

Special points of interest:

- Softball starts Thursday June 18 at Brookline High School. There will be a coach and volunteer meeting on June 4
- Summer Family Events -
 - June—Health & Fitness Expo
 - July—ImprovBoston
 - August—Boston Greenfest
- “On The Town” trips will continue to many fun attractions during the summer, the schedule will be out soon!
- Family BBQ at Cypress Field on August 14.
- Family Campout at Larz Anderson Park August 29.
- Summer Concert Series and Outdoor film Series details on page 4.

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Brookline Quest News

Why Participate in Community Service?

by Karen Kuskin-Smith

The following are excerpts from an article written for TeenLife Boston.

There are many reasons to get involved in a community service activity. Perhaps, most importantly, your involvement may change others' lives in addition to your own. Service learning will help you to examine your interests and your career aspirations. It may lead to discovering a passion, learning something about your self, and exploring areas that are new to you, all with limited risks. With this exploration often comes additional self-

confidence.

Students who participate in service learning generally exhibit better mental health with less evidence of depression and stress. They find positive ways to use their idle time. They often develop strong relationships with the other students working with them and with the community they are serving. With this bonding comes added tolerance for those who may be different from themselves. They often report an increased sense of social responsibility and improved communication

skills. In addition, participants further enhance their current skills and learn new ones. These insights can lead to future career directions. (University of Michigan, “Benefits of Student Participation in Community Service”)

An added benefit of getting involved in your community and the understanding of your self that accompanies these activities is what this commitment says to colleges and/or the world of work. It may provide

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Lilac Sunday Family Event



The Lilacs were in bloom during our Family Event at the Arnold Arboretum.

On Sunday, May 10th, Brookline QUEST went to the Arnold Arboretum to join in the celebration of Lilac Sunday for its monthly family outing.

It was a beautiful day. Thousands of people walked around the Arboretum admiring the beautiful lilacs in bloom and reading about the different trees and plants that grow there. Some people sat by the ponds and watched the ducks and the fish. We were entertained by a Mardi Gras Jazz Band and dancing from a Mexican dance group in colorful costumes. There were many family events, food and vendors. QUEST chose

to picnic and enjoyed each other's company. It was a great way to spend Mother's Day as well!

If you would like to join us for our next QUEST family outing, please check our calendar or go to our [website](#) to see what we have planned.





Recycled Percussion will be performing at Special Olympics Summer Games Opening Ceremony

Special Olympics Summer Games Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for the 2009 Summer Games will take place June 19 at the Boston University Indoor Track and Tennis Center, 100 Ashford St, beginning at 7:30 pm.

The band at Opening Ceremony will be Recycled Percussion. Performing on everything from their signature "trash" kits, including

plastic buckets, huge ladders, mortar casings and giant 50 gallon containers - the band of two drummers, electric guitar and a DJ keep the audience on their feet through 80 minutes of spark-emitting, masterfully played power tools, and a mind-blowing beatbox "vocal artillery" session, backed up by chest crush-

ing, power-driven, sweat-drenched drumming. Visit their website at recycledpercussionband.com for more information. The games will be declared open with the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Pre-Entertainment will held on the BU Softball Diamond across the street from 5:30 - 7:00 pm



Brookline QUEST members unloaded and sorted food collected by the USPS mail carriers on May 9th.

Brookline QUEST Families Volunteer

The US Post Office had its annual food drive on Saturday, May 9th. The postmen and women collected food from homes on their mail routes and brought the food to the Old Lincoln School on Route 9 which is the temporary home of the Brookline Emergency Food Pantry. (The Food Pantry is usually at St Paul's Church

which is currently undergoing renovation). Parents and teen participants of QUEST helped the post office and other volunteers to unload the mail trucks and sort the food so that it could be added to the Food Pantry. Brookline QUEST feels very strongly about helping its members to become positive contributing members

of our community and looks forward to more opportunities to volunteer in the future.

For further information regarding the Brookline Emergency Food Pantry, contact Ben Norton at 617-894-1070.



Adaptive Aquatics Swim Program at the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatic Center

Adaptive Aquatics

Brookline Therapeutic Recreation started an adaptive swim program on Sunday, May 10th at the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatic Center, 60 Tappan Street, Brookline. There was a great turn out of both swim instructors and participants. The kids spent time getting used to the water and their instructors

through playful instruction. There was lots of splashing and smiles. Children will learn to swim at a pace that is comfortable for their abilities.

This program is open to persons with disabilities, ages 5+ that would like to learn to swim but need more

assistance than found in typical swimming lessons.

If you are interested in signing up for the next session or just need more information please call Carolyn at 617-713-5435 or stop by the pool. Space is limited so call soon.












