



August 2020

Goddard Times

GODDARD HOUSE

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER JAZZ SERIES

August 6 • The Winiker Brothers

August 13 • The Swing Legacy

All concerts are 6:00–8:00 P.M. at Goddard House. Residents and associates may attend in person. Others can check their email box for their invite to the Cookin’ Up Jazz Live Stream to join the concerts, or email Lance Chapman at lchapman@goddardhouse.org and he will forward you the invite to join the concerts online.

Parkinson’s Foundation Moving Day Walk

Join the Goddard House team, Marching Matildas, on Saturday, October 3rd, as they support the Parkinson’s Foundation!

The Moving Day Walk can be done either virtually or in-person! For more information on how to join or donate to our team, contact Director of Community Partnerships Christine Nagle at cnagle@goddardhouse.org.

RESIDENT PROFILE



Sylvia Madanick, a Goddard House resident since March, originally hails from Brooklyn. She has happy childhood memories, recalling her grandfather’s candy store on New York Ave. “I had domain over the candy, comic books and school supplies—no wonder I was popular!” She remembers roller skating with friends, maintaining good grades, and entering a high school beauty contest.

Sylvia met her husband, Sy, on the beach. They rode the Cyclone roller coaster, and Sylvia knew she was in for a life of excitement. Sy was in the US Army, and Sylvia describes her trip on the American ship to join him overseas. They lived in Europe for a year, exploring everywhere. After his discharge, Sy became a guidance counselor; Sylvia jokes that as a young mother of four, “I could’ve used some guidance!”

Sylvia started her own business selling jewelry at flea markets, then transitioned into retail, managing clothing stores and learning the bridal industry. She loved attending to customers and brides.

Sylvia came to Boston to be near family. She is very proud of the many accomplishments of her four children and eight grandchildren! Sylvia enjoys reading, the arts, socializing, and meeting new people. Her cheerful disposition and enthusiasm for life are great additions to our Goddard community!

-EnrichedLIFE Director Rebecca Margolin

Why Being Nonprofit Matters at Goddard House

by Board of Trustees Chair *Alexandra Schweitzer*

The Goddard House Board of Trustees is expanding communications with residents, families, and our community. In addition to the newly-launched quarterly family nights, I am pleased to announce that we will be sharing Board updates in this newsletter twice a year. I look forward to sharing information on Goddard House initiatives and other topics that matter to our community.

Today I'd like to talk about our mission and what it means that Goddard House is a non-profit organization. This column outlines the key ways that being a nonprofit makes a difference to our community.

A strong mission

Let's start with the mission, which guides everything we do. As you may know, Goddard House was founded in 1849 and is the oldest elder care organization in Massachusetts.

The mission was recently refreshed and reads: "Goddard House embraces the aging experience for seniors living in the Boston area by operating a high-quality assisted living community and by creating innovative programs which support our need for purpose, engagement, autonomy, and choice as we age."

Our mission lays out our purpose, forges our strategic directions, turns our beliefs into actions, and drives our values. It underlies our commitment to the highest standards of business practice, our strategic decisions, and our daily operations. Most important, our mission and our nonprofit status ensure that the older adults we serve always come first.

Reinvesting revenue in mission

Of course, to be a sustainable organization, we aim to make sure that our revenue exceeds our expenses. As a nonprofit, we reinvest in

the organization for the benefit of our residents and employees. For example, we recently established a reserve to fund future building improvements. This year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made

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Board Spotlight

Alexandra Schweitzer joined the Goddard House board in 2012 and became Board Chair in 2017.



She has held leadership roles building innovative programs in prominent health care organizations, including Iora Health, Tufts Health Plan, and Health Dialog. Having served on numerous non-profit boards, Alexandra is

currently on the LeadingAge Massachusetts board and founded its Housing & Health Integration workgroup. She was Vice Chair of the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston Board for many years.

Alexandra began her career in Massachusetts state government and is now a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard Kennedy School, focusing on social drivers of health. She has a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School and a B.A. in English and American Literature from Brandeis University.

"I'm proud to work with this vibrant organization with such a strong commitment to creative aging with dignity," says Alexandra. "I am re-inspired every time I'm at Goddard House."

