

Charitably



Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Comments

It is a great honor to serve as president of MCMA. MCMA is a wonderful organization with an amazing history, an honorable mission, dedicated members, and a strong future ahead of it. I believe our founders would be proud of the work we do today and our dedication to the traditions they initiated.

We are grateful for Arthur Anthony's service as president over the past three years. In the tradition of most of our presidents, Arthur found ways to strengthen the organization by bringing in new members, adding new events for our members, and keeping a steady hand on the rudder of MCMA. Thank you, Arthur, for your leadership. I hope to continue to strengthen MCMA for the future, continue the superb work of our planning committee, and continue to foster fellowship among our members.

The president of any organization depends on other leaders and the general membership to be successful. I know I can count on Vice President Chuck Sulkala, Secretary Marty Joyce, Treasurer Kurt Hanson, the Board of Government, and all members to help make the next three years a period of accomplishment for MCMA. Thank you for your support. Please make every effort to attend our quarterly meetings and contribute to MCMA in any way that you can. We are stewards of one of the oldest and most meaningful organizations in America. The future of MCMA depends on us. – **Peter**

Recent Happenings

We enjoyed two important get-togethers this past quarter, the first being our 74th Triennial Celebration, which was held at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston. It was preceded in the afternoon by a visit to Paul Revere's grave in the Granary Burial Ground to lay a wreath in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of his death, and a visit to Faneuil Hall where members and guests received guided tours of both the Great Hall on the 2nd floor and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company museum on the 4th floor. The evening event itself featured dining and dancing, a very successful silent auction, and of course the ceremonial passing of the "Revere snuffbox" from past presidents to our incoming president. And we were pleased to again include in that ceremony member Paul Revere III, a direct descendent of our first president. This Triennial was enjoyed by all who attended, and we sincerely thank Rich Adams and those who served on his Triennial Committee for the planning and effort they put into making it such a success.

And our 224th Annual Meeting took place on January 23 at the Neighborhood Club in Quincy. Following an invocation by Past-President Hanson, members enjoyed an excellent luncheon before attending to the business of the day. The reports of Secretary Joyce and Treasurer Hanson were read and approved, as were the Board of Government, Finance, and Relief Committee reports as presented,

**MCMA Triennial Celebration,
Omni Parker House Hotel,
December 8, 2018**



respectively, by Trustees Anderson, Valante, and Bellomo. Reports summarizing the 2018 activities of each of our other committees were then presented by representatives of those committees. Expenditures for 2019 were authorized in the amount of \$440,000; the president presented a plaque to Mr Joseph Valante in appreciation for his nine years of service on the Board of Government; one applicant, Mr. Gregory Davidian, was voted to Associate Membership; and three new applications for membership were announced. The full membership then voted to approve the recommendations of the Committee on Nominations, electing: for three years as president, Peter J. Lemonias; for three years as vice president, Charles S. Sulkala; for three years to the Board of Government, Paul Lohnes, Russell Johnson, John Moriarty, Frederick Arrowsmith, and Harry Dodakian; for three years to the Committee of Relief, Eugene Capobianco, Andrew Steverman, and Michael Lioce; for one year as secretary, Martin Joyce; and for one year as treasurer, Kurt Hanson.

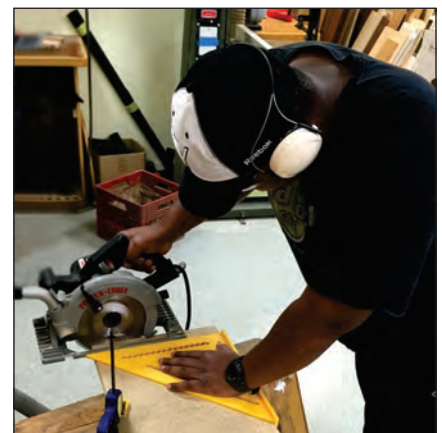
Helping Others

Some years ago we helped **Dearborn Academy** equip the shop programs at their school in Arlington, and we since had somewhat drifted apart, until 2017. Then, the school underwent a necessary relocation to a newly-renovated facility in Newton, at the former Trinity Catholic High School, and a complete makeover of their shop programs was needed. MCMA was asked to help with this effort, and we have been able to do so with grants in both 2017 and 2018.



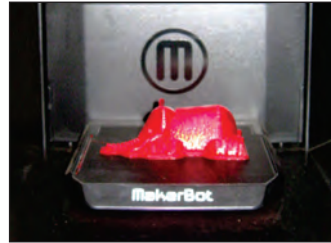
Dearborn Academy serves a population of up to 155 students each year, about one-third in their elementary and middle school, and the remainder in their high school, and those students are drawn from over 40 cities and towns. The students have complex learning issues, and they are referred to Dearborn by special education departments and educational advocates when the complexity of their needs outstrips the ability of the local school system to educate them successfully.

