

# JAMAICA HILLS ASSOCIATION

## Community News May 08

JHA Annual Meeting: Arnold Arboretum's Dr. Robert Cook

Virginia Iannella: A Tribute

Greater Boston Relay for Life

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### may

**11** Lilac Sunday  
Arnold Arboretum

**14** JHA Annual Meeting  
Maliotis Center 7 – 9 p

**17** JP Library Book Sale  
12 Sedgwick Street  
9:30 a – 1:30 p

### june

**4** Group Home Open House  
12 Parkside Drive 3 - 6 p

**11** JHA Social/Meeting  
Springhouse 7 p

**20-** Relay for Life Event

**21** English High School

■ **The JHA is looking for volunteers to help us plan social events. Contact us!**

## JHA Annual Meeting May 14

The JHA hosts its Annual Meeting May 14 at the Maliotis Cultural Center on the campus of Hellenic College, 55 Goddard Avenue in Brookline. Our special guest is **Dr. Robert E. Cook**, Director of the Arnold Arboretum. Dr. Cook will discuss the wealth of programs the Arboretum offers to the public, an update on the Lewis-Dawson Farmhouse, and the status of the new research center. Our program begins at 7 pm with refreshments and an art exhibit, followed by Dr. Cook's presentation at 7:30 pm in the theatre on the first floor. Dr. Cook is a biologist who specializes in plant population biology and whose research has been supported by the National Science Foundation.

Even if you think you know Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, a combined public landscape and research institution, join us for an engaging discussion to learn more about this world-class center in our own backyard.

**About the Maliotis Cultural Center:** The JHA is grateful to Board member **Tanya Contos** for coordinating our meeting at the Maliotis Cultural Center, which produces, sponsors and hosts a variety of artistic and educational programs and events in the area of Greek culture. **Directions:** The Center is most easily reached from the front gate of the campus at the intersection of Goddard Avenue and Prince Street. Follow the driveway up the hill to the first left, where you will see the Center (a large white building). Parking is free: You may park in the lot in front of the Center or along the road leading up to it. Please do not park in spaces beyond the lot marked as reserved for residents.

### Virginia Iannella

Beloved friend and fifty-year resident of Moss Hill, Virginia Iannella died April 30 at age 86. The JHA sends our deepest sympathy to her children Judith, Suzanne, Christopher, fellow Board member Richard and their families.

Despite being well-known in the realm of public service and as the wife of prominent politician Christopher Iannella, Virginia was cherished for her honest advice (sometimes unsolicited), her love of people and celebration, and her irreverent sense of humor. Address her as Mrs. Iannella and she would roll her eyes, jab your arm playfully and insist you call her Virginia. A woman of great faith, she never lost sight of life's true priorities and in quiet moments with longtime friends or new acquaintances, she freely shared her wisdom.

A modest, though heartfelt, tribute in our newsletter cannot capture the depth of our appreciation and sense of loss for this remarkable person. Virginia was known for turning a casual meeting into a spirited event. If you were fortunate to know her, you, too, may have cherished memories of the indelible Virginia. The JHA welcomes your recollections of and tributes to Virginia for our memory book, a keepsake for her grandchildren.

Kindly send your thoughts to [advocate@jamaicahills.org](mailto:advocate@jamaicahills.org) or mail them to po box 300392, Jamaica Plain.

### Avon-Pond Intersection

We reported in January that visibility at the Avon and Pond intersection is limited by the Armenian Nursing Home's fence at this corner and that the JHA has asked its management to reposition a portion of the fence to improve safety. The JHA gratefully acknowledges the prompt response of the Home's Executive Director, Karla Fleming. You might have noticed that a portion of the fence has been removed at this corner and replaced with low-lying shrubs and flowers. If you've driven on Avon Street recently, let us know what you think of the change: [advocate@jamaicahills.org](mailto:advocate@jamaicahills.org).

### JP Branch Library Book Sale: May 17

Friends of the JP Branch Library have scheduled its annual book sale May 17 from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm in the basement of the library at 12 Sedgwick Street. All proceeds from this popular event support our library. Become a member of Friends of the JP Branch Library and attend a special preview on May 16 from 6 - 8 pm. To join the Friends, visit [www.friendsjplibrary.org](http://www.friendsjplibrary.org). Cost is only \$10 per individual/family. Special thank-you to Board Member **Don Haber** for his hard work supporting our beloved library!

