



Hearing At Last BY KAREN CORD TAYLOR



MY HUSBAND IS A CHANGED MAN. He can hear again.

Dan's hearing loss began at age 21. He and a friend zoomed down the Wabash and the Ohio rivers and rocketed up the Mississippi and the Illinois rivers in a shallow boat propelled by an airplane engine mounted on the back. They had a fine time, but that engine was literally deafening.

Nevertheless, Dan's hearing was tolerable for years. In his 60s, however, he noticed a rapid deterioration. Reluctantly he was fitted with hearing aids.

They helped some. They were uncomfortable, and he removed them often. His second hearing aids were some-

times worse. In a conversation, he would occasionally ask a question that had just been answered. He did not like explaining, "I have a hearing loss." Instead, my husband, who once had a perfect score on the LSAT, appeared to be missing a few IQ points.

I grew annoyed when he didn't wear his hearing aids. Our daughters were frustrated. My sister-in-law sent him earphones that attached wirelessly to the television, so he wouldn't have to turn the volume up to ear-splitting levels. He was frustrated.

Then, last spring, a friend told him about Northeastern University's hearing center, and how clinicians there had helped improve his hearing. After a couple of appointments Dan had new, effective hearing aids. I crumpled some paper. He said, "Stop that. It's too loud."

Our situation is not unique. According to the National Institutes of Health, one in three Americans between 65 and 74 has difficulty hearing. After age 75, it's about half. The causes? Aging and a history of experiencing excessive noise.

Hearing loss has social, psychological and physical costs, said Sandra Cleveland, the audiologist who treated Dan. "The person may not want to go to a party. They may have trouble participating in social events," she said.

Please continue to page 6. ➤

BHV Members Build A Stronger Community BY ALLIE GODSEY

HERE AT BEACON HILL VILLAGE our members know the importance of investing in a strong community. A recent survey revealed scores of members who give their time and talent, cultivating deeper community connections and a sense of satisfaction in return. We briefly highlight four members who are "giving back" to the community through their volunteer work outside of the Village.

We are inspired by their stories!

Paula O'Keeffe

For nearly 40 years Paula O'Keeffe has volunteered in the MGH Emergency Department. "I wanted to see if I could stand the ER," said O'Keeffe, a self-described "medical junkie" who once trained as an EMT. At MGH, O'Keeffe helps patients sign in and feel more at ease during what is

often a nerve-racking time. "It's a privilege to volunteer," she said. "I get to help make the patient experience more pleasant." What's more, O'Keeffe says her volunteer work is good for her too. "It gets me out of the house," she added with a laugh. "What else would I do with myself?"

Sarah Ames

On a recent visit to the home of Sarah Ames, it looked as though she had been preparing a baby shower, with baby outfits awaiting wrapping paper and tissue. Ames is Layette Chair with the Fragment Society of Boston, a sewing circle formed 200 years ago to provide clothing and bedding to



Paula O'Keeffe

Please continue to page 2. ➤

From the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends:

RESEARCHER, AUTHOR AND SOCIAL worker Brené Brown defines connection as “the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

A founding principle of Beacon Hill Village is that together we are better, as individuals and as a community, and we are stronger when we give to and when we receive from each other, the Village and the greater community. In addition to connecting members to resources that support independent living, the Village also helps connect members with each other and to opportunities to engage in group activities and events.

This edition of the Villager highlights some of the ways our members connect with the community through their volunteer work outside of the Village, strengthening the community and creating meaning and purpose for themselves as individuals (*BHV Members Build a Stronger Community*, page 1).

The ability to connect can sometimes be compromised when we experience hearing loss. Hearing is one of the most important of our five senses that enable us to engage with people and our environment. In her article *Hearing At Last* (page 1), Karen Cord Taylor talks about the physical challenges, as well as the more subtle social and psychological impacts, of reduced hearing.

Hearing loss can be socially isolating, and studies show that isolation has significant negative health impacts. Led by Joanne Cooper (*Member Profile*, page 7), the Services Committee is researching several hearing assist options that will make participating in BHV programs, activities and events easier, more inclusive and ultimately more fulfilling for our members and others with low hearing.

