



IN THIS ISSUE:

Fall Fundraiser Double Header	1
Letter from the Editor	2
Vendor Spotlight - Harvey Home Modifications	2
Volunteer Spotlight - The Mazzolas	3
Home Again Partnership	4
Member Spotlight	4
Notables	5
In Memoriam	6

Fall Fundraiser Double Header

On October 18 at Temple Beth Avodah, Newton, NAH presented a double header Fall Fundraiser to 75 guests, raising \$17,000 to support operations and programming.

The first event consisted of restaurant tastings provided by nine outstanding local restaurants: The Biltmore Bar & Grill, Brio Tuscan Grill, Country Deserts Bake Shop, Dunn Gaherin’s Pub, Grape Leaf – A Mediterranean Grill, La Tate Mexican Restaurant, Lumiere Restaurant – A Bistro, Seasons 22 Fresh Grill ,and Stone L’Oven Pizza Co. The dining area was light and spacious, the food international, varied, plentiful, and delicious. The format was buffet style with very friendly servers from each restaurant describing their dishes. The conversation was lively, and a good time was had by all.

The second event was a presentation of the New Repertory Theater’s *Thurgood* by George Stevens, Jr., featuring Johnny Lee Davenport. The seats began at the edge of the set so that the audience was gathered in Thurgood Marshall’s office. From the moment Mr. Davenport came onto the set as an old man to recount his life’s story, his posture and voice changed subtly but powerfully to create moods of humor, tension, fear, disappointment, anger, anguish, hope, and euphoria. He shared with the audience the warm, wise, and sometimes rambling recollections of the first Black Supreme Court Associate Justice, occasionally stopping to pour himself a sip of whiskey, from being born the grandson of a slave in the Baltimore slums, denied admission to the University of Maryland Law School because he was Black, studying under and later working with Charles Hamilton

Houston, successfully suing the University of Maryland Law School in 1933 to admit its first Black student (“I truly enjoyed that decision.”), winning the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954 ending the “separate but equal” legal doctrine, being appointed Solicitor General of the United States in 1967, representing and winning more cases before the Supreme Court than any other person, and finally being the first Black Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, establishing an enduring record for supporting the voiceless Americans.

In a talk-back session after the performance, Mr. Davenport spoke of his own career in the theater. Having performed more than 200 professional productions throughout the United States, Canada, and Ireland, he has a goal to perform in professional productions of Shakespeare’s entire canon. He greatly enjoys relating to audiences in *Thurgood*, and is especially pleased by the response of school-age audiences. On performing *Thurgood* he said, “By doing this play, I hope to remind, maybe even forewarn people that the politics of our country and the laws governing our nation, based on the Constitution of the United States, apply to, and protect, all Americans. Not just the rich, not just the privileged and certainly not just the interests of certain individuals.

(Continued on page 3)



Johnny Lee Davenport as Thurgood Marshall explaining the law

OFFICERS

President

Stephen Logowitz

Vice-President

Arthur Glasgow

Secretary

Herb Plovnick

Treasurer

Paul Davis

Board of Directors

John Adkins

Eric L. Brodie

Douglas Huber

Rachel Kagno

Emily Meyer

Karen Wasserman

STAFF

Executive Director

Maureen Grannan

Office Assistant

Kathy Dolan

Program Coordinator

Amy Kraus

*Member Services and
Volunteer Co-ordinator*

Christie Jacobs

Member Services

Coordinators

Hannah Goldberg

Editor

John Adkins

Designer

Garrow Throop

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 to All!

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season this year. As we move further into the Winter months, we all tend to hunker down, so some thoughts for you. Our Winter Buddy Program is up and running again this year for our members. Volunteers are paired with members who will call members when a storm is approaching to ensure that members' phones are charged, there is enough food in the house, prescriptions are full and flashlights have batteries. The volunteers will also call you every day of the storm to assure that you are alright and to see if there is anything that you need. Volunteers will be asking what the members' plans are for snow removal and work with the Newton at Home office to seek a vendor to plow and/or shovel. If you, as a member haven't signed up for the program and feel that this would be helpful to you, please call the Newton at Home office (617-795-2560) and we will provide you with a Winter Buddy.