### Red Book Ad Campaign: 2008-2009 Edition

**Andrea Howley** is chairing the Red Book Committee, which is preparing work on the upcoming 2008-2009 edition of our neighborhood directory. Interested advertisers should contact Andrea at [andhowcc@aol.com](mailto:andhowcc@aol.com) or 617-522-3326. If your name or phone number was incorrect in the 2006-2007 edition, contact Anne Savereid at [ASavereid@gmail.com](mailto:ASavereid@gmail.com) or 617-524-5099.

### Group Home Open House: June 4

Since last November, Vinfen, a care provider for developmentally challenged individuals, has leased 12 Parkside Drive for use as a group home. Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez and the JHA arranged for residents to meet with representatives from Vinfen and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation on March 19. Although we acknowledge the work organizations like Vinfen do to improve the well-being of our new neighbors, running a business in a residential community does have an impact. At our March meeting we listed steps Vinfen can take to mitigate its impact on the neighborhood. Later in June the JHA and Rep. Sánchez will schedule a follow-up public meeting with Vinfen and DMR to assess the progress of these action items.

In the meantime, the staff is hosting an Open House on June 4 from 3 - 6 pm so neighbors, staff, and residents of the home can get to know one another. We hope you will attend.

### Lilac Sunday Celebrates Centennial May 11

The Arnold Arboretum's popular event celebrates its 100th anniversary May 11. In addition to the glory and fragrance of over 150 lilac varieties, tours, dance performances, family activities, and storytelling sessions are planned. Visit [www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu) for a schedule.

### Relay for Life: June 20-21

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life™ is a 24-hour event designed to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those who have lost their struggle, and support the fight against this disease. The Greater Boston Relay for Life 2008 takes place at English High School in JP and is looking for cancer survivors and caregivers to participate in the Survivor Lap and Dinner. To participate or to purchase a Luminaria Bag for the event, please contact **Andrea Howley** at [andhowcc@aol.com](mailto:andhowcc@aol.com) or 617-522-3326.

### Gateway to the Arborway

The Arborway Coalition in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation has initiated the Gateway to the Arborway. The project addresses improvements for the portion of the Arborway between Murray Circle and the William J. Casey Overpass including ways to manage vegetation on the "Arborway Hillside" (between Jamaica Place and Hampstead Road), pedestrian and bicycle access from the Casey Overpass to the Arborway, and removal of the fence on the island at the Arboretum crosswalk. At its next meeting (tentatively June 10 at Curtis Hall), Pressley Associates will present three alternative designs. The public is encouraged to attend. The JHA kindly acknowledges the dedication of Arborway residents **Sarah Freeman** and **Ann Stillman** who launched this effort. Contact Sarah at [sfreeman@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:sfreeman@hsph.harvard.edu) for meeting announcements and updates.

### Crimewatch: Summer Safety

With summer holidays and vacation time approaching, let's take extra steps to make our properties secure. On our website, [www.jamaicahills.org](http://www.jamaicahills.org), we have tips from the BPD: *How To Make an Emergency Call* ▪ *BPD Phone Numbers and Safety Guide* ▪ *Keeping Your Home Safe from Break-Ins* ▪ *Holiday Safety Tips* ▪ *Vacation Safety Tips*. If you don't have Internet access, call your street captain or a JHA Board member and we'll send those materials to you.

A heartfelt thank-you to the street leaders all over Jamaica Hills, who work diligently to keep our neighborhood safer. Don't know who your street leader is? Want to become a street leader? Send an email to [crimewatch@jamaicahills.org](mailto:crimewatch@jamaicahills.org) and we'll get you connected. If you are new to the community, consider becoming a street captain; it's a great way to meet new people.

**Senior League** This past winter the JHA asked if seniors would be interested in starting a group to plan social activities and workshops, network, and inform the JHA about ways we can better serve you. Response has been great!

Are you interested in helping plan our first meeting? Contact Maria Morelli at [advocate@jamaicahills.org](mailto:advocate@jamaicahills.org) or 617-549-3480.