As we approach the winter months, please remember that the BHV staff are at the ready to connect members to the information and support that can make living in Boston, especially during the colder months, safer and a little easier. And I encourage all of us who are able to “connect” with our members who might be more isolated or unable to engage in Village activities. Together we are better. As Brown reminds us, it is by seeing, hearing and valuing one another that we grow strong.

With my best, Laura

Build A Stronger Community continued from page 1.

women and children in need. This year, the Society donated 425 layettes – bags brimming with handcrafted baby items – to low-income mothers and their newborns. “We put care and deliberation into each and every one, to mark the birth as a celebration,” said Ames, adding that she derived, “meaningful satisfaction knowing that we – with the help of King’s Chapel – are really helping people.”



Layettes prepared by Sarah Ames and Fragment Society volunteers.

Lee Higgins

Lee Higgins can often be found presiding over the large volunteer desk in the MGH Gray Family Waiting Room, where she provides crucial information to patients’ families during surgery. “To have someone come up and talk to you normally, and say ‘just live each day one at a time,’ for me, it gives me a worthwhile feeling,” said Higgins. In addition, Higgins serves on the MGH Ladies Visiting Committee, which manages the hospital’s retail shops and grants proceeds to certain departments. “Without a doubt, it is the most gratifying volunteer job I have ever had,” said Higgins, who encouraged others to volunteer. “It’s not pushing paper, it’s dealing with human beings and emotions. There’s nothing more important.”



Susan Wayne

Volunteering with youth was a no-brainer for Susan Wayne, who served as President & CEO of Justice Resource Institute, and went on to found the Doc Wayne Athletic League, a therapeutic program for traumatized youth. Now retired, Wayne volunteers for Roxbury Youthworks, and Citizens for Juvenile Justice, among other organizations.

Wayne said there are daily rewards to her volunteering: “intellectual stimulation, social cohesion, and happiness in knowing that we in our generation contributed to improving the lots of young people.” Her tip for finding a volunteer niche: “Follow your passion. There are thousands of nonprofits wanting to hear from you. You can really do a lot.” ■

IN MEMORIAM Anne Buchi Martha Foreman Elsie Wilmerding



BEACON HILL VILLAGE

DECEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

A reservation is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Refunds will be made for cancellations received at least one week prior to an event unless tickets have been pre-purchased or non-refundable payments have been made and we are unable to fill your spot.

Monday, December 3 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Holiday Shopping at Assembly Row

Join BHV members on a holiday shopping outing to Assembly Row, which features over 35 retail outlet stores. Door-to-door car service and help with your packages. Space is limited. *Call Member Services (617-723-9713) for details and to register. \$10 r/t transportation. BHV members only.*

Monday, December 3 7:30 p.m. concert; dinner at 5:45 p.m.

First Mondays at Jordan Hall: A World of Cultures

First Mondays is the New England Conservatory's free chamber music series. This season celebrates musical traditions from around the world. This concert features Italian musical innovations. *Take the Green "E" Line to Symphony. Dinner at Ginger Exchange, 250 Huntington Ave., at 5:45 p.m. Concert only, meet inside Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street. BHV members and guests. Free; dinner is pay individually.*

Wednesday, Dec 5 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Living Well/Ending Well: Cancer

The topic of cancer can feel overwhelming to anyone affected by it. It's important to get helpful information from a reliable source about the science behind cancer, treatment options, and how to cope. Nurse Practitioner Kate Sciacca will talk about different types of cancer, recommended screenings, prevention modalities, and living with cancer. *Meet at Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street, Community Room. BHV members only. Free.*

Thursday, Dec 6 3-5:00 p.m.

Holiday Ornament Making Workshop

Go wild with a glue gun and get in the holiday spirit! Join BHV member Janie Wallace in making your own pinecone elf ornaments. No experience required. *Meet at Joan's home, 72 Mt. Vernon Street. BHV members only. \$10 for craft supplies.*



Friday, December 7 3-5:00 p.m.

Wreath Decorating at the Fire Station

Begin your holiday celebrations in a creative spirit! Join BHV member Joan Doucette, and Cassie Gurnon, in the age-old tradition of wreath-making. Using a variety of

boughs and natural elements, you will be sure to take home a beautiful and unique wreath for your door or holiday table. *Meet at Hill House Fire Station, 127 Mt. Vernon Street. BHV members and their guests. \$20.*

Saturday, December 8 meet at 9:30 a.m.

