

BROOKLINE PAX NEWS

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January 2011

Co-chairs: Frank Farlow & Marty Rosenthal

Newsletter production by Mark Levy

Join us for our

2011 Brookline PAX Annual Meeting & Awards

Sunday, February 6, 3:00-5:00

Martin Luther King Room, Brookline High School

(In the event of snow, check www.brooklinepax.org for rescheduling to Sunday, February 13, same location and time)

“Forty Years After Dr. King: Racial Justice in America”

Carol Rose, Executive Director, ACLU of Massachusetts

Ms. Rose’s presentation will be followed by a period of questions and answers.

Election of officers and board members

Annual Awards

- Brookline PAX Youth Activism Award: **Top Secret** (a Brookline Elementary Schools program)
- Ethel & Ben Alper Progressive Activism Award: **The food banks of Brookline**
- Ethel Halperin Lifetime Achievement Award: **Virginia LaPlante & Carl Dreyfus**
- Jack Backman Social Justice Award: **Brookline’s 4 unions: Police, Firefighters, Educators & AFSCME**

Campaign Kickoff Party – Sunday, April 10, 4:00-5:30, 63 Buckminster Rd

Help PAX kick off the race for Brookline’s future by supporting thoughtful, progressive candidates! Share food and progressive fellowship, and meet PAX-endorsed candidates as they begin their run for victory in the May Town Elections.

Join PAX or renew your membership (See back cover)

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Brookline PAX Board – Co-chairs Frank Farlow and Martin Rosenthal, Treasurer Gary Jones; Members Mariela Ames, Catherine Anderson, John Bassett, Craig Bolon, Edith Brickman, Nelson Brill, John Businger, Cathleen Cavell, Abram Chipman, Susan Chipman, Susan Cohen, Marvin Feinman, Andrew Fischer, Phyllis Giller, Ruth Golden, Rachel Goodman, Amy Hendrickson, Chobee Hoy, Gilbert Hoy, Julia Johnson, Estelle Katz, David Klafter, Virginia LaPlante, Mark Levy, Rita McNally, Burton Nadler, John Reinstein, Evelyn Roll, Richard Rosen, Harriet Rosenstein, Joshua Rubenstein, Susan Senator, William Slotnick, Rep. Frank Smizik, Diana Spiegel, Stanley Spiegel, Donald Weitzman, Sarah Wunsch, & Ellen Zucker

Co-chairs' Column – Frank Farlow & Marty Rosenthal

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2012, our annual overview evokes noted scholar Lawrence Peter (“Yogi”) Berra’s, “dèjà vu, all over again.” While many of the trees keep changing, the forest – working to nurture and sustain liberal values – steadfastly continues. And PAX activists have been busy in 2010, individually and collectively, as suggested by this newsletter’s topics.

We recruited and supported Town Meeting Member (“TMM”) candidates for the May Town election in all 16 precincts this year. In races for townwide positions, winning candidates received from 1300 to 2400 votes, a number that includes an average of about 200 extra votes for PAX endorsees, or approximately 10% of winners’ tallies. Our selectman endorsee in this election, Jesse Mermell, won handily, and in addition to numerous other incumbents who did very well, PAX endorsees included successful newcomers Jennifer Rees (Library Trustee) and Tommy Vitolo (Constable). In TMM results, on the heels of 2009’s net gain of about nine liberal seats we saw another gain of about five in 2010, further improving our steadily more progressive legislative branch, later bearing fruit in Town Meeting votes.

The Annual Meeting & Awards was a great success, featuring guest speaker Jack Beatty of The Atlantic and WBUR and honors presented to the following: Don Weitzman, Jack Backman Social Justice Award; Julie Johnson & Rep. Frank Smizik, Ethel & Ben Alper Progressive Activism Award; and Eleanor & Sumner Kaplan, PAX Lifetime Achievement Award. State Senator Cynthia Creem presented certificates from the House and Senate. (Note that we have moved the annual meeting forward this year to February 6!)

We did our usual semi-annual mailing to all 247 TMM’s before Town Meeting, providing recommendations on a number of warrant articles, but the spring Town Meeting was relatively uneventful. By a close vote, Marty’s article to formalize the traditional titles of Police and Fire “Commissioners” was referred for study to the Committee on Town Organization and Structure (CTOS), of which Marty is a member, to reappear in different guise at the fall Town Meeting.