NONPROFIT, from previous page

major investments in personal protective equipment and staff appreciation pay.

Giving back

As part of our mission, Goddard House is dedicated to improving the quality of life of older adults within and outside our senior living community, reaching out to underserved older adults in the community and supporting a variety of projects that benefit them. For example, we partner with an organization called FriendshipWorks to bring music and dance into public housing sites in Boston. This program brings the residents a welcome opportunity to experience the joys of creativity and socializing with their neighbors. Such partnerships reflect our culture of giving and help make our community a better place to live.

Volunteer leadership

Our volunteer Board of Trustees (goddardhouse.org/about-us/board-of-trustees/) brings a commitment to Goddard House's mission and a variety of professional backgrounds to guide our strategic direction and growth. The Board meets at least six times a year and more when needed. Like most Boards, we have many active committees, including Finance, Investments, and Strategic Planning.

The nonprofit difference

By focusing on providing quality care, offering innovative programs, recognizing our employees for their hard work and dedication, and giving back to our local communities, we are advancing our mission and empowering older adults to thrive every day. 

Support Through the Pandemic

by Director of Resident Support Services **Marie Curcio, MSW, NHA**

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged everyone—in so many ways. The loneliness, fear, anxiety, isolation, and frustration of not being able to be with a loved one or friend takes its toll. Exhaustion, exasperation, and sadness can challenge the most loving caregiver at any time, much less the unprecedented time we all have been struggling through these past months. You are not alone.

We want to remind our readers, particularly during this pandemic, that Goddard House offers monthly information, education and support groups to family members of our residents. Our support groups are facilitated by a seasoned, well-respected MGH clinician, Barbara Moskowitz MSW, and members appreciate the support felt through shared experiences, education and resource information. You are welcome to participate in one or both of these groups (*see below*).

Transitions Group

From Grief to Recovery supports Goddard House family members who are coping with the death of a loved one. *Meets monthly on the third Thursday.*

Family Caregiver Education and Support Group

This group welcomes Goddard House family members. *Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday.*

All groups meet with Barbara Moskowitz virtually through Zoom from 7:00–8:30 P.M.

If you would like additional information about a particular group, or wish to receive a Zoom meeting invitation to one, please contact Marie Curcio at 617-731-8500 x144, or mcurcio@goddardhouse.org.





Hamilton Viewing

Several of our residents watched the premiere of the film, *Hamilton*. Afterwards, viewers were asked, "What is one element of *Hamilton* that stood out to you?"



"I liked it because it was all about emancipation and freedom. Everyone should be free."

Marie S.



"I enjoyed the individual characters."

Jewel B.



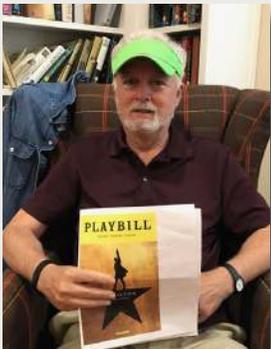
"The rhyming."

Sally S.



"The music! The interchange between the characters."

Arlene W.



"Hamilton is a multi-faceted character, and you could see him turn and turn, like a lighthouse."

Preston M.



"The pace and the dancing!"

Theresa C.



"It represents a modern version of Hamilton, and does so seriously and in earnest."

Paul W.

ASSOCIATE PROFILE



Whether you have called the front desk or had a question for the business office, you have most likely talked to **Heaven Aguirre!**

Heaven got her start at Goddard House seven months ago working at the front desk before being promoted to Business Office Associate. While you can still catch her at the front desk two days a week, she is now the go-to for all things business.

When asked what her favorite part of working at Goddard House was, Heaven said that she loves how every day is different. She also mentioned that she enjoys getting to know the residents and families. In her free time, Heaven loves giving her friends and family members manicures. She is even working towards getting her cosmetology license! During the nice weather, she loves to go on bike rides around her neighborhood in East Boston.

ELDERGROW



Resident Care Associate **Tammy Desir** and **Sandy C.** tend to our indoor garden that was made possible by Eldergrow

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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