

Charitably



Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Message

With spring upon us and a wonderfully mild winter behind us, we can look ahead to another wonderful year. We had our annual meeting in January at the Neighborhood Club in Quincy, and we all got to hear of the fine work our many committees had completed over the past year. Thank you to Secretary Marty Joyce for your work in preparing for the Annual Meeting.

Our Planning Committee is gearing up to select worthy organizations to receive grants from us; our Membership Committee is bringing in new members; our Function Committee is coming up with new events and venues; and our Building Committee has completed overseeing a new roof, new entryway, and new HVAC system among other projects. These and other committees function so well due to the hard work of the chairmen and members. Thank you all for helping to keep MCMA strong.

The effort to assert our ownership of the *Wounded Indian* sculpture now on display at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia continues. We are at an impasse due to the non-response of the museum for a meeting between the head of the museum and MCMA. Even the museum's attorney has expressed his frustration about his client's failure to respond to our request for a meeting. We are hopeful that a meeting will be held in the coming weeks. If not, we will consider other options.

MCMA's painting of Harrison Gray Otis has been restored by the American Meteorological Society. (Their headquarters is in Otis' Beacon Hill home and our painting is on loan to them.) We hope to arrange an event there soon so we can all see the restored painting in this remarkable Beacon Hill mansion.

Details were sent earlier this month for the March 28th dinner gathering for MCMA members and guests we have planned at the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. As you know, the Green Dragon Tavern is where MCMA was founded. (They had an upstairs meeting room.) While the original Green Dragon Tavern was torn down many years ago, this Green Dragon Tavern is located close to where the original one stood. Please join us and help celebrate MCMA's 245th year.

And I look forward to seeing you at our April Quarterly. Until then, Be Just and Fear Not. – Peter



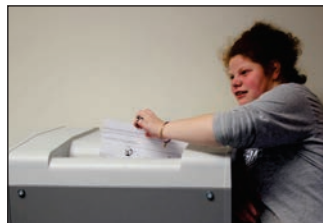
Helping Others

Most of the grant requests we receive each year come from organizations we know well, but we also hear from some that are not familiar to us, and we appreciate the opportunity to get to know them as well.

Such was the case when we received a request in 2018 from **May Institute** to support an employment training program at their May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Randolph. This school serves 159 boys and girls ages 5 to 22 on the autism spectrum, and offers residential living in community-based homes to approximately 75 students while they attend school. Classrooms typically have 1:2 staff-student ratios, and individualized programs are developed for each student with annual objectives and measurable outcomes. The May Center School operates a center for employment training and community inclusion, called the Fournier Center, geared to older students who are ready for more intense vocational training experience. One of the training experiences is for office work, including delivering mail, recycling, filing, and shredding. The May Center School requested a grant from us, and with it, the Center purchased an industrial shredder to help students learn skills and train for clerical work in an office setting.

May Institute dates back to 1955, a time when children with autism and other special needs were often institutionalized for life. Its founders, Dr. Jacques May and his wife, Marie Anne, had twin boys with autism, and with a goal of enabling their sons and children like them to lead the fullest lives possible, they opened a small school in Chatham, Massachusetts. Today, May Institute has grown into an award-winning national nonprofit organization that serves more than 2,000 children and adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, and other special needs at more than 140 locations across the country. Its four May Center Schools for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (three are located in Massachusetts, one in California) offer full-day, year-round educational services to children and adolescents. A fifth school, the May Center School for Brain Injury and Neurobehavioral Disorders in Brockton, is nationally recognized for providing educational and rehabilitative services to boys and girls with acquired or traumatic brain injury, genetic or chromosomal disorders, seizure disorders, or mood disorders.

May requested our assistance last year for the Brockton school, which serves 50 students ages 5-22. Here, classrooms have six to seven students with a staff ratio of 1:2, and teachers and clinicians work with students to help them regain cognitive skills and independence needed to return to public schools, jobs, family life, and



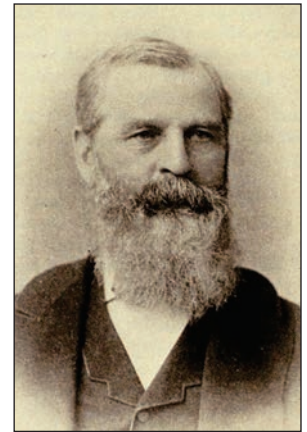
other community settings. In general, these students have difficulties with alertness; coordination and balance; weakness on one or both sides; inappropriate emotional behavior; hearing and visual deficits; and difficulties with concentration, memory, speech, and organization. Here too, though, vocational training is a part of the school's overall approach, as it works to give students training and opportunities, both within the school and at local businesses to develop and strengthen skills that will help them live more independently, build confidence, and give them a sense of accomplishment, pride in work well done, and personal satisfaction. That grant request also was approved by our Planning Committee. The grant was used to purchase a hot/cold vending cart for the school's cafeteria, where it is used by students as they learn about the hospitality trade and train for employment in food preparation and serving.