In July, to help guide our members and friends and to encourage candidates’ liberal values, our board made Democratic primary endorsements for three contested races. Except in the case of Cindy Creem, whom we have known (and endorsed) for years, the endorsements were based primarily on detailed responses to our extensive questionnaire.

We endorsed Cindy for senator, Joe Driscoll for Norfolk DA, and Pam Julian for state representative in the mostly West Roxbury district that includes Brookline precincts 14-16. Each won in Brookline, but only Creem prevailed in her race (against a well-financed opponent).

For November’s three ballot questions, we published in the TAB, and some of us handed out at polls, a piece titled “Just say ‘No, no, no’.” While we again won all three in Brookline, statewide we failed to prevent the exemption of liquor from the sales tax.

The fall Town Meeting was controversial. In addition to Rebecca Stone’s successful effort to persuade Town Meeting to seek state authorization for Green Card holders to vote in Town elections (see page 6), we worked hard to soundly defeat a CTOS proposal to transfer from the selectmen to the Town Administrator the authority to hire and fire department heads; and to overwhelmingly pass Marty’s multi-year effort to make official the titles “Police and Fire Commissioners,” after defeating the selectmen’s amendment to add the legally superfluous and mildly harmful word “civilian” to each title. Counterintuitively, on both of these articles Town Meeting rejected the selectmen’s efforts to dilute their own powers. On both issues, we received important letters of support from the Police and Fire unions.

We’re also pleased that, spurred by Frank Caro’s new Recorded Vote Coalition, Moderator Sandy Gadsby’s simplified method for counting votes has led to at least a slight increase in the frequency of recorded votes – up to an average of one per night. We will continue to argue, as we have for decades, for more extensive recording of Town Meeting votes.

On a sad note, we lost steadfast liberal Steve Morse, a longtime Pct. 1 TMM. In the early ‘80’s, he spoke eloquently to help in persuade Town Meeting to vote (103-94) not to conduct an official Pledge of Allegiance, the first of about eight annual debates ultimately resulting in the current voluntary pledge before the opening of meetings.

For details on our endorsements and stances, visit www.BrooklinePAX.org. We again urge YOU to sign up, if you haven’t yet, for PAX’s listserv. To e-hear more from PAX folk, including upcoming events, and guidance on occasionally lifting a keyboard finger for grassroots lobbying, sign up by sending an e-mail with your name in the body of the message to dianaspiegel@yahoo.com.

Global Warming Update – Ross Gelbspan

This piece is not about the accelerating pace of climate change. Nor is it about the terrifying scenarios now emerging from the scientific community.

Rather, it is about why we don't know what's happening to our species' home. Therein lies a tale of profound betrayal by an institution that is central to any democracy – the press.

First a brief update on developments over the past year:

Because of our increasingly unstable climate and the skyrocketing emissions from our burning of coal and oil, the concentrations of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere reached 386 parts per million. (Until the mid-19th century, when humans began to heat the planet in earnest, that number had held steady for 10,000 years at about 280 ppm).

In April it was reported that the world's oceans are 300 percent more acidic from the fallout of carbon emissions than they were 150 years ago, a rate of acidification that scientists say is unprecedented in the past 65 million years.

"The news has been screaming that a future of intense, global climate disasters is not the future that we want . . . We cannot afford to face escalating disasters of that kind," said Christiana Figueres, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. A few recent examples of such increasingly frequent disasters:

* In February, Melbourne, Australia recorded its highest temperatures in 108 years, while an intense cold snap and severe blizzards in northwestern China left a half million people trapped in their homes.

* In March, intense rains coupled with 70-mph winds left 500,000 households without power in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, while workers piled sandbags around the Fenway T stop to prevent the Muddy River from flooding out the T. (The National Weather Service said nearly 13 inches of rain had fallen during March in Boston, breaking the previous record of 11 inches for the month set in 1953.)

* The year was marked by a noticeable change in rainfall patterns, with far more frequent flash floods around the world replacing the ordinary, less turbulent rainfalls. In June alone, flash floods devastated areas in France, Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma City, Milwaukee and Saskatchewan.

