

## Charitably



## Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

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**A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION**

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### President's Message

The Christmas Season is upon us and hopefully we feel in the spirit of giving. Other charitable organizations talk about their charitable work, but fail to mention the percent of donations that are consumed by salaries, fundraising and other costs. We at MCMA have no salaried personnel. Our organization is run by you. Every dollar donated has no hidden cost. I hope that you feel our organization is worth your donation.

This year has gone along very well: New members, interesting meetings with good speakers, a fine social gathering at Paul Lohnes' beach house, plus a day outing at The American Heritage Museum at the Collings Foundation. And you may have noticed that we have been getting a good turnout for our Quarterlies. MCMA is over 220 years old but we are young at heart.

The date for our Triennial is going to be December 8, 2018. We will be right in the heart of Boston during the Christmas season, the most joyful time of the year. Reserve the date. The Triennial Committee is planning a great time, and what better way to welcome our new President and visit with old friends. Have a Merry Christmas! – **Arthur**

### Recent Happenings

Our Fall Quarterly was held once again at the Montvale Plaza in Stoneham. A moment of silence was held for member and former trustee Bill Jacobs, who passed away in early October, and Past President Bud Hanson spoke of his long-time friendship with Bill. President Anthony noted that our visit to the Collings Foundation in August was a great success, and he thanked Rick Ryan and Tom Crowdis III for their work in planning and coordinating it. Our Membership Committee reported favorably on the applications of Mr. Evan Trethewey and Mr. Ross Trethewey, and both gentlemen were voted to Associate Membership. And Chairman Chuck Sulkala noted that membership applications from Mr. Derek Heidemann, Mr. James Kelley, and Mr. David Elie will be reviewed and will be reported on at our next Quarterly.

Vice President Peter Lemonias then introduced our guest speaker Prof. Samuel Forman, who is a physician, educator, historian, and author of a recent biography of Dr. Joseph Warren. Prof. Forman briefly recapped Warren's career and accomplishments, explaining his importance to the Revolutionary cause and noting Warren's connections to (our own) Paul Revere. This was an interesting and informative presentation that was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all in attendance, and we sincerely thank Prof. Forman for it.



### Helping Others

It has been a while since we last reported on the work of (and our support for) the **Cardinal Cushing Centers** in Hanover and Braintree, and it's time for an update. Since 1947, the Cardinal Cushing Centers have supported people with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages, religions, and backgrounds. Their programs for students, adults, and community members include education, employment training, transition

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services, residential care, therapeutic, and recreational services. By emphasizing personal strengths, community involvement, and vocational training, this organization strives to help those in its care to reach their highest level of independence and personal success. Developing solid work skills is seen as a priority in helping students transition to adult life. Their Vocational Inclusion Pathways Program currently serves 112 students age 14–22 and starts and continues the process of transitioning from a school-based program to a more work-based program. Students identify their strengths and work interests and gain exposure to work and various work environments. These include culinary arts, health careers, and an on-site retail center comprised of a bakery, greenhouse, arts and crafts boutique, container redemption center, and a thrift store. All of these small businesses are open to the public and serve as vocational training sites.



Over and above the vocational opportunities available within its schools, Cardinal Cushing Centers Adult Services provides support for 100 adults, many of whom are former students of the schools, through two training programs (in Braintree and Hanover) known as South Shore Industries. This enterprise offers adults with intellectual disabilities over the age of 22 a variety of employment opportunities ... and not just any jobs, but meaningful jobs that provide competitive compensation and will allow them to live more independent lives. It develops personalized employment plans to reflect each individual's needs, preferences and skills. It also provides transportation to and from work, job coaches for continuing support, and volunteer opportunities for when paid jobs are not available. More than 40 businesses throughout the South Shore partner with Cardinal Cushing Centers in support of their employment programs.

MCMA has supported many of the programs at Cardinal Cushing Centers over the years, with our more recent grants focused on their culinary training programs, at both their main kitchen where meals are prepared and served to staff and students, and at their Bass Cafe which is open to the public. These programs have proved to be among the most successful of those offered, both in terms of student interest and in the rate of success in securing competitive employment for the culinary students, and we are pleased to have had a part in their development. Looking to the future, Cardinal Cushing Centers has conducted a major fund-raising campaign for the past several years, with the goal of constructing a Marketplace Building to house, in addition to training classrooms, their Bass Cafe, Thrift Store and Gift Shop, which currently operate in different locations. This campaign is nearing completion, with construction expected to begin next year at a location more visible and accessible to the public, and the hope is that it will lead to expansion of all three retail shops and increased opportunities for the students they benefit.



**MCMA Past ...**

The photo below shows the painting of the *USS Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”) that hangs in our Quincy office. The painting was commissioned some years ago by our board of directors to serve as a reminder of MCMA’s close association with the history of this very famous and much admired warship. While some of the directors were at that time not at all satisfied that the result adequately fulfilled the commission directive that the ship be shown “under full sail in rough seas,” the painting has nevertheless “grown on us” and is now very much appreciated by all who visit our office. More importantly, the painting does indeed remind us that MCMA, through its members, has had a relationship with *Constitution* from the beginning.