MCMA Past ...

Once again we have President Peter Lemonias to credit for the research (taken primarily from MCMA's own Annals) that produced this article on a past member of our Association. **Augustus Lothrop** was born in 1823 in Boston at the corner of North and Cross Streets (which now adjoins the Rose Kennedy Greenway). As a child he moved with his family to Cohasset where his father worked as a seafarer. His father was lost at sea when Augustus was seven years old, and Augustus worked the family farm to help support his mother until he was 15. His own words explain the next phase of his life:

"About the age of fifteen I obtained employment as a boy with a party who was laying the foundation of the Boston Custom House in 1838. Acquiring a fancy for mason work as I had seen it done, I became an apprentice to Messrs. Standish & Woodbury, and remained with them until I was 21. I was a member of the Mechanics Apprentice's Library Association in its most useful and flourishing period. Seeing the advantages many of the members possessed over myself by reason of their superior education, I attended evening school, and studied at such times during the winter months as I could not work, and also by taking advantage of our library I obtained such an education as was of great advantage to me in (later) life."

Lothrop joined with MCMA member **William Sayward** to form Sayward and Lothrop, a prominent Boston masonry contractor. They helped build many important buildings and churches in Boston, including our own Mechanics Hall and the Prescott School in East Boston. And Lothrop had other talents as well. As he was beginning his career, he tried playing an organ in a music store. An older gentlemen asked him who his teacher was and he said he did not have one. The man turned out to be a leading church organist and offered to teach him to play. For two years Lothrop attended music lessons nightly after work and then became a professional church organist – a profession he kept for 30 years while also working as a mason and contractor.



Augustus Lothrop
(1823-1896)



Prescott School
Boston, Mass.
(1865)

Peter learned of Augustus Lothrop during his research on the *Wounded Indian* sculpture. It was Lothrop who noticed an unmarked, sealed box in the basement of Mechanics Hall and found that it contained the *Wounded Indian*. That discovery, and Lothrop's subsequent efforts on behalf of the Board of Government, led to the donation of the statue to MCMA by its then owner, Dr. William Bartlett. Lothrop died at his home in Hingham at the age of 73, leaving his wife, one son, and two daughters.



... and MCMA Present

While Lothrop might have been considered a “dual profession” member of MCMA, and it’s unlikely there have been a great many others, it’s a category that does accurately describe **Joseph Bellomo**, who joined our Association in 1995. Joe was born and raised in Enfield, Connecticut, and he had a keen interest in music from an early age. He was on a record label at age 14, played with a band while in high school, and toured nationally with them for a year before moving to Boston to study percussion and composition arrangement at the Berklee College of Music.

Following college, while still continuing with his music and art production, Joe went to work for AV World in Natick, until in 1988 he started his own company (Bell Media) that focused on art production and video. And

that is how Joe first became involved with MCMA, as it was Bell Media we engaged to produce the 1995 Bicentennial video re-enacting the founding of MCMA. Joe has also, dating back to his college years, taught music, and these days teaching occupies the bulk of his time. In addition to private students, Joe teaches guitar and drums at the Guitar Center in Braintree three days each week. Plus, he still plays at events and functions, with musicians he pulls together to suit the particular needs of the event.

Joe and his wife Concetta have one son (James) and are long-time residents of Newton. Joe is an antique car nut, and he is without doubt a very busy guy, but he has given generously of his time since joining MCMA. He served for many years on, and for several years chaired, our Membership Committee, while currently he serves on our Board of Government and chairs our Committee on Relief. We very much appreciate both his service and his camaraderie.

... and a final thought

February 19 marked the 75th anniversary of the USMC landings on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945, and we saw a lot of media coverage commemorating that WWII battle. It of course reminded us that our former executive director and past-president **Ray Purdy** was a veteran of that day, serving on USS LSM-126. (The Landing Ship Medium was the smallest ocean-going ship in the Navy at that time. In the adjacent photo, LSM-126 is the third in the line of LSMs seen heading to the beaches, with Mt. Suribachi barely visible in the background.) Ray, then 19-years-old, operated the hydraulic ramp on the bow of the ship, and though he rarely spoke of them, he had very vivid memories of that day and the harrowing weeks that followed. The commemoration was but one more thing that reminded us of Ray and all that he meant to MCMA.