* During the summer, a three-week heat wave combined with a tenacious drought triggered wildfires in Russia that consumed hundreds of thousands of acres. The fires forced the government to ban all Russia's wheat exports, triggering panic in world grain markets.

* At the same time, in South Asia an unprecedented spell of relentless rain left as many as one million people homeless in Pakistan.

That is a small sampling of what happened in the natural world this past year. But the prospect of much more intense disasters was amplified by findings published by Britain's Royal Society that global temperatures could rise by as much as 7° F over the next

40 years. The resulting massive, long-lasting droughts will lead in turn to crop failures, food shortages, water scarcity and the emergence of a far-flung agricultural black market – all of which will probably make it impossible to maintain an orderly society.

Most perversely, this increase in increasingly visible impacts from our overheated atmosphere has triggered not greater public awareness, but an intensification of denial on the part of the public. For example, it was reported that 47 of 48 Republican candidates for last November's midterm elections denied that climate change was happening at all.

Furthermore, this climate skepticism is not limited to the far right. The President's effort to advance a major climate change bill through the Senate last summer collapsed when Sen. Harry Reid, the Democratic majority leader, declared the Senate would not take up legislation intended to reduce carbon emissions, but would instead pursue a more limited measure focused on responding to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and tightening energy efficiency standards.

Stepping back, it seems clear that liberals and progressives share the same reckless denial as right-wing Republicans in their failure to address the coming global catastrophe.

To me, the real villains in the piece are not the executives of big coal and big oil. They're just doing what they're paid to do: provide us with affordable and abundant supplies of energy.

From my perspective, given my professional background, the real villain is the US press, which has consistently failed to cover this issue properly. When the press has carried reports of significant new scientific findings, those stories have been buried far inside the paper. When the press has covered this escalating succession of extreme weather events, it has failed to note that scientists associate this pattern of violent weather with global warming. And when it has dutifully covered diplomatic attempts to address this challenge – as in its coverage of the failed climate talks between the US and China last summer, or December's climate summit in Cancun – it has focused on the politics and basically ignored the fact that we are standing at the brink of perhaps the largest and most pervasive catastrophe in human history.

As the deep oceans heat up, the ice shelves begin to crumble and fish, birds, animals and even crops migrate toward the poles to keep pace with rising temperatures, the silence of the news media reinforces the collective cowardice of the rest of us.

I cannot imagine a more damning betrayal of public trust.

Ross Gelbspan, a longtime Brookline resident who recently moved to Jamaica Plain, is author of *The Heat Is On* (1997) and *Boiling Point* (2004). He maintains the website www.heatisonline.org

Sister City Project News – Carol Caro & Richard Segan

The past year has been a busy and productive one for the Brookline-Quezalguaque Sister City Project. In Quezalguaque, Nicaragua, the new Urgent Care Center, financed by contributions from our supporters in Brookline, was completed and opened.

In February, Sister City Project members began work putting together a shipment of library furniture and medical equipment to Nicaragua. This was a complicated task. Many people here in Brookline worked on it, raising money for the shipment and doing the hard physical labor of gathering the materials and preparing them to be loaded it into the 40-foot container (the trailer of a tractor-trailer). In mid-June the shipment arrived in Nicaragua. Since foreign governments are always concerned that items for sale may be masquerading as donations, it took much work on the part of the mayor of Quezalguaque and Sister City Project board members who were there at the time to get the shipment through customs. In early July the medical equipment and furniture finally reached our sister city.

The medical equipment was obtained through IMEC, a metro-Boston nonprofit that reconditions hospital equipment and makes it available to organizations working in developing countries. More than \$20,000 for health care initiatives was raised in 2010, and we used \$10,000 to purchase medical equipment and supplies from IMEC (valued at \$142,000!) for the municipality's central and outlying health centers. The medical equipment is currently being installed and will make a great difference in the delivery of health care to Quezalguaque residents.

The library furniture was donated by Putterham Library, which has new furniture as part of its recent renovation. The furniture has vastly improved the appearance of the municipal library, which we helped build almost ten years ago..

Our continuing support of a gasoline fund makes it possible for medical staff to travel to and from a remote health center. This fund also ensures that the ambulance is able to bring emergency cases to the central health center from the rural areas. The medical supply fund we initiated last year has been a great help for the purchase of needed minor equipment and other medical supplies. These two funds are vital in assuring access to good medical care in Quezalguaque.

