

# FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Board of Directors Bios  
2017-2018

## **Allison Aichtmeyer**

Born-and-raised in Southern California, Allison Aichtmeyer (née Beckett) moved to Boston after receiving her B.S. in Political Science from the University of Oregon. Her lifelong interests in fashion, design, and organizational analysis led Alli to develop a career as a party planner and caterer, from which she eventually launched her own event and style consultancy, Style Alli LLC. Mother of a nine-year old and stepmother to four, Alli lives with her husband, Bill, and family on Beacon Hill. She serves on the boards of several organizations, including the advisory board of Mass General Hospital for Children, Friends of the Public Garden, the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy (on behalf of The Governor), The Gardner Museum, and UNICEF's New England Regional Board. UNICEF's mission to improve the lives and health of children around the world is one to which she is particularly devoted. In addition, Alli is currently working on a coffee table book showcasing style and entertaining.

## **Leslie S. Adam, Chair**

Born in Boston, Leslie and her husband Alastair have lived on Beacon Hill for 19 years, moving here from London. They live on Chestnut Street with their two children and two French bulldogs. Leslie spent many years in the management of professional service firms, most recently at The Boston Consulting Group. She is currently working in real estate with Hammond Residential. Leslie has been involved in a number of non-profits here in the Beacon Hill community including the Beacon Hill Nursery School, the Beacon Hill Civic Association, the Nichols House Museum and, recently served as the President of the Beacon Hill Garden Club, in which capacity she also was an ex officio member of the board of the Friends of the Public Garden.

## **Bear Albright**

Bear Albright and his wife Pam returned to Beacon Hill in 2012, having raised their three children in Topsfield, Massachusetts. From their Beacon Street residence, they watch over the Public Garden and, were instrumental in initiating the renovation of the George Robert White Memorial Fountain. Mr. Albright is a Managing Director at Bain Capital, where he has been responsible for the firm's fundraising and investor relations activities since 2000. Prior to joining Bain Capital, Mr. Albright worked for Wellington Management Company between 1990 and 2000. Mr. Albright received his BA from Yale University in 1985 and his MBA from the University of Virginia in 1990.

## **Christine Anderson**

Chris has been a resident of Back Bay since 2004. A lifelong educator, Chris has taught in schools in Vienna, Berlin, Jeddah, New York and Milan, as well as in Washington, DC where she served as school librarian and head of school. As an international education consultant, Chris designed teacher-training seminars for the Open Society Institutes, the US State Department and traveled often to Central Europe, the Middle East, and Pakistan to guide staff and implement these programs. Keenly interested in her community and the Arts, Chris has been an active member of the Museum of Fine Arts Associates Committee, the Friends of the Public Garden Membership and Personnel Committees, the Garden Club of Back Bay, the Chilton Club and Trinity Church. Chris is an international educational consultant and a real estate agent with Gibson Sotheby's International Realty specializing in exceptional properties. She has degrees from Concordia College and Michigan State University, Valbonne, France in education, administration and curriculum development. For relaxation, Chris enjoys cooking, reading, attending the BSO and traveling near and far to visit friends.

**Catherine Bordon, Secretary**

Catherine, originally from Rhode Island, has lived in the Back Bay since 1999. She attended Amherst College, majoring in Mathematics and Psychology. She was a Project Manager for a large software company in Cambridge where she managed the localization of the company's educational products for European and South American markets. Now raising two sons with her husband Tony, she is committed to staying in the city. Catherine sits on the boards of several area organizations – her sons' former elementary school, The Learning Project Elementary School; The Garden Club of the Back Bay; and The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay. Her husband often comments that she is “all about” the neighborhood when it comes to issues that impact raising a family downtown – schools, open spaces, and community. Catherine is looking forward to continuing her involvement with the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee, where she currently serves as co-vice Chair. The Mall has been a promenade, meeting place, front yard, holiday card backdrop, and landmark for her and her family for many years.

