

**MAB Community Services Resource Update**  
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**January – February 2005**  
**Editor: Fran Weisse**

## **MAB COMMUNITY SERVICES SEEKS ARTISTS!**

**MAB Celebrates the Arts for All, our annual gala, will be held on May 25, 2005. This event will celebrate accessible art and will feature an exhibit of artworks by people with disabilities. We will also highlight organizations in the Greater Boston area working to make the arts accessible through descriptive tours and productions, captioning or signing, and use of digital media and multi-sensory displays, to name a few.**

**MAB is currently looking for artists with disabilities who would like to display their work. We are also seeking artists (with or without disabilities) to create a work or installation that explores the concept of accessibility and use of the senses. How do we use (or limit) our senses when exploring a work of art? How can an audience be invited to experience art instead of just viewing it? How can the arts be made more inclusive and participatory for people with disabilities? We would like to hear about your existing work or an idea that you have for a work of accessible art.**

**We will have a small exhibit the night of the event, which will be held at The State Room, 60 State Street, in downtown Boston. We may also have the opportunity to show more works in an expanded space following the event.**

**If you are an artist (or know someone who might want to participate) please contact Cynthia Canham, MAB's Director of Development, at (617) 732-0245 or [ccanham@mabcommunity.org](mailto:ccanham@mabcommunity.org).**

## MAB Celebrates Art for All



**NOTE:** The date of *MAB Celebrates Art for All* has been changed to Wednesday, May 25! Ticket information is available from the Development Department (above).

### APIC ADVISOR

With electric rates rising, you may be considering a new thermostat. Kelvin is a voice-interactive, fully programmable thermostat. It can be operated by pushing its buttons, all of which talk, or by simply talking to the thermostat, which responds to voice commands once it has been programmed.

Kelvin may be programmed to lower the temperature daily at specific times of day, such as in the evening, and to raise the temperature the following morning. It may also be programmed for weekends or vacations, when your home is unoccupied, and to adjust automatically for periods when the house is occupied. It will control both heating and cooling and replaces the existing thermostat.

It measures 5" x 5" x 1 3/8" and is very light gray in color. Tactile arrows mark the "Raise" and "Lower" panels. It does not work with heat pumps. Professional installation is recommended.

Price \$129.95. Order from Independent Living Aids, 200 Robbins Lane, Jericho, NY 11753-2341; (800) 537-2118; web site: [www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com)

---Joyce Breda

## **GREETING/MEMORIAL CARDS AVAILABLE**

**MAB Community Services has produced a line of blank cards that may be used as greeting cards or memorial cards.**

**You may either purchase the cards directly and send them yourself, or send MAB an honor or memorial donation and we will send a card in your name.**

**The cards feature peaceful winter scenes by photographer (and MAB staff member) Karen Crook Matthews. Other cards will feature artwork by students in MAB's Ivy Street School.**

**Our prices compare favorably with store-bought cards and all prices include shipping and handling. Proceeds support MAB's programs.**

**12 cards: \$17**

**20 cards: \$28**

**40 cards: \$54**

**Please send requests to Jill Donnelly, MAB Community Services, 200 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446; call (617) 732-0244 or email at: [cards@mabcommunity.org](mailto:cards@mabcommunity.org)**

## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN PROGRAM DEBUTS**

**The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) has announced the opening of the Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program (MATLP). The program will be operated by Easter Seals Massachusetts in conjunction with banking partner, Sovereign Bank.**

**This program provides an exciting new opportunity for qualified individuals with disabilities to buy the assistive technology (AT) they want with low interest loans.**

**AT is any device that enhances or expands a person's ability to live more independently. Many different items are considered assistive technology, including adapted computer equipment, walkers, hearing aids, scooters or wheelchairs, talking alarms, memory devices, vehicle modifications, augmentative communication devices and many more.**

**The program offers assistance in applying for loans through 20 access sites across the state.**

**For more information, call Easter Seals Massachusetts: (800) 244-2756 (voice), ask for Jason Luciano, Program Director, extension 431, or Kristina Koles, Program Coordinator, extension 428, or e-mail [info@massatloan.org](mailto:info@massatloan.org). TTY users, please call (800) 564-9700.**

## **SAC INVITES VISITORS TO JEWELRY EXHIBIT**

**The Society of Arts and Crafts (SAC) will hold a tour of its current exhibit, “.925 + Ingenuity = Art Jewelry,” for guests who are blind or visually impaired, on Tuesday, April 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. NOTE: .925 is the percentage of silver in sterling silver (the rest is copper).**

**Historically, the most “valuable” jewelry has been made of gold or platinum. This exhibition will present work made primarily of silver (worth less than \$7 per ounce!). But when you add the artists’ ingenuity, the outcome is exciting, challenging and “valuable” art jewelry. Please call or send an e-mail to Diane Abbott, Exhibition Manager, by April 10 to confirm your attendance. The Society of Arts and Crafts is located at**

**175 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116; (617) 266-1810 x13**

## **FOOTHILLS THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT MISS SAIGON**

**Worcester’s Foothills Theatre Company will present the Broadway musical, Miss Saigon, with description for patrons who are blind or visually impaired, on Thursday, March 24 at 2:00 pm and Saturday, March 26 at 3:00 pm.**

**Based on the opera, Madame Butterfly, this musical is set in the turmoil of the Vietnam War. It is the love story of an American soldier and a Vietnamese girl at the fall of Saigon.**