In its community room, the library has added a tele-center with five computers available for public use. Each of the new computers provides Internet access. The town provides a technical assistant to help users, who are charged a modest fee to use the equipment and the Internet. Besides the tele-center, there are three computers in the main library with Internet access. Through our support, these computers can be used free of charge by students working on school projects. Thanks to the Friends of the Brookline Public Library and the Brookline Library Foundation, all library programs

continue. Monthly visit of the mobile library to five rural area schools remain popular.

We continue to sponsor art classes in the library. This year the students painted murals on the benches in the library courtyard. We have new paintings from the class that were on display in the window of Brookline Bank for the month of November, and in January they will be on display for two weeks at the Main Library on Washington Street.

Our Annual Meeting was held on November 14 at the Coolidge Corner Library. Keynote speaker Bruce Cohen began his presentation by describing the international implications of a study underway in Nicaragua by a research team from the Boston University School of Public Health. Funded by the World Bank as part of an Alternative Dispute Resolution process between agricultural workers and a sugar cane grower, the B.U. research team is trying to identify the cause of an epidemic of chronic kidney disease (CKD) impacting Quezalguaque and other regions of Nicaragua but also parts of the Pacific Rim countries of El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Dr. Cohen credited the early work of the Sister City Health Committee in drawing attention to the CKD outbreak. As members of the Health Committee, he and Daniel Brooks, the principal investigator of the CKD project, had begun investigating the cause of the epidemic more than four years ago. Dr. Brooks's early involvement and research through the Sister City Project likely contributed to B.U.'s selection by the World Bank

In other business at the Annual Meeting, Richard Segan was elected to succeed co-presidents Carol Caro and Sarah Johnson, Fran Price was elected treasurer, and Susan Morley re-elected secretary. Outgoing treasurer Carol and outgoing treasurer Arch O'Reilly will serve as co-chairs of a new Fundraising Committee. Sarah, a key contributor and liaison to Quezalguaque for many years, will be leading an engagement meeting in January and continuing to serve on the Health Committee and board. Dr. Peter Stringham will chair the Health Committee.

Annual meeting attendees were encouraged to participate in the Sister City Project through one of its committees, by joining a future trip to Quezalguaque, or by making a financial contribution. For more information, visit www.brooklinesistercity.com or contact Richard Segan (rsegan@rcn.com).

Every year our costs and needs in Quezalguaque increase. We want to continue our work and help with other mutually agreed projects. To do so, we need your help. All the money we raise goes to support programs. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. Checks should be made out to: BQSCP and mailed to Carol Caro, 27 Elba Street, Brookline MA 02446.

Carol Caro recently stepped down from the presidency of the Sister City Project, to be succeeded by Rich Segan.

A Letter from Our Senator

Dear Friends,

I write to you at the end of a productive and largely satisfying legislative session, happy to report that we were able to make legislative advances on many of the issues that you and I care about deeply. Landmark reforms in our laws on criminal records and sentencing, in particular, will have positive, long lasting impacts on all of our lives.

As you may know, one of my strongest legislative priorities has been to reverse mandatory-minimum sentencing, restoring judicial discretion and creating parole opportunities for nonviolent drug offenders who can convince the Parole Board that they deserve it. Harsh mandatory minimums – from an era when a throw-away-the-key mentality prevailed toward anyone at any level of the drug trade – impose one-size-fits-all punishment, and the results are evident in our dangerously overcrowded prisons and unnecessarily high recidivism rate.

It was clear at the start of the 2009-10 session that CORI reform (revamping the law on access to criminal histories) would be a legislative priority in both houses. Fortunately, in my new role as co-chair of the Judiciary Committee, I was able to link sentencing and CORI reform. At my urging, a comprehensive criminal justice bill received a favorable senate vote in November 2009.

Although it seemed clear that, for political reasons, the bill's prospects would dim as the session wore on, the House delayed action until late May of 2010, leaving just two months to iron out major differences between the House and Senate versions. Chief among these was that the House declined to include any sentencing changes. I was appointed co-chair of the conference committee tasked with finding a compromise, and I was determined to fight hard for some form of parole eligibility in the final bill.