Harvard Art Museums

Come see the latest special exhibition at Harvard Art Museums! *Animal-Shaped Vessels from the Ancient World: Feasting with Gods, Heroes, and Kings* brings together nearly 60 elaborate vessels that span across three continents and over three millennia. These vessels offer a glimpse into the rich symbolism and communal practices that found expression at



ancient ceremonies and gatherings. *A 10-minute walk from the Harvard Square T. Meet Joan Doucette at the turnstiles at the Charles/MGH T at 9:30 a.m. or at the Museum, 32 Quincy St., at 10:00 a.m. BHV members and guests. Free to MA residents Saturdays until noon with proof of residency. After tour, option for lunch in the atrium cafe.*

Monday, December 10 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAYS PARTY

Celebrate the holiday season – Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year – with fellow BHV members at our Annual Holidays Party. Enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation at this fun and festive event. *Meet at The Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer Street, in the community hall. BHV members only. Free.*

Wednesday, December 12 5:00 p.m.

Sing-a-long for Messiah at St. Paul's Cathedral

The best way to spread holiday cheer is singing loud for all to hear! Join fellow BHV members at the annual "Messiah" sing-along at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. The audience is the choir and solos are sung by members of the Cathedral Scholars. *Meet outside St. Paul's, 138 Tremont Street, at 4:45 p.m. BHV members and their guests. Free.*