It's going to be a long Winter ahead, so consider Newton at Home events and programs as a way of getting out of the house, seeing other people and attending some educational lectures. For members who do not drive, we will arrange rides to the events or classes. There are several very active affinity groups including the Dining Club, knitting group, scrabble, reading aloud and the history group. Back by popular demand is the memoir writing group. Most of our Health and Wellness lectures are open to volunteers, donors, as well as members. The monthly calendar of events is on the Newton at Home website. If you need a printed version of the calendar let us know and we can mail it to you via the USPS. If there are any topics that you would like to see covered in our Health and Wellness series, please call Amy Kraus, our Program Coordinator to discuss.

Be well and have a safe and warm Winter. Be sure to call the office if you are in need of any assistance

Best regards,

Maureen

Vendor Spotlight

Harvey Home Modifications

PO BOX 5051

Wayland, MA 01778

508.838.8959

hhmods.brian@gmail.com



*Owner,
Brian,
center,
with two
brothers
and (baby)
nephew*

“Our mission at Harvey Home Modifications is to make you feel great about your home. Whether that means general home improvement, or helping aging homeowners feel safe, we are here to make it right.” This is a family affair. Project Manager Ken Harvey, a licensed Home Improvement Contractor and Unrestricted Construction Supervisor with over 30 years of construction experience, started Elder Well Home Services some 11 years ago. Advisor Karen Harvey, Ken's wife, owned an independent home care hospice business for over 15 years, then owned and operated Home Helpers Metro West for more than 5 years, then founded the Constance Rose House, a supportive adult care program in Wayland, which she owned until November of this year. Son Brian, Owner, grew up in Wayland, graduated from the University of Maine in 2012 with a double major in Business and Marketing, also an Unrestricted Construction Supervisor, is married to Melissa and has a three-month old baby, Evelyn (“Always bright-eyed and smiling.”).

About 4 years ago the family started Harvey Home Modifications, with a priority of home accessibility improvements, ranging from installing grab-bars, to kitchen and bathroom improvements, to gutting and rebuilding the whole house. They emphasize Universal Design, an “equitable use”

remodeling theory whereby remodeling is designed for all possible future use. They work closely with architects and designers using this theory, creating accessible kitchens, bathrooms, and floor plans. Home safety consulting is built-in to their work.

NAH member Gwindale Miller says that Brian and his crew were very respectful and responsive to her concerns surrounding her respiratory condition in doing their work. "I've worked with a lot of contractors, and these folks are really good." NAH member Faye Weston shares that sentiment, "I was quite satisfied with the work they did on my bathroom, and I found them to be very pleasant." Ninety percent of their business comes from referrals, whether from customers or senior-oriented organizations such as NAH. Business has doubled in volume in the past year, primarily due to the increasing size of projects.

Brian says seniors should be aware of the Massachusetts Home Modification Loan Program, run by six state agencies, such as the Metro Boston Housing, which serves the City of Newton, whereby seniors can obtain interest-free or low-interest home-accessibility improvement loans, based on home equity and income guidelines, up to \$50,000.00. The loan does not require monthly payments; repayment is required when the property is sold or has its title transferred. Brian emphasizes no project is too small or too big. However, when a client asked them to renovate a vacation home on a lake in Maine, suggesting they use the house for three months over the summer while remodeling, they had to turn the work down – their unrestricted licenses don't work in Maine.

Fall Fundraiser *(Continued from page 1)*

Thurgood gives us hope and assurance that one man can make a difference."