**Gordon Burnes**

As the Chief Marketing Officer for Bullhorn, Gordon Burnes directs the company's corporate and product marketing efforts. Prior to joining Bullhorn in 2014, Gordon was the IBM executive in charge of worldwide marketing for the Risk Analytics group. Throughout the balance of his professional career, Gordon has held a variety of leadership roles in Boston-based technology companies. Gordon also served on the boards of the Beacon Hill Nursery School and the Charles River Watershed Association, where he is currently on the board of advisors. He is also on the board of advisors for the Environmental League of Massachusetts. He lives on Beacon Hill with his wife Suzie Tapson and their three boys. Gordon has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Harvard College and an MBA from Columbia University.

**Valerie Burns, Vice Chair (*pending updates*)**

Valerie was the longtime president of Boston Natural Areas Network, a nonprofit working citywide to create new parks and open spaces in neighborhoods not well served by the traditional park system. During her tenure working with residents and partners, BNAN acquired and created 30 community gardens and led the organizing and advocacy to plan, fund, and construct two multi-mile greenways of new public parks and walking/biking trails in East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park. Prior to BNAN, she was the planning director for the Boston Parks Department. She was the president of the Boston Greenspace Alliance and is part of the leadership group of Boston Park Advocates. Valerie is now a consultant in strategic planning. She is also on the board of Light Boston. A thirty-year resident of the Fort Point neighborhood, the Boston Common was until recently her neighborhood park. After years of advocacy with neighbors, Fort Point now has its first public park.

**William Clendaniel, Treasurer**

Bill has lived in the South End for the last 18 years. For over 40 years he has worked to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Commonwealth working in state government and non-profit organizations. As Legal Counsel to the Coastal Zone Management Program under Environmental Secretary Evelyn Murphy for one year, Deputy Director and Acting Director of The Trustees of Reservations for 10 years, and for 20 years President and CEO of Mount Auburn Cemetery, Bill has worked with a broad range of institutions, communities and individuals to improve the maintenance and management of these resources and to make them more accessible to the public. At the same time, he has served as a trustee of a wide variety of national and regional preservation and conservation organizations. Bill was a trustee and board chair of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a trustee of Historic New England, and a member of the Advisory Council of The Trustees of Reservations.

### **Claire Corcoran**

Claire has lived in Boston's South End since 1998 with her husband William Murphy and their three children. Claire attended Barnard College and, holds a Master of Forestry in Ecosystem Science and Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She has worked at the Arnold Arboretum and for the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and has contributed to many publications on land conservation planning including BioMap, BioMap 2, Living Waters, and Losing Ground IV. Claire has served in leadership roles on many boards, including as the President of the Friends of Ringgold Park. She is an active volunteer in Mothers Out Front, and serves on the Executive Committee and the Tree Committee of the Garden Club of the Back Bay, the Board of Directors of the Friends of Hayes Park, the Boston Committee of the Trustees, the Steering Committee of the Boston Park Advocates Network, and the Horticulture Committee of the Esplanade Association. With the Friends of the Public Garden, Claire serves as co-Vice Chair of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee as well as Chair of the Communications and Outreach Committee.

### **Linda Cox**

Born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Linda Cox adopted Boston as her home after graduating from Wellesley College. She has lived on Beacon Hill since 1967. A former editor and bookstore owner, she devotes much of her time to volunteer work. She has served on the board of the Friends of the Public Garden since 2001, and for many years, she was a board member of Beacon Hill Village and the Beacon Hill Civic Association, where she chaired the tree committee. Linda is also the co-founder of the Esplanade Association, retiring from that board in 2006. Working with the Boston Preservation Alliance, she was a leader in the successful campaign to get the Esplanade designated a Boston Landmark. She is the author of *Lone Holdout: A Memoir*, the story of her struggle to win justice for a wrongly convicted young Hispanic man.