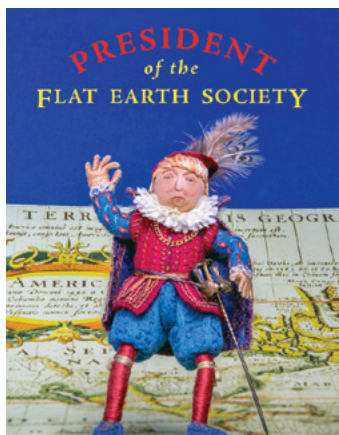
Please continue to page 5. ►

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>First Night of Chanukah</div> <div>2</div>	<div>Meditation (8:45)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>Holiday Shopping (11-1:00)</div> <div>First Mondays at Jordan Hall (5:45 dinner; 7:30 concert)</div> <div>3</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)</div> <div>Knit & Stitch (3-5:00)</div> <div>Cultural Connection (4:00)</div> <div>4</div>	<div>Another Cup! (9:00)</div> <div>Trader Joe's (10:00)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>Market Basket (noon)</div> <div>Living Well/Ending Well - Cancer (5:30-6:30)</div> <div>5</div>	<div>Meditation (8:30)</div> <div>Men's First Drink (4:00)</div> <div>Holiday Ornament Making Workshop (3-5:00)</div> <div>6</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)</div> <div>Wreath Decorating at the Fire Station (3-5:00)</div> <div>7</div>	<div>Harvard Art Museums: Animal-Shaped Vessels from the Ancient World (meet at 9:45)</div> <div>8</div>
<div>AFFINITY GROUPS</div> <div>ANOTHER CUP!</div> <div>Join Murray Frank for Another Cup! Start the day off with coffee and conversation with fellow BHV members and guests. Most Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at the Newsfeed Café at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square (use Boylston entrance). Pay individually for coffee and pastries. Registration not required. Email Murray Frank (mwfrank17@gmail.com) to be added to Murray's distribution list for more information or cancellations.</div> <div>BOOK GROUP</div> <div>BHV members generally meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 2 - 3:15 p.m. at 74 Joy Street, first floor conference room, to discuss a book previously selected by the group. In December, members will meet in the home of Fran Goldberg. Currently full. Email Allie (allie@beaconhillvillage.org) if you are interested in forming a new book group.</div> <div>CULTURAL CONNECTION</div> <div>Cultural Connection meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. at 75 Chestnut Street to discuss and plan outings related to the arts, and often stays for dinner after the meeting. Email Roberta Meyers (bonmarche babes12000@yahoo.com) to be added to Roberta's email distribution list.</div>	<div>Last Night of Chanukah</div> <div>Meditation (8:45)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>Holidays Party (5:30-7:00)</div> <div>10</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)</div> <div>Holidays Party (5:30-7:00)</div> <div>11</div>	<div>Another Cup! (9:00)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>Sing-a-long for Messiah (5:00)</div> <div>12</div>	<div>Meditation (8:30)</div> <div>Travel Group: The Roops' Southern Road Trip (5-6:30)</div> <div>13</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)</div> <div>New England Quilt Museum: Salley Mavor exhibition (meet at 9:45)</div> <div>Christmas with the Back Back Ringers (7:30 concert)</div> <div>14</div>	<div>KNIT & STITCH</div> <div>BHV members meet twice a month to knit, crochet, embroider, or do other stitch work. This month the group will meet in the home of Fran Goldberg. Contact Diana Crane (dscrane565@comcast.net) to be added to Diana's email distribution list.</div>
	<div>Meditation (8:45)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>Boston Athenaeum Panel: Meet The Moth (6-7:00)</div> <div>17</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)</div> <div>Book Group (2-3:15)</div> <div>18</div>	<div>Another Cup! (9:00)</div> <div>Trader Joe's (10:00 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>Lunch Group & West End Museum (1:00; 2:30 tour)</div> <div>Knit & Stitch (3-5:00)</div> <div>19</div>	<div>Meditation (8:30)</div> <div>20</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (10-11)</div> <div>21</div>	<div>MEDITATION</div> <div>Meets most Mondays at 8:45 a.m. and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. at the Beacon Hill home of BHV member Susan Cox. Contact Susan (ssn.cox@gmail.com) to be added to her distribution list for cancellations.</div>
	<div>BHV Office Closed</div> <div>Meditation (8:45) - cancelled</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (cancelled)</div> <div>24</div>	<div>Christmas</div> <div>BHV Office Closed</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (cancelled)</div> <div>25</div>	<div>Kwanzaa begins</div> <div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (cancelled)</div> <div>26</div>	<div>Meditation (8:30)</div> <div>27</div>	<div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Back Bay (cancelled)</div> <div>Bowling (10:30)</div> <div>28</div>	<div>MEN'S FIRST DRINK</div> <div>Join the men of Beacon Hill Village for a late afternoon drink as they continue their exploration of Boston's watering holes. Men's First Drink meets the first Thursday each month at 4 p.m. Contact Roger Cox (rhcox1@comcast.net) for the location and to be added to his distribution list.</div>
	<div>New Year's Eve</div> <div>Meditation (8:45)</div> <div>Grocery Shop (10 and noon)</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy - Beacon Hill (11-noon)</div> <div>31</div>	<div></div>				
	<div>GROCERY SHOPPING TRIPS</div> <div>Door-to-door transportation and help carrying your groceries. Space is limited. BHV members only: \$10.</div> <div>STOP & SHOP: Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and noon, and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. (Somerville); Fridays at noon (Brigham's Circle). Must call office to register.</div> <div>TRADER JOE'S (Assembly Row): First Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.; Third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and noon. Register on BHV website or call office.</div> <div>MARKET BASKET (Chelsea): First Wednesday at noon. Register on BHV website or call office.</div>			<div>HEALTH & WELLNESS</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy Sullivan - Beacon Hill: Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street, Mon. & Wed., 11 - noon. \$5 per class for BHV members. Registration not required.</div> <div>Total Fitness w/ Cindy Sullivan - Back Bay: First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street (at the corner of Berkeley). Tues. & Fri., 10-11. \$5 per class for BHV members. Registration not required.</div> <div>Tai Chi w/ Joshua: Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street, \$200 for BHV members for 10-session class or individual classes at \$25/class. Contact Joshua (gulong16@gmail.com) for more information. Fridays 11:45-12:30 p.m.</div> <div>Beacon Hill Athletic Clubs: \$5 per class for BHV members. Please contact the office for location and class schedule information.</div>		
<div>CITY OF BOSTON TAXI COUPON PROGRAM FOR ADULTS 65+</div> <div>Pick up your taxi coupons at the BHV office on the second Friday each month between 11 and noon. Pay \$5 for a \$10 coupon book; monthly maximum two books per person. BHV members and nonmembers with photo ID. 74 Joy Street, third floor.</div>			<div></div>			





