

# HIGHLIGHT

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*The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association*

*September 2008*

CELEBRATE HIGH STREET HILL ASSOCIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
WITH

## "AN EVENING OF PILL HILL STORIES"

FEATURING

STORYTELLER

## JAY O'CALLAHAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008, AT 7:30 P.M. AT  
LINCOLN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 19 KENNARD ROAD, BROOKLINE

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PERFORMANCE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR AGES 14 AND UP.

**DON'T DELAY  
SEATS ARE  
LIMITED!**



**GENERAL ADMISSION  
TICKETS ARE NOW ON  
SALE FOR \$15**

Call Rob Daves (617-566-7334) or Bill Weber  
(617-738-5504) to purchase your tickets today!

(A LIMITED NUMBER OF HOST COMMITTEE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT. PRICED AT \$100, THESE INCLUDE TWO TICKETS TO THE PERFORMANCE PLUS ADMISSION TO A PRIVATE RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SHOW AT JAY O'CALLAHAN'S BOYHOOD HOME AT 112 HIGH STREET, HOSTED BY BENNA KUSHLEFSKY AND SETH HAMOT)

### *About Jay O'Callahan*

Jay O'Callahan is an internationally known storyteller who grew up in the Pill Hill neighborhood of Brookline in the years following World War II. Many of his most popular tales -- the "Pill Hill Stories" -- are based on people, events and exploits from his boyhood days in Brookline.

O'Callahan's solo performances at Abbey Theatre in Dublin, National Theatre in London, the Olympics, Lincoln Center, Boston Symphony Orchestra and other theaters throughout the world have been applauded by the media, including The Boston Globe, The Washington Post and Entertainment Weekly. The Associated Press trumpeted him as "a theater troupe inside one body." Time Magazine dubbed Jay "a genius."

The hallmark of O'Callahan's talent is the passion he brings to big and small dramas of ordinary life. He slips into the souls of his characters and captures the wonder and sparkling sense of life welled up inside them, creating a magical world of hope, courage and dignity.



Jay O'Callahan

### **Dues Appeal Update**

We've had a great response from our annual dues appeal last month. A special thanks to the following who gave an extra donations totaling \$570 to support the HSHA and its activities:

Dick and Lucy Robb  
Hal Churchill and Diana Post  
Lewis and Louise Lipsitz  
Bill Weber and Kathy Rochefort  
Jay Veevers  
Greg and Liz Maheras  
Robert Kaufman and Susan Scott  
Jack Cummings and Joan Lautenschleger  
Norm Janis and Patricia Herzog  
Tom and Joanna Kennedy  
Blake and Deborah Ross Cady  
Charlie and Kitty Ames  
Ruth and Duncan Gillan  
Mark and Lisel Macenka  
Theodore and Ruth-Arlene Howe  
Brooke and Jeff Cook  
Jim and Ruth McDonald  
Wib and Sue Walling  
Michele Lamont and Frank Dobbin  
Corey Clifford and Jonathan Book  
John and Laurel McConnell  
Kathleen Theisen and Gary Chellis  
Kate and Tony Leness  
Branch and Marisa Moody  
Rebecca and Patrick Mailer-Howat  
George and Bunny Baker

Learn more at: <http://www.ocallahan.com>.

# Traffic Woes to be Addressed Soon

Over the last few weeks residents of Allerton Street, in preparation for a meeting with the Town Transportation Department, put together a list of traffic and safety problems that they felt needed to be addressed. Then, as if to underscore their complaints, there was yet another serious accident at the intersection of Allerton and High Street on September 8.

It served to give a sense of urgency to the meeting on the 12th with Transportation Administrator Todd Kirrane. Brooke Cook and Mark Macenka from Allerton along with Arlene Mattison of Pond Avenue and Town Meeting Members Tom Elwertowski and Rob Daves, presented their main points:

- Allerton has become a commuter cut-through and the volume and speed of traffic has increased dramatically as people seek to avoid the congestion along Route 9.
- The number of young children in the neighborhood has also increased over the last few years. Many are on their way to school during the rush hours.
- The intersection at High is extremely dangerous due to poor lines of sight and excessive speeds.

In response, Mr. Kirrane reported that Allerton Street would be added to the High Street traffic study that the Transportation Board authorized last fall (after the HSHA filled a petition from the neighborhood). Furthermore, he said that a contract for the study with Beta Engineering was just being finalized and that data collection will begin in the next few weeks (look for rubber tubes stretched across the roads). He expects that a report containing recommendations would be available for neighborhood review and comment, perhaps as early as January.

He explained that although there are many changes expected along the Route 9 corridor-- Gateway East recommendations, extension of the Walnut Street jughandle, Children's Hospital at 2 Brookline Place-- which would impact our neighborhood, the Transportation Department was working towards a comprehensive and coordinated traffic plan that would have one main goal-- keeping traffic on the main collector roads and out of our neighborhood's quiet side streets.

He also said the long-awaited traffic study of Pond Avenue was slated for next year.



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## *Around the Neighborhood....*

### Spooky Scavenger Hunt



At Brookline's Deathly Hallows (the Old Burying Ground on Walnut Street) on All Hallows Day. Saturday, November 1. Find famous people from Brookline's past, and enjoy cider and nibbles. Event will start as the sun sets; watch the HSHA website for additional details. (Free and open to the public.)

Sponsored by the Friends of the Old Burying Ground. To learn more about the Old Burial Ground see Tom Elwertowski's wonderful collection of historical info and photos on our website.

### "I have nothing to wear!"

Please join **Jacque Francona** and **Kelli Pedroia** for a private evening of shopping (15% off) on Charles and Newbury Streets to benefit the Kid's Clothes Club. Thursday, Sept 18. Shopping 5-7pm followed by a party at The Liberty Hotel with cocktails, exceptional hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and raffle.

Founded by Pill Hill neighbors Elaine Shannon and Faith Michaels, the Kid's Clothes Club has been providing thousands of new, warm coats to children in need since 1991. For more info visit [www.kidsclothesclub.org](http://www.kidsclothesclub.org).

### Ponds Need Friends, too

The Friends of Jamaica Pond is hosting a public forum on the "Future of Jamaica Pond" on Thursday, September 25th, 7 PM at the First Church in Jamaica Plain. The public is invited to share visions, reflections, ideas, and concerns. The forum is cosponsored by the Arborway Coalition, Emerald Necklace Conservancy plus other community organizations.

For additional details and information contact Gerry Wright at 617-524-7070 x 14. Web site: [www.FriendsofJamaicaPond.org](http://www.FriendsofJamaicaPond.org).

### *Passing*

Rebekah Taube of 70 Upland Road passed away peacefully at home on August 23 with her family by her side. She leaves her husband of 50 years, Dr. Irvin Taube, and their children Samuel and Isabel. Rebekah was a graduate of Radcliffe College and worked for 40 years as a Research Associate in Radiology at Harvard Medical School, where she authored and edited numerous grants and publications. She will be sorely missed by her many longtime friends in this neighborhood.