### **Kate Enroth**

Kate and her husband Dana Schmaltz have lived on Beacon Hill since 1997. They have three children. Kate has been a board member or active volunteer for various neighborhood organizations including the Beacon Hill Civic Association, the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity, Hill House, the Nichols House Museum, the Esplanade Association, Trinity Church, and Beacon Hill Nursery School. Kate is also a member of the Beacon Hill Garden Club. Kate graduated from Dartmouth College and has a law degree from Brooklyn Law School. She was born and raised in the Brooklyn Heights section of New York City. She practiced law at Davis Polk and Wardwell and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Since moving to Boston, Kate has focused her attention on raising her family and volunteering in her neighborhood and at her children's schools. Her interests include reading, ballet, skiing, and running. Kate and her family spend the summers in Middletown, Rhode Island.

### **Elizabeth L. Johnson**

A lifetime resident of Beacon Hill, Beth was originally involved with the Young Friends of the Public Garden in the 1990s before joining the board of the Friends of the Public Garden under Henry Lee's leadership. She was then involved with the Green and White Ball from 2002 to 2008 and joined the Council in 2013. Currently she is involved with the Trustees of Reservations where she has been active in helping to conserve critical lands and in advancing their Art in the Landscape initiative. Another focus of Beth's has been the United States Equestrian Team Foundation and managing her equestrian endeavor Louisburg Farm located in Wellington, Florida. She is also involved with the Museum of Fine Arts, the Nichols House Museum, the Society of Arts and Crafts, and the Furniture Society. Beth is an advocate of emerging American artists and collects new American furniture, current New England painters and arts and crafts.

Much of her daily activity is spent with her children who attend The Winsor School, Concord Academy and Beaver Country Day School.

**Abigail B. Mason, Vice Chair**

Abby Mason has lived in Boston since she graduated from college, first on Pinckney Street and then for 22 years in Back Bay. In 2010, she returned to Beacon Hill. She has been the chief investment officer at TIAA Kaspick since 1995. Prior to joining the firm, she was a managing director at Cambridge Associates, an investment consulting firm. Earlier in her career, she worked as a lending officer at Bank of Boston. Abby grew up in Providence, RI. She graduated from Phillips Academy and has an AB in economics and an MBA from Harvard University. From 1995 to 2011, she served on the board of trustees of Norwich University in Northfield, VT, the nation's oldest private military college. As a trustee emerita, she continues to serve on the university's investment committee. She is also a director of the Boston Lyric Opera. In her spare time, she likes to garden, work on her Italian, and travel (often to attend operas).

**Frank B. Mead**

Frank grew up in Indianapolis before attending Cornell University where he earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree. After spending several years working for architects in Stockholm and London, he settled down on Beacon Hill in 1964. He received a Masters degree in Urban Design and a Masters in Architecture from Harvard University. After an extended career in architecture, Frank founded a management consulting business in 1981 to oversee the design and construction of major building projects for non-profit institutions, corporations, and private schools. He and his late wife, Agneta, raised two children on Beacon Hill - Kristina, is a marine biologist and professor at Stanford University; and Nicholas, who died in 2007. Frank and his second wife of 17 years, Penny Bragonier, share three grandchildren. They spend their summer vacations in Leland, Michigan and on Martha's Vineyard. Frank served on the Board of the Friends of the Public Garden previously from 1990 thru 1999 and from 2000 thru 2016; he is delighted to, once again, return to this distinguished organization. In the interim, he has been active in the BH community as one of the founders of the Beacon Hill Village and, continues as a member of the Village Board and chair of the Village Council. He was co-founder of Beacon Hill Seminars; former Consul of Sweden for New England for twelve years; and former President and Chairman of the Board of the Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA). He was the 2010 recipient of the Beacon Award from the BHCA for lifetime community service. Frank currently serves on the Board of LightBoston, a non-profit organization committed to stimulating the exterior lighting of prominent buildings and monuments in Boston. Frank and Penny continue to travel extensively – including trips to Iran, Turkey, Bhutan, and Japan.