The negotiations with the House went down to the wire – complete with a mysterious last-minute leak to the Globe that could have sunk the whole process – but in the end, I succeeded in getting parole eligibility included for nonviolent, low-level offenders whose crimes did not involve children and who are sentenced to county jails rather than state prisons. We also agreed that inmates serving mandatory minimums will get access to educational and vocational programs to help make their returns to society successful. Being smart on crime in this way – implementing best practices on prisoner reintegration – is better for public safety than “get tough” posturing.

On that same note, I'm proud of our new CORI law, too, which will give ex-offenders a better chance to find jobs. Initial application forms will be prohibited from asking about criminal histories in most cases; records will be wiped clean much sooner for those who stay out of

trouble; and steps will be taken to ensure that information that does get released is accurate, comprehensible and limited to convictions and pending cases.

I am satisfied that we got as much as we could at this point on sentencing (with much help from my long-time partner in this effort, Marty Rosenthal). But I am by no means satisfied that we have done enough, and next year I will seek to expand the reach of the reforms we enacted.

Also on my agenda, of course, will be overhaul of the Probation Department. I originally opposed the removal of court oversight over hiring in this department and have been trying since to restore much-needed oversight to that agency. Finally, the legislature appears to have the political will to do something meaningful. It was clear for a long while that the situation there was ripe for abuse, but it took an insightful report by the Crime and Justice Institute last winter on waste in the Probation budget, an explosive investigation by the Globe Spotlight team this spring, and the comprehensive Ware report in November to demonstrate just how out-of-control the department has become.

Now it's up to the legislature to plot the way forward on reforming the Probation department. Toward that end, the Senate president, House speaker and governor have recently asked me to be part of a nine-member commission to make legislative recommendations on the future stewardship and control of the Probation Department. I look forward to being part of this bipartisan effort to reform the department and restore the public's trust. While the commission will generally be taking a long-term view, I will also once again be seeking to immediately give the courts joint control with the commissioner over personnel decisions within the department, place limits on the term of the commissioner, and provide the judiciary with increased control over the department's budget.

Finally, I expect to be deeply involved in the brewing controversy over budget allocations for the state's public defenders – the Committee for Public Counsel Services (which oversees the provision of legal representation to indigents) and bar advocates – and am looking forward to serving on a new commission studying whether some existing misdemeanors should be downgraded to civil infractions, which typically result in a fine, and rarely incarceration.

As I said, 2009-10 has been a busy and productive session, but we have much work remaining in the coming year. With your help, I believe we can be equally successful.

Cindy Creem
State Senator for Newton, Brookline and Wellesley

Brookline Passes Local Voting Rights for Green Card Holders – Rebecca Stone

The question of granting local voting rights to certain non-citizens boils down to this: whether a municipality believes that adults who call a town home – people who live here, may raise families here, send their kids to public school, rent or own homes, and pay taxes – should be able to vote on municipal policies and for local public officials even if they were born in another country and have not yet changed their status from permanent resident to U.S. citizen.

On November 17, Town Meeting voted overwhelmingly that the answer to this, for Brookline, is YES.

Why?

First, the American experiment in democracy is founded on the principles of inclusion and government accountability to the people. Democracy flourishes when residents are engaged in civic life and when those elected to govern heed the diverse voices of residents. Our founding documents established the legitimacy of American government as resting on the “consent of the governed.” That consent is conveyed or withheld principally through voting.

Second, Brookline prides itself on its rich international diversity. We talk about the benefits of living in a global community, about respecting human differences while celebrating our common humanity, and about how we value the varied life histories and cultures that weave together to create the fabric of this community. The way we talk about our international diversity stands in stark contrast to the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has, in national discourse, increasingly promoted suspicion, fear, and exclusion of some of the very same people we in Brookline embrace.

Third, the scope of our Town elections comprises only the purely local issues of how our property taxes get used, who represents residents' and taxpayers' interests in Town and Schools governance, and sometimes whether or not we are willing to pay more (through debt exclusions or overrides) for the local services we all enjoy. On those issues, permanent legal residents have as much at stake and as much right to voice, representation, and accountability from their local government as anyone else.

Opponents of this idea often voice the concern that any non-citizen voting is an affront to the Constitution. In fact, however, the United States Constitution defers to states and localities on the question of which adults may vote in *local* elections. Indeed, when an immigrant receives a green card, s/he is informed that s/he may have

the right to vote in local elections *if* the municipality so allows. It is, in short, up to us to decide.