The *USS Constitution* was built in the shipyard of member **Edmund Hartt**, while other members were responsible for specific elements of her construction. Member **Jonathan Balch** made the ship’s pumps and nearly all her blocks and pulleys. Members **Isaac Davis, James Phillips, Richard Caswell and William Tyler** were responsible for her ropes (or lines, as they were called). Many of her sails were fabricated by member **William Heath**, while her figurehead was carved by member **Simeon Skillin**. Member **Ephraim Thayer** built her gun carriages and, of course, member **Paul Revere** made and furnished the ship’s bell, copper nails, and other copper hardware. It is likely that many other of our members were involved as well. The keel for *Constitution* was laid in 1794, and the ship was launched in 1797, while MCMA’s founding took place in 1795. As most of those named above were “Original Members” of MCMA, it is evident that those very mechanics who were instrumental in the construction of *Constitution* were at that same time involved in the founding of our association. Our painting serves to remind us of that fact.

Though she had earlier participated in several actions during the war with the Barbary States, the reputation of the *USS Constitution* was earned during the War of 1812, in which she captured numerous merchant ships and defeated five British warships. It was during her battle with the frigate *HMS Guerriere*, after numerous British cannonballs had bounced harmlessly off her hull, that an American sailor reportedly exclaimed “Huzzah! Her sides are made of iron!” and earned her the nickname “Old Ironsides.” And she still proudly displays the helm of the defeated *HMS Java*, which her captain had transferred to *Constitution* to replace her own that had been shot away by *Java* early in that action and caused her crew to steer the ship manually, using the tiller, through the remainder of the engagement.

In 1830, following rumors that the Navy planned to scrap *Constitution*, Oliver Wendall Holmes poem “Old Ironsides” was published, and it incited a public outcry that led the U.S. Navy to approve costly repairs to the ship. (The sister ship to the *USS Constitution*, the *USS Congress*, received no such reprieve, and she was broken up in 1835.) But by 1843, while moored at Norfolk, she was deemed unseaworthy. The then Secretary of the Navy was faced with a repair estimate of \$70,000, which he could not afford, so he called in Navy Captain John (“Mad Jack”) Percival to make his own survey. Percival insisted the work could be accomplished for \$10,000, so he was ordered to make the repairs. After several months Percival reported the ship ready for “a two or even a three year cruise,” and in May of 1844, under the command of the 65-year old Capt. Percival, *Constitution* set sail for a journey around the world with orders to, among other things, “show the flag.” Following visits to the Azores and Brazil, she rounded the Cape of Good Hope and stopped in Mozambique, Madagascar, and Zanzibar before crossing the Indian Ocean to Sumatra. By then her crew had encountered fever and dysentery, resulting in several deaths, and by the time *Constitution* arrived in Singapore in February 1845, 60 men suffered from dysentery. While in port, a British commodore paid a visit to *Constitution*, and



while on board he asked if this was the same *Constitution* that fought so valiantly in the War of 1812. Told that it was, he revealed that he had been first lieutenant on *HMS Java* and it was he, following the death of their captain, who had surrendered her to the U.S. Navy on this very deck during that war. After visiting many more ports in South Asia (she would visit more than 25 in all), *Constitution* headed across the Pacific, stopping in Hawaii, Mexico, and Chile before rounding Cape Horn on July 4 and arriving in Boston in September 1846, having sailed more than 52,000 miles. Over 170 years later, “Old Ironsides” is still in the news, especially in recent months after undergoing another major overhaul, and is still as popular as ever ... and we continue to prize the fact that MCMA members played such a major role in her creation.



U.S. Frigate *Constitution* defeats H.M. Frigate *Java*, Dec. 29, 1812. Painting by Anton Otto Fischer, c. 1960.

### ... and MCMA Present

When we go back to the early days of this association, we find that many members from those times grew up on farms, working to help support the family before moving on, generally while in their teens, to apprentice or to otherwise learn what would become their profession or trade. Of course times have changed, but current member and trustee **Richard (Dick) Peterson** in point of fact followed that same path. Born in Taunton and raised on his family’s beef and lamb farm in Dighton, where he and his brothers served as farmhands, Dick later attended and received his B. S. in civil engineering from Northeastern University. After traveling the country for a year, working odd jobs, he began his work career at Briggs Engineering & Testing, testing construction materials and designing and testing roofing and waterproofing systems. Dick moved on after two years to Gale Engineering in Weymouth where he was in charge of design, evaluation, and testing of building envelope systems.



**Dick Peterson**

Following 17 years with Gale, Dick started his own company, Peterson Associates in Quincy, where he continued (for another 17 years, until his recent retirement) his focus on design and evaluation of building envelopes and waterproofing systems, working primarily with architects, and serving occasionally as an expert witness. Just a few of the interesting local projects he was involved in over the years included: Restoring and waterproofing two domes at M.I.T.; designing the skylight over the Great Hall and renovating the copper and slate roofs at the State House; and evaluating the exterior condition of over 350 buildings at Harvard University, and creating a five-year rolling program for upgrading and maintaining those buildings.

Dick is a registered P. E., a member of the Construction Specifications Institute, the A.I.A., the National Civil Engineering Society, and a founding member of the Building Envelope Research Council. He and his wife Karen, longtime residents of Quincy, are parents of two daughters (Ashley, an M.D., and Morgan, a glassblower artist) and one son (Spencer, who runs a whole-animal butchery). Dick enjoys skiing, golf, and woodworking, but his

other major interest is NeighborWorks Southern Mass, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that works to help people find safe, affordable housing. NeighborWorks particularly aims to help veterans and low-income, homeless, or disabled individuals. It has developed over 400 housing units (60 for veterans), from single-family homes to multi-unit buildings, including the 24-unit building in Quincy pictured here. Dick has long lent his support to this effort, and has served on the NeighborWorks board for 32 years. But he does find time for us, serving on both our Planning Committee and our Board of Government, and we’re very glad to have him.