**Barbara Moore**

Barbara W. Moore has spent more time in the Boston Public Garden than any member of the present board. It was the front yard for her four children growing up on Beacon Hill and she started photographing the Garden in 1959. Together with fellow board member, Gail Weesner, she formed the publishing company Centry Hill Press. They have written and published two books about Beacon Hill and one about The Back Bay. Barbara was also a major contributor to two editions of the Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill and two editions on The Public Garden.

From 1981 until 2010 Barbara was president of Boston Unlimited, Inc, a local tour company. She has lectured about Boston's art, history, and horticulture to clubs and organizations throughout Massachusetts. Moore was an officer and governor of Gore Place for 22 years, a Senior Gallery Instructor and a Senior Associate of the Museum of Fine Arts as well as a former board member of The Bostonian Society. During the years of the New England Flower Show she was a member of the amateur horticultural committee. She is co-chair of the Horticultural Committee and chair of the

Public Garden Committee for the Friends. Barbara is a former trustee of The Dexter School and is a member of the Council for Historic New England, a Proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum, and a past president of the Beacon Hill Garden Club.

### **Beatrice Nessen**

Beatrice Nessen has lived on Beacon Hill with her husband, Peter, for many years where they raised their two children. As one of the early members of the Park Plaza Civic Advisory Committee, she was involved in the opposition to the original mega-project proposal that led to the formation of the Friends of the Public Garden. Beatrice has worked both professionally and privately as an advocate for the environment and for urban issues. Professionally, Beatrice's career has included waste materials regulation at the Department of Environmental Protection and project management at the Big Dig and for planning projects at ICON architecture, inc. Beatrice's recent board activities include the Boston Preservation Alliance, Old South Meeting House, Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Charles River Watershed Association, The Friends of the Public Garden, Park Plaza Civic Advisory Committee, Light Boston, Inc. Beacon Hill Seminars, and the Garden of Peace, Inc. Beatrice is one of the founders of the Garden of Peace, a memorial to Massachusetts homicide victims, located on the upper plaza of 100 Cambridge Street.

### **Katherine O'Keeffe** (*pending updates*)

Katherine and her husband Ian have lived on Beacon Hill since 1992 and have four young children. Katherine is particularly passionate about the Common and the Public Garden, as they have provided her family the precious outdoor space growing children need. Every day she finds herself walking in one or both of these parks appreciating their beauty and importance. Since moving here from Richmond, VA, Katherine has been actively involved in many neighborhood organizations. She has served for many years as an active volunteer at Hill House, is on the Traffic and Parking Committee of the Beacon Hill Civic Association, is a board member in the Beacon Hill Garden Club, chaired the Nichols House Museum House Tour, co-chaired the MassGeneral Hospital for Children's Storybook Ball and is looking forward to co-chairing the Green and White Ball again this year. Katherine enjoys yoga, tennis, reading and cooking. Her favorite activity is spending the summer with her family and friends in Cape Cod.

### **Patricia M. Quinn**

As a student, homeowner, parent, neighborhood volunteer, and walker in the city, Patti has lived on the same block of Commonwealth Avenue for almost 5 decades. She has come to know and love the many different uses and delights of the Common, Garden, and Mall for all ages and in all seasons. Patti is a past president of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay and former chair of the Clarendon Street Playground. She has served the Friends in a variety of capacities including Vice President and Secretary and is currently the chair of the Governance Committee. As an active member of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee and Graffiti NABbers, she regularly patrols the Mall doing battle with trash and graffiti. Patti teaches reading at Countryside Elementary School in Newton and is a member of the Board of Visitors of The Learning Project Elementary School. She was appointed to the Back Bay Architectural Commission in 2009.

