

HIGHLIGHT

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The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association

December 2012

Join your neighbors

CHRISTMAS EVE
CAROLING ON THE "GREEN"

LED BY
CORNELIA MCMURTRIE



DECEMBER 24 AT 5:45PM

**PLEASE BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND
A WIND-PROTECTED CANDLE**

TedxBeaconStreet Inspires

It was really amazing, one of those experiences that made you feel sorry for anybody that missed it. And it was free, mind-opening and, best of all, within walking distance.

If you attended any of the TedxBeacon Street sessions at Lincoln School on November 17 and 18 you had to be inspired. Over 90 incredible speakers from our area and around the world gave short but riveting talks or performances on a wide variety of topics-- art, music, science, design and social issues. Patterned after the immensely popular TedTalks conferences but organized independently and locally, more than 800 people attended the event and 1600 followed as it was streamed live online. In addition to best-in-their-field speakers there was also a session for young adults, a dramatic launch and recovery of a high altitude balloon, a video feed from the international space station and even a field trip to visit MIT's fusion reactor (other trips or "Adventures" are planned in the coming months).

Some of the participants came from our own neighborhood-- Anthony Flint spoke about the celebrated architect Le Corbusier, a subject of his forthcoming book; Shannon Liss-Riordan told about her groundbreaking efforts in class-action lawsuits to protect the earnings of waitstaff and baggage handlers; and Walnut Street's John Werner did an extraordinary job as lead organizer and emcee.

The best news is that you really haven't missed it. All the talks were recorded and soon will be available online. If you are interested in exploring new ideas, opening your mind to things you haven't seen before, or engaging something you see everyday from an entirely new perspective, a visit to TedxBeaconStreet.com will not disappoint.

Emerald Necklace Bicycle and Pedestrians Crossings Committee Report

Over the past year, a Selectmen-led Committee composed of representatives of Town commissions and departments, the state (DCR), bicycle advocates and neighborhoods (Rob Daves for HSHA), worked with a consultant team to review and analyze existing bicycle and pedestrian crossings in the Olmsted Park/Riverway Park area. Among other benefits, the committee hopes the recommended designs will significantly increase connectivity in the Emerald Necklace and improve safety and circulation for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Last week the report was presented to the Board of Selectmen but they postponed a vote to accept it, mainly due to questions they had about traffic concerns near Brookline Avenue. One recommendation for a crossing from Olmsted Park at Route 9, however, is especially important for our neighborhood and, since there is money from a federal earmark available for this section, it is important to pursue a decision without delay. The committee's 20-page report with their findings and recommendations isn't yet available on the Town website but it is posted at the HSHA site on the "Friends of Leverett Pond" page.

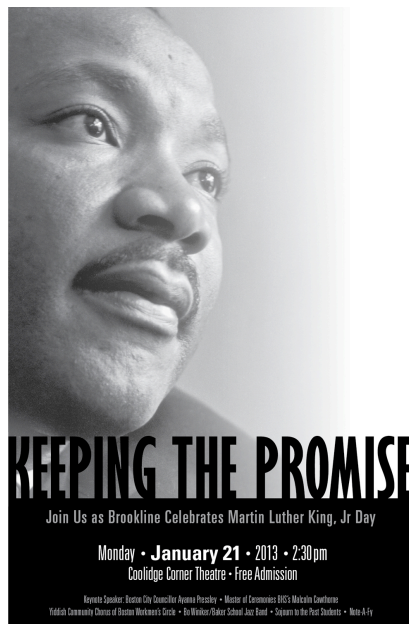
Help Wanted

The HSHA website contains a wealth of useful information about our neighborhood-- historic maps, past newsletters and recommended tradesmen as well as advocacy issues such as support for Olmsted Park and traffic calming. And now the HSHA board is looking to build upon this strong foundation and make it even better. Our goal is to create a dynamic place where neighbors can connect and engage with other neighbors directly, a place where people can participate in discussions on various topics as they emerge.

To help us in this project we are looking for any neighbors in our midst who may like to volunteer their time or ideas. Do you have any web experience? Would you be willing to join a HSHA subcommittee to help build our new website? Please contact Alexis Wintersteen (ahasiotis@gmail.com).

Architecture Tour Planned

From pre-Victorian to postmodern, our neighborhood has a rich architectural history. But it's been a while since we've held an organized outdoor tour. Stay tuned because the HSHA is planning one for mid-May.



*Poster design by HSHA board member Kristin Leader

Keeping the Promise:

Brookline's Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each year on the third Monday in January, Americans across the country come together to observe and commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., clergyman, civil rights leader, and nonviolent activist. And it is very important that we in Brookline take a moment to honor his teachings and remember his inspiring words. Although he died more than 40 years ago, his clear and courageous positions on poverty, war, education, and freedom still ring true. How do we as individuals measure up? How can we challenge ourselves to help make our country and our town a better place? How do we keep the promise of his most famous words? This year's event will feature Boston City Councillor Ayanna Pressley and a film about BHS students who traveled to the South to learn firsthand from those that participated in the civil rights struggle.

2:30pm sharp, Monday, January 21, at the Coolidge Corner Theater.
Free Admission.