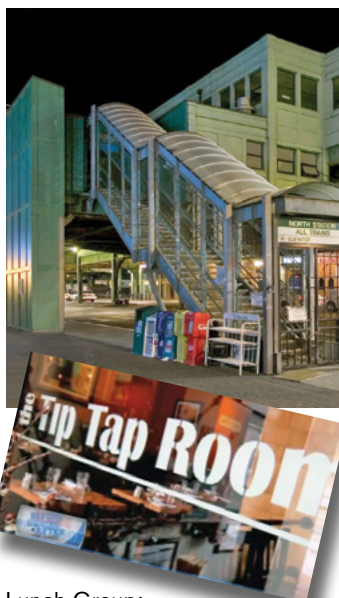
Travel Group: The Roop's Southern Road Trip



New England Quilt Museum: Salley Mavor exhibition



Boston Athenaeum Panel – Meet the Moth



Lunch Group: The Tip Tap Room and *Before the El Came Down: Photographs by John Woolf*

Thursday, December 13 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Travel Group: The Roop's Southern Road Trip

Barbara and Steve Roop, with their dog Sam, drove the southeastern states and east Texas late this past winter and early spring. Come see highlights of what they saw and hear what they thought about it all. *Meet at Joan's home, 72 Mt. Vernon Street. BHV members only. Free.*

Friday, December 14 meet at 9:45 a.m.

New England Quilt Museum: Salley Mavor exhibition

Travel by train to Lowell to the New England Quilt Museum to view art works by Salley Mavor, an award-winning children's book illustrator, whose solo exhibition was abruptly censored by another venue in September and relocated to the Museum. *Liberty and Justice: The Satirical Art of Salley Mavor* includes 11 political "cartoons," a short stop-motion film, and a display case with the film's meticulous, hand-crafted dolls and scenery. Mavor's one-of-a-kind "dollhouse" political satire is sure to amuse. *Meet BHV members Janie Wallace and Joan Doucette at North Station promptly at 9:45 a.m. for the 10:15 a.m. train. Museum is a 7/10 mile walk from train station; option to share cab. Return on the 3:14 p.m. train. Round-trip senior commuter rail tickets: \$10. Docent-led tour: \$9. After tour, lunch at Fuse Bistro. Pay individually. BHV members and guests.*

Friday, December 14, 2018 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Christmas with the Back Back Ringers

Over the last 15 years the Back Bay Ringers have been serenading Boston area audiences with their annual Christmas concert series, becoming a yearly holiday tradition for many music lovers. This year's iteration includes selections from Vince Guaraldi's score to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and a new arrangement of Barbra Streisand's "Jingle Bells." *Meet at the First Church of Boston, 66 Marlborough Street (between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets) at 7:10 p.m. (seats are not reserved) for 7:30 p.m. concert. BHV members and their guests and prospective members: \$15.*

Monday, December 17 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Boston Athenaeum Panel – Meet the Moth: A Night with the Director, Hosts & Producers of The Moth Radio Hour

In an age where information is disseminated with lightning speed, what accounts for the popularity of a return to simple storytelling? Join members of the acclaimed arts organization The Moth for a discussion about the unique power of personal narrative. A Moth Director, Producer, and Storyteller/Host will form the lively panel sharing their thoughts on the resurgence of the storytelling art form, and describing how a story makes its way from an idea, to a fully developed tale on a Moth stage. *Meet at the Boston Athenaeum, 10 1/2 Beacon St, at 5:45 p.m. for the 6:00 p.m. lecture. BHV members and their guests: \$10 for Athenaeum members; \$15 for non-Athenaeum members. Note: BHV registration for this event closes Friday, November 16.*

Wednesday, December 19 1:00 p.m. lunch; 2:30 p.m. tour

Lunch Group & West End Museum

The Tip Tap Room combines two of chef-owner Brian Poe's favorite things: tips, as in that tender cut of meat, and taps, as in fresh brews. After lunch, a 10-minute walk to the West End Museum to see the vibrant exhibit, *Before the El Came Down: Photographs by John Woolf*. On our private, docent-led tour get a glimpse into the final days of the Causeway Street Elevated Railway and the neighborhood that surrounded it. *For lunch, meet at 138 Cambridge Street. Museum only: meet at the West End Museum, 150 Staniford St. for our 2:30 p.m. tour. Lunch is pay individually. Suggested museum donation: \$5.00. BHV members and guests.*

Friday, December 28 10:30 a.m.