### **Anne Swanson**

Anne Swanson has lived in the Back Bay for many years, focusing her volunteer service on two organizations, the Friends of the Public Garden and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB). As a longtime board member of the Friends, Anne copyedited publications including Promenade programs, membership brochures, Capital Campaign materials, and *The Public Garden—Boston*. As a

longtime board member of NABB, Anne edited *NABB NEWS* for 15 years and published *Back Bay: A Miracle of Preservation* in 2017. She has spearheaded the Graffiti NABBBers' effort to eradicate vandalism from the Back Bay historic district since 2006. Anne's professional career began with 32 years on the editorial staff of Houghton Mifflin Company, publishing market-leading reading and language arts programs for national and international markets. After retiring from Houghton Mifflin in 2007, she worked as a freelance writer and editor for the Museum of Science and several other organizations. She has also copyedited trade books, including Bobby Moore and Gail Weesner's books about the history and architecture of Beacon Hill and the Back Bay.

### **Allan Taylor**

Allan and his wife, Kathy Plazak, are long-time residents of Beacon Hill, where they raised two children. Allan is a graduate of Williams College and Columbia University Law School. He served as an Army officer in Vietnam, where he was awarded a bronze star and an air medal. He has practiced law in Boston as a litigator for forty years and was a founding partner of the law firm of Taylor Duane with offices in Boston and Providence, Rhode Island. He is currently affiliated with Peabody & Arnold LLP. Allan has served as President of the Board of Beacon Hill Nursery School and Vice President of the Board of Family Service of Greater Boston. Allan is also active in veterans' affairs, and in assisting veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other combat-related problems. He has recently published his first novel; a mystery thriller entitled *The Fantasy Girl*.

### **Colin Zick, First Vice Chair**

Colin has lived on Beacon Hill for over 25 years. He came to Boston after graduating from law school and continues to practice as a health care and life sciences lawyer at Foley Hoag. He has been a baseball and soccer coach for Hill House and is a member of the Board of the Directors of the Beacon Hill Civic Association, for which he chairs the Parks and Public Spaces Committee. Colin also has been active with his alma mater, the University of Michigan, serving as a Board member of its Alumni Association for nearly a decade. Colin and Jean have two adult sons, Andrew and Brian, who both attended the Advent School and graduated from Boston Latin School.

### **Ex Officio**

### **Jeanne Burlingame**

A graduate of North Texas University with a B.S. in Business and Finance, Jeanne began her Boston career in human resources and personnel recruitment. In 1983, she founded KNF&T Staffing Resources along with three female colleagues, placing office support staff, human resources and finance and accounting staff in permanent and temporary positions. After almost 30 years, she sold her share of the company to her remaining business partner and retired in 2011. Jeanne has served on the boards of New England Staffing Association, Boston SCORES, and an after-school program that develops the whole child through soccer, poetry, and social service from Pre-K through high school. She is currently President of the Beacon Hill Garden Club.

### **Jim Hood**

The owner of the branding and design consultancy Hood Design, Jim works in web, print, and environmental design. He is an adjunct lecturer in design at the Lesley University College of Art and Design where he teaches courses in typography and branding. Jim is a member of the Society of Printers and a past board member of AIGA Boston and the South End-Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust. A plantsman at heart, he designs and cares for the gardens at Old South Church, for which he won the Garden

Club of the Back Bay's Magnolia Award. Jim is interested in historic preservation and garden conservation. He holds a B.A. in fine arts and design from Northern Vermont University.

**Sherley Smith**

A graduate of Wellesley College, Sherley is a former elementary school teacher. After retirement, she worked at Epiphany School in various capacities for 14 years. She is now a volunteer tutor at Beacon Academy. Sherley helped create the docent program for the Friends and, continues as an active docent in the Public Garden. She is also a docent at the Boston Athenaeum and the Wellesley College Botanical Gardens. Sherley is a Citizen Scientist at Mount Auburn Cemetery where she is on the Council of Visitors. She is the co-president of the Garden Club of the Back Bay and their representative to the Board of FOPG.