**Due to support from the Memorial Foundation, tickets are \$10.00.**

**Call the box office and speak with Victor or Allyson to request a headset; (508) 754-4018.**

**Foothills Theatre is located at 100 Front Street, Worcester, MA.**

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**Due to the successful advocacy efforts of many patrons with disabilities, as well as the commitment by Hollywood movie studios to closed caption and describe films, and by theater chains that have installed MoPix systems (Rear Window Captioning and DVS Theatrical), there is good news for Massachusetts consumers.**

**The following movie theatres will offer selected movies with description (DVS), for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and/or Rear Window Captioning (for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing) in the upcoming months.**

**Comcast 3D IMAX Theater, Jordan's Furniture, Reading - System to debut shortly**

**National Amusements Showcase Cinema West Springfield - System to debut late winter**

**National Amusements Showcase Cinema Randolph - System to debut late winter**

**National Amusements Blackstone Valley 14 Cinema de Lux, Millbury - System to debut late winter**

**National Amusements Showcase Cinema Lowell - System to debut late winter**

**Readers may wish to call these theatres to confirm when the systems are in place and to express our appreciation for their commitment to individuals with disabilities.**

## **BSO AND CULTURAL ACCESS CONSORTIUM OFFER SERIES**

**The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and the Cultural Access Consortium (CAC) are offering a "Choose your Own Subscription Package." Select any two performances listed below to create your own subscription to the Boston Sym-**

phony Orchestra/Boston Pops. The total cost per person, for both shows is \$70.00.

BSO, Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8pm, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, conductor. A program of Beethoven and Respighi.

Boston Pops, Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2pm. Keith Lockhart, conductor, featuring Rockapella, a nationally known contemporary a capella group.

Boston Pops, Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 3pm. Bruce Hangen, conductor. Broadway Legends.

Boston Pops, Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3pm. Bruce Hangen, conductor. Broadway Legends.

All seats are located on the Orchestra Level. When you order, please tell staff if you will be bringing a guide dog, if you have special needs, or would like a large print program or braille program.

**NOTE:** At the Pops, the orchestra level seating is called cabaret style, which consists of tables and chairs unlike the Symphony, which is theater style seating.

To purchase tickets for this subscription offer, call the Accessible Services line at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, (617) 638-9431. Be sure to identify yourself when calling so that staff know that your call is in regards to this special offer.

You may pay by credit card over the telephone, send in a check, or pay in person. The BSO is unable to print tickets until the order is paid. If a subscription order is placed less than 10 days before the first performance, tickets will be held at Symphony Hall.

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

Do you have diabetes? Are you African-American? Do you have a job right now? If so, a research team from the University of Massachusetts wants to learn from your experiences. The results will help other people in your community live a more healthy life.

**All participants will earn a stipend and have access to speakers on how to manage your diabetes while pursuing your goals.**

**For more information, contact Jonathan Woodring at (888) 244-5323.**

## **CRAFTBOSTON TOUR AVAILABLE**

**The Society of Arts and Crafts would like to invite guests who are blind or visually impaired to attend a tour of CRAFTBOSTON Sunday, April 3, 2005 from 12:00 noon – to 12:30 p.m. at the Seaport World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Boulevard, Boston.**

**Now in its fourth year, CRAFTBOSTON is New England's premiere exhibition and sale of contemporary craft. The show features 175 of the most innovative artists of our time, showcasing one-of-a-kind and limited-edition pieces in baskets, ceramics, decorative fiber, wearables, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, paper and wood.**

**In addition, CRAFT-BOSTON features work by emerging artists from leading schools and universities, an artist mentor program, a bookseller, an educational lecture series, and informational booths promoting non-profit craft organizations.**

**Please pre-register by calling (617) 266-1810 x12. The tour is free with purchase of a show ticket. General admission \$14.00. Web site: [www.craftboston.org](http://www.craftboston.org)**

## **APH CONDUCTS ANNUAL ART COMPETITION**

**The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) invites visually impaired and blind artists of all ages to submit artwork for its 14<sup>th</sup> annual international art competition, APH Insights, 2005.**

**There are two deadlines this year: April 1, 2005 is the deadline for entries from preschool through high school; April 15, 2005 is the deadline for entries from adult artists. To enter, artists must meet this definition of blindness: cor-**

rected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, or a visual field limited to 20 degrees or less.

Artists may enter artwork created in any visual art medium, including (but not limited to), painting, drawing, print-making, fiber, metal, or wood. Award winners receive a cash award and a ribbon.

Competition rules and entry forms are on the APH web site: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org) or call (800) 223-1839, ext 357; e-mail: [rwilliams@aph.org](mailto:rwilliams@aph.org)

## **SPELLCHECK**

Abu Ghraib  
Che-chen  
par-quet-ry  
Pa-ta-ki  
Schwarz-e-neg-ger

**NOTE:** If you would rather receive this newsletter on cassette or e-mail, let us know: (617) 926-4312 or [fweisse@mabcommunity.org](mailto:fweisse@mabcommunity.org)

## **MAB COMMUNITY SERVICES AT-A-GLANCE**

23A Elm Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
(617) 926-4232  
(800) 852-3029 (MA only)  
MAB Connections:  
(617) 923-2790

927 Temple Street, Unit 12  
Whitman, MA 02382  
Elder Rehab  
(781) 857-2192  
Comm Vols/Outreach  
(781) 857-2193  
MAB Connections:  
(508) 580-1033

**146 Chestnut St., Suite 401  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413) 734-7343  
MAB Connections:  
(413) 351-2790**

**799 West Boylston Street  
Worcester, MA 01606  
(508) 854-0700  
(888) 613-2777 (MA only)  
MAB Connections  
(508) 556-2790**

**200 Ivy Street  
Brookline, MA 02446  
(617) 738-5110  
[www.mabcommunity.org](http://www.mabcommunity.org)**