As always, the fundraiser was the result of a great deal of effort by many people. Program Director Amy Kraus led the effort, ably assisted by Kathy Dolan (Office Assistant), Hannah Goldberg (Member Services), Maureen Grannan (Executive Director), Christie Jacobs (Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator), the NAH Fundraising Committee (Emily Meyer, Cynthia Pill, Karen Wasserman, Douglas Huber, and Linda Sweeney), and volunteer graphic artist Garrow Throop. Special thanks go to Platinum Sponsor The Village Bank, the many community partners advertising in the program book, Costco, Star Market, and Wegman's for in-kind donations, and Temple Beth Avodah for their generosity and hospitality.

Volunteer Spotlight Steve, Andrew, and Ryan Mazzola



Steve grew up in Dedham, lives in Westwood, and is the Director of Technology for the Belmont Public Schools. He has over 20 years

of experience in technology and education, having served as the Director of Technology for the city of Melrose and spending 7 years in Arlington, during which time he oversaw the town and school departments' transition to a consolidated, single information technology department. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies from UMass/Amherst and a Master's Degree in Mass Communication from Emerson College. "I think the biggest challenge for school districts is getting the right tools in the hands of teachers so that it benefits the educational process. ...There are always budgetary constraints, but it's a matter of effective training and support."

Sons Andrew, 17, and Ryan, 15, attend school. Andrew is waiting to hear from colleges about early acceptance and wants to pursue studies in Business. He has been tutoring middle school students in math for 2 years and enjoys having some of his former students now attending school with him. Ryan has joined a Bully Prevention Theater Group which is currently practicing scenes they will present to middle schoolers on how to handle various situations.

Last June, Steve and his sons searched on Google for service opportunities and were attracted by NAH and its mission. "We do the heavy lifting. ... We take out air conditioners and then we return to reinstall them. ... We like to think we make a difference. We keep a spreadsheet of all our jobs. We enjoy doing repeat visits, and we have received lots of nice notes from members. ...It's nice to feel appreciated." The boys especially like the flexibility, picking when they will do a project and fitting it into their own lives. Steve is impressed by the office operation and how well they have things set up. "They know what they're doing." Both boys say they would recommend volunteering at NAH to their friends.

Home Again Partnership

Home Again is a collaboration of Newton at Home and other local non-profits to supply housewares (dishes, linens, small appliances, etc.) to those who need them. This is a wonderful fit for NAH members who are downsizing.

Our goal is to collect, sort and organize donated home goods, and make them available to organizations and individuals who are helping people create new living environments. The home goods that we collect include: kitchen items (plates/cups/silverware/electronic appliances), bathroom items (trash cans/mirrors/containers), sheets, towels and wall decorations.

Home Again is a benefit to NAH members and the community as it shortens the road between the donor and the recipient. Within days of making a donation of, for instance, a stack of towels, they are already in use in their next home.

Newton at Home volunteers pick up items at the homes of NAH members and non-members. For a pickup at your location, please email: homeagainnah@gmail.com. (When we receive items that we cannot use we donate them to: Household Goods of MA, the MSPCA, More Than Words and Goodwill.)

We store these items in donated office space in Newton Center. Social workers, other representatives from social service organizations, and private individuals may access this space and take what they can use. To schedule a time for pickup of the donated items we've stored, please email: homeagainnah@gmail.com.

In addition, every Tuesday, a NAH volunteer brings 2-3 boxes of home goods to the Centre Street Food Pantry in Newton. These items are displayed and made available to anyone coming to the pantry for groceries.

This project is staffed by Newton at Home Volunteers: Julie Plaut Mahoney, Mindy Peckler, Lisa Porter, Melanie Siegel, and Jordana Alford.

Questions? Please email: homeagainnah@gmail.com.