Until 1926, non-citizen residents were allowed to vote in local elections in at least 22 states and federal territories. The practice was gradually curtailed in the 19th and early 20th centuries in response to anti-immigrant sentiments that characterized those periods. Just 50 years later, however, non-citizen voting began to re-emerge, with municipalities in New York, Illinois and Maryland renewing some local non-citizen voting rights.

Some believe that local non-citizen voting dilutes the value or meaning of U.S. citizenship. Seeing voting as tied to U.S. citizenship is understandable, given that we have all grown up with that practice, but being able to vote *in local elections* takes nothing away from the rich meaning and expansive rights of full citizenship.

U.S. citizenship confers the right to vote in state and federal elections, to vote for representation in the state legislature and the U.S. Congress. Citizenship confers the right to run for or hold elective office in Brookline or anywhere else. U.S. citizenship is required to qualify for a number of federal jobs, and it is required to leave the country and return at will. Moreover, only adult U.S. citizens can sponsor someone else for a green card; that is a huge incentive to become a citizen for many immigrants. The article Brookline approved allows *none* of these things.

Extending local voting rights to green card holders is about the benefits to American civic life of inclusion, voice, and accountability of government. It recognizes the justice of extending the franchise to those with a legitimate stake. The country eventually recognized this right for women, as we did for people of color and for those we send to war. It was the right thing to do.

Town Meeting, to its credit, acknowledged that legitimate stake in local affairs for Brookline's resident green card holders. And while the legislature is unlikely to grant our request to implement this change, the more municipalities take this step, the more likely it becomes that the legislature will grant such requests in the future. More important, we sent a strong message that it is not right to apply different weight to the value of someone's civic voice because of their accent or their appearance, or – in the case of local Town issues – whether they have cleared the final hurdles for full U.S. citizenship. We passed Article 14 because it was the right thing to do. *Precinct 3 Town Meeting Member and School Committee chair Rebecca Stone was principal petitioner of the local voting rights warrant article, which PAX supported.*

Climate Change: Closing the Gap Between Belief and Action – Mary Dewart

Brookline's local climate action strategy is moving forward. Climate Change Action (CCAB, pronounced C-cab) Brookline is focusing on the "low-hanging fruit" of residential fossil fuel emissions. Attuned residents also help build demand for policy changes and jobs for a greener economy.

Since 80% of Brookline's annual 540,000 tons of emissions is residential, CCAB has worked to connect people to ways they can reduce their carbon footprint in their everyday lives at home and work and in the community. These 540,000 tons of emissions include transportation, heating and cooling, electricity and solid waste. Food consumption and other consumer purchases data are not available.

How can we become an energy-efficient community? Last January, a capacity crowd filled the new BATV headquarters to launch Brookline 2010: a Community Climate Challenge. Collaborating with the selectmen's Climate Action Committee, we spread the word that the climate crisis is urgent and needs to be faced head on and scaled up quickly.

Throughout 2010, nearly one hundred groups and seven hundred residents signed on as partners. Some partnerships blossomed into significant working relationships. Parents and teachers in the Brookline schools helped establish Green Teams to educate kids and parents in a ThinkEarthThursday interactive education program. The Department of Public Health partnered with CCAB and the Green Teams for Car Free Day on International Walk to School Day. And Brookline Adult and Community Education has partnered for the upcoming Climate Week kickoff event on January 23 at Lincoln School, Brookline Tomorrow: Addressing Climate Change Today, and is offering climate related classes.

In collaboration with Massachusetts Climate Action Network and the Empowerment Institute, CCAB has established a "smart energy" group strategy by reaching out to Brookline neighborhoods and congregations. How many people in Brookline know their household carbon footprint? The average American household emits about 55,000 pounds of gases from the combustion of fossil fuels per year. Two of Brookline's smart energy eco teams, the Green Hornets and Green Guardians from All Saint's Parish, reduced their personal emissions by over 50,000 pounds annually by following a step by step reduction plan outlined in Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds. Village Green, a Perry Street eco team, got down to work and cut their personal and household emissions step by step. O

Our Door to Door program has brought information directly to people's homes and highlighted the substantial reductions possible by signing up for wind-power electricity at NSTAR Green, a program created by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Conservation Law Foundation. Opting for wind power reduces your carbon

dioxide emissions by about 25% – 10,000 pounds per year. Canvassers also encouraged home retrofits with energy-efficient appliances, air sealing and insulation. CCAB is working with the Town to launch a new Green Homes Brookline weatherization program and encouraging energy audits wherever possible.