Candlepin Bowling at Sacco's

Join BHV members for candlepin bowling at Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square followed by a group lunch. Pay individually. *Meet at the turnstiles at Charles/MGH at 10:30 a.m. BHV members and guests.*



Encore Boston Network and the Gen2Gen Campaign

BY ANGELINA MCCOY

WHAT IS GEN2GEN? And how does it relate to BHV? Pat Chadwick, Vice-Chair of the Encore Boston Network, recently met with BHV staff and Board members to share Encore.org's Gen2Gen campaign. Gen2Gen (short for "generation to generation"), which was launched in 2016, is working to mobilize 1 million adults aged 50+ to stand up for and with today's youth by connecting older adults with youth-serving organizations. Today, Gen2Gen Boston partners with 150 organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, PlayWorks (which provides safe and healthy play during elementary recess), and 826 Boston (which helps children develop a passion for writing), and has more than 50,000 supporters.

Several BHV members are already living this mission through their volunteer work with children (read more about members who volunteer in the community on page 1). BHV member Randy Comfort works with the Department of Children and Families evaluating foster care placements with a panel of other volunteers. She says this role, along with her volunteer work with SquashBusters, provides her with new learning opportunities, while allowing her to stay within her professional field.



The Gen2Gen campaign offers a wide range of opportunities for older generations to work side-by-side with younger generations. A volunteer might mentor a high school girl through a badge project, read to an elementary school boy, lead a writing program for middle school students, or meet one-on-one to help a student build self-confidence. Opportunities range from a one-time commitment to a weekly schedule. People of all professional backgrounds and levels

of experience are invited to explore opportunities like these at Gen2Gen. (Visit www.generationtogeneration.org to learn more.)

BHV and Gen2Gen Boston are planning a joint informational event in early 2019, which will highlight an array of volunteer opportunities. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and explore options for helping young people in our community who need a variety of supports from caring adults. Together with BHV, Gen2Gen can help facilitate creating healthy relationships between children and adults, which evidence suggests can improve a child's life chances dramatically! ■

Hearing At Last continued from page 1.

They can lose the ability to concentrate. I noticed this after Dan began wearing his new hearing aids. We were having dinner with friends, and he asked a question they had just answered. He hadn't been following the conversation, much as he hadn't when he couldn't hear. Within a few weeks he was back to good concentration.

The psychological effects can be severe for hearing loss sufferers, said Cleveland. Embarrassed and depressed, they become exhausted by their efforts to participate in the world. She said that might have explained a problem with Dan's driving that I noticed.

He had to constantly adjust the steering wheel to stay in a lane.

With new hearing aids, he regained his steadiness in driving. Cleveland couldn't explain that completely, but she said exhaustion might have played a role. His balance possibly was affected since the system that controls balance is adjacent to that of hearing.

The scariest effect of hearing loss is its contribution to dementia. Thank goodness I never noticed that in Dan, but I'm happy he now has effective hearing aids.

Which brings us to hearing aids themselves. Despite the prevalence of

hearing loss in older adults, Medicare does not cover hearing aids' cost.

Their great expense is a reason some people do not get help. Cleveland said developing the technology is expensive – that surely is true. I still wonder – even the most expensive iPhone is cheaper than a hearing aid despite having many more features. Cleveland said some people might be able to get by with over-the-counter hearing aids or those offered by the big box stores.

With Dan's improved hearing we have new energy. Now if I could only do something about my vision. ■

BHV WELCOMES

BACK BAY

Susan Sloan and Arthur Clarke
Edward Fallon
Gay Ferrie

BEACON HILL

Judy and Tom Bracken
Jerry Fielder and Daniel Campbell-Benson
Cheryl Miller
Edwina Yezierski

NORTH END

Mary Stack

MEMBER PROFILE

Joanne Cooper

BY KAREN CORD TAYLOR

Joanne Cooper is on somewhat of a busman's holiday at Beacon Hill Village. She serves as the volunteer chair of the Services Committee. A retired geriatric social worker, she is doing some things she did during her working life, only this time it is for herself and her contemporaries.