Bedroom: sheets, comforters/blankets, lamps

Kitchen: dishes, silverware, pots and pans, utensils, baking supplies, paper goods

Bathroom: clear shower curtains, bath mats, toilet paper (unopened)

Cleaning supplies: bucket, mop, broom, cleaning products, sponges, paper towels

Member Spotlight

Giovanni Fazio and Suzanne Garen-Fazio

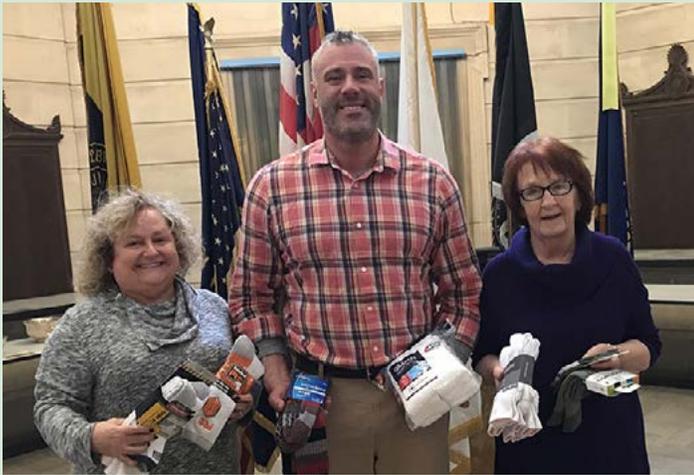


Giovanni Fazio and Suzanne Garen-Fazio have lived in the same house since 1986, now living with Sophie, a Havanese, the national dog of Cuba descended from the extinct Bichon Terrife. Now in their 80's they joined Newton at Home for help taking out the garbage. They were delighted to find out about the handyman service, which they greatly enjoy.

Giovanni is an astrophysicist, Suzanne a molecular biologist. Suzanne is retired and now concentrates on making ceramics. At 85, Giovanni still goes to work each day, as Senior Physicist at the Optical and Infrared Division, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, pursuing the development of infrared instrumentation and the use of infrared array cameras on ground-based and space telescopes to observe galaxy formation and evolution in the early Universe, black holes, ultra-luminous galaxies, star formation and evolution, and brown dwarfs, analyzing infrared radiation that can take over 13 billion years to reach earth. "It's fun....You never know what you're going to learn."

Growing up in San Antonio, Giovanni spent a lot of time in the library, where he discovered nuclear physics. He started collecting graduate school catalogues in the eighth grade, intent on becoming a nuclear physicist. In 1959, with a BS in Physics and a BA in Chemistry from St. Mary's University, Texas, and a PhD in Physics from MIT, he joined the Physics Department, University of Rochester. When gamma rays were detected coming from outer space, he led an effort to apply principles of nuclear physics to astronomy. "We felt we knew a lot about gamma rays and how to detect them, so we turned from the accelerator to the telescope.... After 10 years we decided we had been pursuing a mistaken theory, but by then I was hooked on astronomy." He has stayed hooked. His "short biography" on the Harvard website has over a page listing his international awards;

(Continued page 6)



Susan Paley of Village Bank and current Rotary President; Seth Bai, City of Newton Director of Veterans affairs; and Maureen Grannan, Executive Director of Newton at Home with some of the socks donated in Sock Drive for Veterans.

Notables

• **Sock Drive for Veterans.** Did you know that one of the most requested items from service members and veterans is socks? NAH, the Rotary Club of Newton, and The Village Bank joined together in a Sock Drive for Veterans. Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians, members and volunteers of Newton at Home, and employees of The Village Bank, we were able to deliver our HUGE bags of socks to City of Newton Director of Veterans Affairs Seth Bai. It's a great feeling to support our Vets! Thanks to all of the members and volunteers who donated so generously to this cause. It is greatly appreciated.

• **Leaf Raking.** NAH had its Fall Leaf Raking Program



Volunteer Leslie Gonzalez and family and NAH member Ducha Weisskop at leaf raking

over several weekends in November. Seventeen Fesenden middle school students, 24 family members from the Israeli American Council in Newton Center, many other volunteers put in 120 hours raking leaves for 11 NAH members. Members provided cider and donuts, and a good time was had by all.

• **Watch Batteries.** The watch battery replacement workshop is the second Wednesday of each month from 1p.m.-3p.m. in the Small Appliance Workshop at the Scandinavian Living Center. The cost is \$2.00 for the battery and installation is free! It is next scheduled for January 9, 2019.