In 2011, CCAB will be working toward broader public acknowledgment and comprehension of our destabilized climate, the profound economic, political and social consequences of inaction, and the feedback loop that leads toward runaway climate change. Deeper actions are crucial.

This year's major project is launching Brookline Climate Week, Jan. 23rd-30th, co-sponsored by the selectmen's Climate Action Committee, the Department of Public Health, the Brookline School Committee and Brookline Adult & Community Education.

BROOKLINE CLIMATE WEEK will provide a week-long schedule of events pointing to a brighter and greener future:

The kickoff event begins at 2:00 pm Sunday, January 23rd, at the Lincoln School, 19 Kennard Road. Brookline Tomorrow: Addressing Climate Change Today, hosted by Meghna Chakrabarti of WBUR's Radio Boston will feature Kevin Knobloch, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Rob Garrity, executive director of Mass. Climate Action Network; and Alan Khazei, co-founder of City Year and author of Big Citizenship. Bill McKibben, author of EAARTH and leader of 350.org, is creating a special video for the event. Highlights will also include tributes to both international and local climate pioneers, with a reception to follow.

Other events include Brookline Adult Education classes (special preview class Jan. 20th). The Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Departments of Public Health and Recreation in collaboration with the new Koo-Koo's café, the Preservation Commission, the Planning Department and Brookline BookSmith are all hosting events throughout the week.

If you would like to enter a creative arts contest using any media to heighten awareness of the climate crisis, its causes, and steps Brookline families, employees, and businesses can take to reduce our impact, submit your electronic entry to ClimateChangeActionBrookline@comcast.net. Public installations will be in Coolidge Corner at the T Kiosk and in a "Green Age" living room outside Brookline BookSmith.

Visit www.climatechangeactionbrookline.org for more Climate Week details and updates.

When we look back ten years from now, how will we answer the question "How did Brookline respond to the climate crisis?" Opportunities are everywhere. Precinct 3 Town Meeting Member Mary Dewart is CCAB's Campaign Director.

For more information about PAX, visit www.BrooklinePAX.org
and join us on **February 6** for our **Annual Meeting and Awards!**

Join Brookline PAX or renew your membership today!

Send this coupon with a check payable to **Brookline PAX** to: Brookline PAX, P.O. Box 470525, Brookline MA 02447-0525

- Yes, I'd like to join Brookline PAX or renew my membership for 2011. My dues are enclosed:
 \$30 Regular (\$50 couple; \$20 fixed income) \$50 Sustaining Member \$100 Patron
 I'd like to get more involved in PAX activities; please call or e-mail me.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____

BROOKLINE PAX ACTIVELY SUPPORTS

Excellent Public Education – Brookline PAX is committed to the public schools. The organization and the political candidates it supports have a proven record in support of public education, from early childhood through graduate school.

Excellent Public Services – PAX supports sustained state and local investment in quality municipal services such as police, fire protection, public health, libraries, schools, parks, recreation, and public works, as well as state services such as social programs, transportation and environmental protection. PAX and its endorsed candidates pursue policies of support for basic human needs, including healthcare for all, affordable housing, and services for both children and senior citizens.

Respect for Public Employees and Organized Labor – PAX stands up for fair labor practices and for policies that show respect for the dedicated people whose competence and commitment make Brookline and this Commonwealth work.

Respect for the Environment – PAX is committed to keeping Brookline and this Commonwealth livable and environmentally responsible – by supporting recycling; energy conservation; the maintenance and enhancement of parks, play-grounds, and green space; and sound environmental regulation.

Diversity, Social Justice, and Peace – PAX works to preserve and protect ethnic and economic diversity and social and economic justice for all, through affordable housing, universal health care, and fundamental civil rights and liberties. We respect the human rights of all people, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or location; and we support multilateral solutions to international affairs. We oppose the unilateral use of military force except when applied defensively under international law and clear and convincing evidence exists of a serious and imminent threat of aggression, and only force that is no more than commensurate with the magnitude of the threat.

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