Joanne joined Beacon Hill Village early in 2012 when her partner, Bill Shapiro, was ill and they needed services for him. Neighbors at their home in Charles River Park had told them about the Village, and she understood how it could help.

Joanne had been a nursing home administrator and co-founder at the Geriatric Resource Centre, a private consulting agency and home care agency that connects families with agencies and organizations that help resolve problems their older relatives encounter as they age.

Her experience ran even deeper than that. More than 100 years ago, her family helped found the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center. "As kids growing up in Jamaica Plain, my parents would take my sister and me to the Hebrew Rehab to interact with the residents," she said.

She and her husband, Herb Cooper, a lawyer, moved to Newton where they raised their two boys and a girl. When Joanne was 58 years old, Herb died after a long battle with leukemia, and she had to cope with this enormous loss. She got through that difficult time with support from her family, her work, a bereavement group and a book, *How to Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies*. She had worked with people suffering loss. "But it's different when you are going through it yourself," she said.

Later she met Bill, and they made a new life together. Relationships in later life are unlike those one has in one's early years. "We had minimal responsibilities," she said. "We had already raised our families and had had our careers."

In 2002 they left Newton for downtown Boston. "Living in the suburbs means you have to get into your car, and it is isolating," she observed. "Here you just put on your shoes and go."



It helps that her three children, all lawyers, work downtown. It is easy to meet them for lunch or after work. She and Bill became active in the Vilna Shul. They felt energized by the different ages and diversity of the residents of Charles River Park and its adjacent neighborhoods.

Bill died in July, 2012, and again Joanne was alone. But she really wasn't. She had made friends in her neighborhood and at Beacon Hill Village, played tennis and bridge, enjoyed travel and joined others for symphony and theatre performances. It helped that she had people to do things with.

Joanne sees her role on the Services Committee as learning from members what they need so that her committee and the staff can make it happen. Recently her committee identified a hearing-assistive device that helps people hear when they are attending BHV programs. They are now testing it at lectures, outings, and affinity groups. ■

Member Services – Making Connections

BY GINA PAGLUCIA MORRISON
& JANICE RUELL

BHV MEMBER SERVICES IS A great source for information and referrals as well as connections to other members. Have a bathroom that could use a coat of paint or a broken shade in need of repair? Need help organizing your home? Looking for information about home health agencies? Maybe you would like a volunteer escort to a medical appointment or someone to help you use your smartphone. Or perhaps you are facing a key life transition or challenge (e.g., a cancer diagnosis or a hip or knee replacement) and are looking for a conversation with someone who has been through it before. Whatever your needs might be, give the Member Services team a call. Gina or Janice would be hap-

py to offer information or a referral to a provider, or make a connection to another member. We have an extensive database of service providers for many frequently used services (and even some that are not so frequently used) to help keep you and your home happy and healthy. We also have members who have had a challenging life event and are happy to speak with other members about their experience as a means of support. These Peer Resource Volunteers can offer a perspective, helpful tips, and most of all an empathetic ear.

Connecting members to services, information, and each other is what the Village is all about. Call us! ■



BEACON HILL VILLAGE

74 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02114

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 56848

THE VILLAGER

Executive Director: Laura Connors

Editor: Allie Godsey

Contributors:

Allie Godsey

Angelina McCoy

Gina Paglucia Morrison

Janice Ruell

Karen Cord Taylor

www.beaconhillvillage.org

THE VILLAGER design by Joanne Legge

BHV on the Go...



Above: BHV members on their walk along the Emerald Necklace to see the extraordinary "fog sculptures" of artist Fujiko Nakaya. *Upper right:* Reese Berman (left) and Janie Wallace (right) aboard the Liberty Clipper in August on a sailing brunch cruise around Boston Harbor. *Lower right:* BHV members (from left to right) Atheline Nixon, Joan Doucette, and Carol Silverman show off their creations at a recent decoupage workshop led by Janie Wallace.