• **Winter Buddy Program.** This program was started several years ago as a way to connect volunteers with NAH members. Volunteers are assigned to individuals or households for the entire winter if requested by members. If a storm is predicted, the volunteers will check in to assure that the members have food, medications, batteries, and that their cellphones are charged. The volunteers will also check in everyday of the storm to see that the members are all right. The program runs from December 10th through April 6th. Anyone who wants to participate or who knows someone they think may benefit from participation should call Hannah Goldberg at NAH.

• **NAH Members on Newton Commissions.** NAH member Dorothy Anger has recently been appointed to the Newton Council on Aging, joining NAH member Norman Meltzer. This is a group of interested volunteers appointed by the Mayor to serve the needs and improve the quality of life for all Newton seniors, focusing on outreach, advocacy, education, and legislation. The Council on Aging and Advisory Board are part of the Department of Senior Services.

NAH member Sally Craig Huber is a member of NewCAL, The City of Newton has launched a process to develop new space for senior activities. NewCAL, an acronym that stands for Newton Center for Active Living, is the working name for the process. In an effort to gather as much information as possible and engage the entire community, several open office hours and listening sessions are planned over the next several months, throughout the City at multiple different venues.

Member Spotlight

(Continued from page 4)

his Curriculum Vitae and Bibliography runs 76 pages – and he’s a nice guy.

In 1984 he was selected as the Principal Investigator for the Infrared Array Camera (IRAC) experiment on the Spitzer Telescope, one of NASA’s Great Observatories. The Telescope was launched in 2003, after 19 years of work developing the IRAC. “That was a really tense moment, seeing 19 years of work sitting on top of a rocket on the launch pad, knowing that it could all go up in smoke in a matter of seconds.” The launch went well; the Telescope, planned to be operational for 5 years, has just had its 15th anniversary, and the IRAC is still sending data.

Giovanni, with his first wife who died in 1980, has two adopted sons; Giovanni A., a graduate of Colby College who is a writer, musician and composer now living in Tokyo; and Jerome, who is in the building and construction trades in Framingham,

Suzanne grew up in Kansas, started Colorado College as an Art major, switched to French, and then to science studies after deciding to become a doctor. Unable to pay for medical school, she did graduate work in biochemistry at the University of Michigan, then switched to the new field of molecular biology, exploring the field as a technician at a new lab forming at MIT. She ultimately received a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania. During her graduate school and post-doctoral years she had two sons and a daughter with her first husband, a professor at Yale. Upon moving to Boston in 1985 to marry Giovanni (whom she met through family) she became a Lecturer in the Neurology Department at Harvard Medical School and finally the Managing Editor of the Journal of Comparative Neurology. In retirement she has focused on ceramics at the Harvard Ceramics Program studio. Her three children by her prior marriage are Jonathan

Garen, a graduate of MIT and Yale and now Chief Business Officer at the Lexington biotechnology company uniQure; Micah Garen, a Brooklyn resident and graduate of Cornell who is a documentary filmmaker and journalist whose work has focused on conflict zones in the Middle East and Afghanistan, and whose book *American Hostage* is a memoir of his kidnapping in Iraq in 2004; and a daughter, Eva Garen, who has a PhD in Social Ecology from Yale University and is now Director of the Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative in the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies at Yale.

Despite their consternation over national politics, Giovanni and Suzanne were buoyed somewhat by the midterm elections. “When a red state like Kansas sends a Democrat woman to the governor’s mansion and another one to the U.S. House, you have to have some hope.”

For the past several years, Giovanni has been a speaker at Newton Inspires, a series of talks put on by the Newton Schools Foundation to raise money for the Newton public schools. According to the Foundation’s website, the program offers “An Evening of Ideas and Community in which prominent Newtonians share their passions.”

In Memoriam

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

Shirley Baker	1925-2018
David Brailovsky	1925-2018
Benedetto Fabrizzi	1921-2018
Barbara Frazier	1934-2018
Manfred Hummel	1936-2018
Virginia Ronan	1924-2018



Newton at Home

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