

The College Club

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In 1890, nineteen members of the National Association of Collegiate Alumnae (NACA) met in a Marlborough Street townhouse to found The College Club of Boston. These women were interested in opportunities to socialize with other college-educated women.

By 1917, Helen P. Margesson reported on the newer organization's progress in the NACA Journal, "...the Club has maintained an active existence and healthy growth uninterrupted for twenty-five years, first in the condition of a 'boarder in rooms,' then in the apartment stage, and at last in a substantial house of its own, containing about fifty

rooms."

The Club House

A townhouse at 44 Commonwealth Avenue is home to the club today. Their first property, 40 Commonwealth, was purchased in 1905. Between 1910 and 1924 they added adjacent properties at 38, 42, and 44. In 1974, they consolidated their operations into the present building and sold the others.

Four years ago, they celebrated the completion of a major renovation of the building with a designer showcase open house. The interior spaces were redesigned by talented decorators who took inspiration from specific colleges. Each of the eleven guest rooms is named for a college.

And, unlike some show homes, the designs remain in place and are still enjoyed today in rooms available to members, their guests, and the public. The club hosts many special events throughout the year for its own members, businesses, individuals, and other organizations.

The Garden Club of the Back Bay meets here. The Chromatic Club of Boston holds concerts in the drawing room. And, neighbors find the facilities perfect for wedding receptions, showers, birthdays, and dinner parties.

When it comes to guest rooms, it's difficult to find a better value in the heart of Boston than these tastefully decorated, airy interiors—especially when the rooms are matched with a convenient location and warm hospitality.

Today's Members

Membership today is open to both men and women. "About fifty percent of our members live within fifty miles of Boston," said General Manger Edith Toth. Others are Bostonians who have moved away but want to stay connected to a bit of Boston when they visit.

"I think our reputation is that we are a very friendly club," said President Janet O'Neill. She described a wide range of activities like book clubs, dance lessons, an author series, cooking demonstrations, dinners, and their popular first Friday cocktail parties.

"We play Mahjong every Wednesday. We had a woman come in and teach us, and now we have ten or twelve people playing," O'Neill said. "It has attracted new members."

Education remains key. In addition to opportunities to learn new things as members, the organization takes the education of Boston's youth as a serious matter.



The home of The College Club of Boston at 44 Commonwealth Avenue.

CELEBRATION (from pg. 14)

practices, where to shop and what to buy, activities and enrichment classes taking place in and around the city and other "hot topics" that face families.

"Boston Babies works hard to help bring together families who choose to live in the city," said Mom, Marybeth Nelson of

Beacon Hill. "I used to hear people say how isolating new motherhood can be, but I have had the complete opposite experience. This blog adds to the choices available for city living with children, keeping it engaging, dynamic and fun."

Boston Babies will be teaming with Ellie Cooper Events to plan its Second Annual brunch at the Four Seasons Hotel. "Make Way for Ducklings," will take place on Sunday, April 1, and encourage friends and families, in and around Boston, to mingle, while their little ones enjoy live music. Details regarding this program will be coming soon and can be found on www.bostonbabies.org. For further information or to R.S.V.P. today, email bostonbabiesevents@gmail.com.

LOST PENDANT

Gold coin pendant lost on 2/13 between MGH and Arlington St. probably along David Mugar Way/ Embankment. Much Sentimental Value 617-851-4441



The College Club Of Boston General Manager Edith Toth and President Janet O'Neill were meeting in the Percy-Dauber Drawing Room where concerts, lectures, dances, and dinners are held by members, outside organizations, and others.

The College Club Scholarship Fund

A separate tax-exempt non-profit organization was set up in 1986 to raise funds for educational philanthropy. "Scholarships are presented to worthy Boston city high school seniors going on to college. The recipients are from diverse family backgrounds and cultures," said O'Neill. She also explained that the fund is happy to coordinate the awarding of a

named scholarship for anyone who would like to honor of a friend or family member.

Today, 122 years after it was founded, the The College Club of Boston is still providing a warm welcome to members, their guests, and visitors to the city. For more information about membership, rooms, or event services go to www.thecollegeclubofboston.com or call Edith Toth at 617-536-9510.

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