspices of the Newton Department of Senior Services and in cooperation with the Department of the Massachusetts Attorney General. It is staffed by Co-Directors, Judy and Mim Cole, and trained volunteer mediators.

Its goal is to assist consumers and the businesses in reaching mutually satisfactory resolutions of disputes, as well as to avoid the need for court action. A wide range of issues can be addressed by its intervention, such as automobile sales and repairs, home improvement transactions, retail sales, landlord-tenant disputes, debt collection, and credit problems. Their service includes self-help and referral information. All assistance is provided by telephone (617) 796-1292 following the receipt of a completed claim form available in the Newton City Government web site ([www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov)).

Judy provided a consumer information program for Newton at Home several years ago and a Newton at Home consumer workshop for March 7, 2018, during National Consumer Protection Week.

Newton at Home's dedicated volunteers have been an important support for Judy, who has utilized their transportation services while recovering from a foot injury, as well as handyman assistance and participation in program events.

Her spare time is allocated to being a devoted grandmother to Elliot, age 8, in Philadelphia, and Emelyn, age 2, in Needham, as well as enjoying bridge, reading, and attending concerts and the theater whenever there is an opportunity to do so.

Judy is an avid reader and a proud grandmother. She has been a member of Newton at Home since November 2014 and is a strong supporter of the village concept.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Rae Mintz



We met at O'Hara's after lunch to interview Rae for this article. She is a frequent diner there and recommends it! During the 45 minutes that we talked, she observed that both she and the waitress shared the same color nail polish, asked a patron at the next table if he was from Philadelphia (he was), explaining that she recognized the accent because she grew up in Kennett Square (the mushroom capital of the world),

a suburb of Philadelphia, made a note to herself to teach "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" to English Language Learners class, and called Carl, the owner/manager at O'Hara's to the table to talk about using the restaurant's facilities for the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Newton, where she sits on the Board of Directors.

### Meet Rae Mintz

After graduating from, Temple University in Philadelphia (B.S. in Elementary Education) and while attending Hunter College Graduate School in NYC (M.S. in Education), she was the head teacher of a five year old class in a multi-lingual day care center in Manhattan (where she learned enough Spanish to communicate when the opportunity arose). Rae moved to Boston in the 1980's "to find a husband" which she successfully did! In the Fall of 1986 she married Howard Mintz, who eventually joined the Newton Police Department and worked his way up to Chief before retiring last November. They now live in West Roxbury with their two seven year old cats, Max and Mia Mintz.

In 1994, after working as an administrator at Boston City Hall for 10 years, Rae started her own business Order In The House, as a professional organizer of homes and offices. 24 years later, she's still at it, clearing up clutter! For 10 years, she balanced her work as an organizer with two successive part time positions as an activity assistant working with seniors, first at the Greater Boston Guild for the Blind in West Roxbury until it closed, followed by

a position at an assisted living facility in Newton Lower Falls (starting off as a volunteer)! In November 2015, she decided to continue her work with seniors by volunteering at Newton at Home, after speaking with NAH Executive Director, Maureen Grannan at a Rotary meeting.

Rae loves to knit, most currently making scarves for children undergoing treatment at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. (The kids get cold from the chemo she was told). She also loves gardening, photography (especially sunsets), and scrapbooking (I've created about 50 albums) and is a member of the Women of TBA at Temple Beth Avodah. (It's community minded, has a welcoming atmosphere and it's where I got married 31 years ago). In her spare time she teaches weekly ELL (English Language Learners) classes at the Newton Public Library (The program needs more tutors) and volunteers at Newton at Home, running two interest groups "Breakfast and News" (last Thursday of the month 9:15-11a.m. at Panera Bread in Newton Center) and a Scrabble and Rummicub group (second Tuesday of the month 10:30-12 at the Scandinavian Living Center) in addition to visiting 2 Newton at Home members. Rae has a lot of energy and likes to put it to good use. She would love to have you join her NAH groups!

## Letter from our Executive Director

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do hope you will join us for the Bill Novak evening and many other NAH sponsored events in the future. Your support is key in making them as successful as "Tracing Our Treasures."

All my best for a wonderful spring.  
Best regards,

Maureen

## Ask the Pharmacist

Ray Dinno of Keyes Drugs



Photo by John Atkins

Ray Dinno reports that customers who are also NAH members are enthusiastic about Keyes' sponsorship of the NAH Health and Wellness program. The first seminar presented by Keyes at NAH was well attended, with lots of good questions from participants. The presentation, led by Ray, discussed important topics, such as medication disposal sites (Ray

recommends the Newton police station, which is open 24/7), expiration dates (important for over-the-counter as well as prescription medications), proper medication storage (air-tight containers, with safety caps if children are around), and pain medication safety. The next seminar, on March 14, will cover food and drug interaction (including supplements and vitamins) plus inactive ingredients, such as red dye.

Ray believes in the NAH model of a village in which people support one another, and is proud that Keyes Drug has been part of the Newton community since the late 1800s. Ray said that a true honor for him,

since the Dinno family bought the pharmacy in 1985, has been serving multiple generations of customers. Among other services, Keyes offers free delivery in the Newton area, compounding of individualized medications for customers, as well as pets, with allergies and special sensitivities, and a "blister" packing system, in which a month's worth of medications are packaged in individual packets containing all the medications to be taken and marked for each day and each time of day as applicable. Customers (and their family members) can easily see when medications have been taken and are due to be taken.

- Always ask the doctor and the pharmacist questions about medications: What is it for? What are the side effects? How will it interact with other medications?
- Carry a list of your medications and dosages, your allergies (especially to particular medications), the name and phone number for your primary care physician, and the name and phone number of your pharmacy.
- Call the pharmacist whenever you have a question, no matter how trivial it may seem.

"Here at Keyes Drugs, we are always happy to set up an appointment or consultation to discuss any medication concerns or questions about prescriptions, over the counter products, vitamins, and supplements, that you may have," says Dinno.

### In Memoriam

Newton at Home extends its condolences to the family and friends of

Mary Huse 1929 - 2017  
Morris Karnovsky 1926 - 2018  
Ruth Levin 1931 - 2017  
Sylvia Tramontozzi 1921 - 2017  
Gil Wooley 1921 - 2018



Newton at Home

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)