At the elementary/middle school, staff works with students one-on-one to meet their learning, emotional, and behavioral needs, to figure out exactly what is standing in the way of each child's success, and to make sure every child receives the care and support he or she needs. The goal is to help every student overcome their learning disabilities or challenges, regain their confidence, and be able to return to their home schools whenever possible. At Dearborn's high school, every student is welcomed into a community that stresses the importance of respect, and of developing close caring relationships between staff and students. The program employs small classes of between eight and ten students with a teacher and a teaching assistant. The academic program is individualized and is structured to enable all students to learn, whether they are above grade level, struggle with ADD or other difficulties, or have a language-based learning disability. The therapeutic program enables all students to work on their personal growth with licensed clinicians. The staff works closely with all students



to meet the graduation requirements and graduate with a high school diploma – 100% do! And all students participate in comprehensive hands-on programs in wood- and metal-working, jewelry, and digital technologies.

Dearborn recognizes the importance of shop work in their overall approach and in the development of their students, noting that shops and studios help students gain technical and marketable skills, while providing them with important opportunities for self-expression. Middle school students participate in wood shop, while ninth and tenth grade students complete sessions in four different studios: wood shop, metal shop, jewelry, and digital media. Students start with projects that help them master basic skills and safety, and advance to projects requiring master-level capabilities. Eleventh and twelfth grade students focus on a specific discipline. Interested students in all grades can also choose a shop or studio course as an elective. Dearborn has seen how shop and studio experiences can dramatically improve students' self-esteem. Every semester, they see students develop passion and pride in their work, and respect and appreciation for the work of others. The arts and crafts sales at the end of each semester are capstone experiences where students are able to exhibit and sell their work to the public. Some students gain enough expertise to transition successfully to post-secondary training and employment in their area of interest or pursue this interest on their own during and after college. The Dearborn Academy program is one that MCMA has wholeheartedly supported in the past, and we are pleased to be able to do so once again.



MCMA History

On the walls of the reception area in our Quincy office hang two different images of the Green Dragon Tavern. One is a copy (of rather poor quality) of a woodblock print of the tavern, and it was apparently a popular print, as it can be seen in many books on the early history of Boston. The other is a painting that was commissioned by MCMA in 1989 following considerable research with various historical organizations and consultants. It was done by a New Jersey artist named Lloyd Garrison, who was well known for his paintings of landscapes and of Charles Dickens characters. Our trustees were very pleased with Mr. Garrison's rendition, as it accurately depicted, according to all the information they had been able to gather, what the tavern looked like in 1795.

Green Dragon Tavern ~ Boston, Mass.



Birthplace of the M.C.M.A. ~ March 15, 1795



Our particular interest in the Green Dragon, of course, is its connection to the founding of this Association. On December 31, 1794 an advertisement was put into the *Columbian Centinel* newspaper by Mr. Henry Purkitt, a cooper (or barrel maker), requesting the mechanics of the town to meet at the Green Dragon Tavern for a joint discussion. (The lower floor of the building was a tavern, but the upper floor was used as a meeting hall, and also a Masonic Lodge room.) Mr. Purkitt wanted to see what, if anything, could be done

about apprentices not finishing their time commitments of servitude to the men who had hired them. That meeting led to the birth of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. (**Henry Purkitt** is No.15 in our Signature Book. And **Benjamin Russell**, our 3rd president, who published the *Columbian Centinel*, is No.11 in that book.) And the choice of the Green Dragon Tavern for that meeting likely went beyond the fact that it was a favorite watering hole of many of the mechanics who would become founding members of this Association.

The Green Dragon was a local landmark in those days, both for the fact that it had been functioning since 1714 or earlier, and more importantly for its involvement in the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. During the protests against the Stamp Act of 1765 it had been a regular meeting place for the Sons of Liberty. The Green Dragon was also the regular meeting place of The Mechanics, the first Patriot intelligence network on record (according to the Central Intelligence Agency). This secretive group of about 30 members, chiefly mechanics and artisans (including **Paul Revere**), apparently grew out of the Sons of Liberty. Their activities in the years leading up to the outbreak of war in 1775 included some of the earliest uses in America of coordinated surveillance and intelligence gathering. And the Green Dragon was where Revere and other mechanics had gathered in 1773 to paint their faces and dress as Indians before heading to Griffin's Wharf to assist other "Indians" in pouring the British tea into the harbor. Plus, key figures such as Dr. Joseph Warren, Samuel Adams, John Hancock and others met at the tavern frequently. The British called it a den a subversives (and commandeered it for use as a hospital during the siege of Boston), but Daniel Webster would later refer to it as "the headquarters of the Revolution."

So we probably should appreciate our connection to the Green Dragon Tavern, not simply as the place where our founding members first met to consider the idea of an MCMA, but also as the important historical site which Revere and those other founding members knew it to be, and where he and many of them had helped make history. [Member Tom Crowdis, Jr., who serves on our History Committee and has done detailed research on the Tea Party, found that at least 18, and more probably 27, of the early members of MCMA took part in that event.] The tavern was located on Green Dragon Lane in the North End, directly opposite where the Union Oyster House stands today. The building was demolished circa 1828 when the road was widened and renamed Union Street. The green copper dragon that perched over the front door atop a projecting iron rod unfortunately disappeared when the building was demolished.