Schedule of Events

- June 4 - SOMA Softball coach and volunteer meeting at BHS, 6:30pm
- June 7 - Special Olympics Athletics Practice, 3:00-4:00
- June 7 - Brookline Quest Board of Directors Meeting at Vine Ripe Grill, 5:30
- June 12 - "On The Town Quack Night" Duck Tour and Dessert at the Cheese Cake Factory
- June 14 - Special Olympics Athletics Practice, 3:00-4:00
- June 18 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- June 19 - "On The Town" *SPECIAL EVENT * Red Sox at Fenway Park vs. Atlanta Braves
- June 19-21 Special Olympics Summer Games at Harvard and BU
- June 25 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- June 26 "On The Town" TBA
- June 27 - Family Event - Health and Fitness Expo, 10:00



Playing an interactive video game at the Health and Fitness Expo 2008

June 2009

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Special Olympics Track and Field

Special Olympics Track and Field is being held at the Harry Downes Field in Brookline, Sundays from 3-4pm. Our athletes are having a great time! Coach Joanna Frieling is working hard to get the athletes in shape to participate in the Summer Games on June 20th and 21st

held at Harvard University.

This year we are very fortunate to have many volunteers to help us with skill development. Without the support and kindness of our volunteers our programs would not be successful.

We have also started a new

event "Turbo Jav". The athletes really enjoy Turbo Jav and have picked it up pretty quickly.

Please come and cheer on our athletes at the summer games June 20th! If you would like to volunteer please contact [Brookline QUEST](#).


















Health and Fitness Expo

Join Brookline QUEST as we attend the Chanel 7 Partners Health and Fitness Expo Saturday June 27 at the Hynes convention center. Admission is free. Meet Wally and Sports Anchor Joe Amorosino and try your hand at being a sportscaster. See how a model robot works and even try your hand at "operating" the robot as well. View 3-D MR images to see inside the brain. Learn how

to promote a healthy, active lifestyle, including nutrition tips and a fun games. The Dew Tour's Skate Demo team of Professional and Amateur athletes will be putting on a great show. Play a life size replica of Hasbro's Operation Game. Compete head to head in one of the hottest interactive games out there, Dance Dance Revolution. Put your hands under "Glow-germ" lights to see

what's crawling around on your skin. Kids and families can try the variety of adaptive sports available to patients from hand bikes and wheel chair tennis to the challenging obstacle course. Experience "Wiihab" video game therapy that is virtually changing how rehab is done. In addition to exhibits, there will be demonstrations, and many free samples and giveaways.

July 2009

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Schedule of Events

- July 1 - Emerson Park Concert, Chad Burdick: Country Music Star, 6:30
- July 2 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- July 8 - Emerson Park Concert, BeatleTracks: Beatles Cover , 6:30
- July 9 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- July 10 - "On The Town" TBA
- July 12 - Brookline QUEST Board of Directors meeting at the Vine Ripe Grill, 5:30
- July 13 - Summer in the Parks: Princess Bride, 7:00 bring your picnic - film starts at dusk.
- July 15 - Emerson Park Concert Mollie's Misfits: Celtic Rock & Fiddle, 6:30
- July 16 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- July 18 - Special Olympics Softball Qualifiers, Framingham
- July 18-19 - Family Event - ImprovBoston, 6:00
- July 20 - Summer in the Parks: Wizard of Oz, 7:00 bring your picnic - film starts at dusk.
- July 22 - Emerson Park Concert, Rick Barron and the Quavers: Country Rock, 6:30
- July 23 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- July 24 "On The Town" TBA
- July 27 - Summer in the Parks: Some Like It Hot, 7:00 bring your picnic - film starts at dusk.
- July 29 - Emerson Park Concert, HipSocket: All genres, 6:30
- July 30 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30

Family Event - Comedy Show and Dinner

Join other Brookline QUEST families on Saturday July 18, for an evening of comedy at the ImprovBoston Family Comedy Show in Cambridge. ImprovBoston is an all-ages improvised comedy show, appropriate and entertaining for the whole family! Start your Saturday night off with an evening full of improvised music, scenes, stories and games. This interactive evening, performed by the ImprovBoston Family Show Cast, is sure to bring out the child in everyone. Audience participation, especially with kids, is encouraged. Your entire family will be in stitches! After the show we will walk to Bertucci's for dinner. You can order show tickets online at the [ImprovBoston website](http://www.improvboston.com). Be sure to purchase your tickets soon - before they sell out!



2009 Summer Concert Series

Family and friends can gather at Emerson Park every Wednesday throughout the summer for an evening of good friends and great entertainment! Bring a picnic basket, your lawn chair and a group of people eager to have a good time and then sit back and enjoy a variety of music. Children can play on the equipment within the park or dance along in front of the stage to the music. Come visit the Brookline QUEST table before each concert. All concerts are held at the Emerson Park, located off of Davis Avenue in Brookline Village. Show time begins promptly at 6:30 pm












Summer in the Parks Outdoor Films

The Brookline Parks and Open Space Division, the Brookline Recreation Department, and the Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation proudly present "Summer in the Parks: 2009 Outdoor Film Series." Join friends, family, and neighbors for free outdoor movies this summer. The 2009 Outdoor Film Series includes classics for the whole family to enjoy. The series kicks off on Monday July 13th with "The Princess Bride" at Devotion School Field, 345 Harvard St, near Coolidge Corner. Also at Devotion, come watch "Wizard of Oz" on Monday July 20th and "Some Like it Hot" on Monday July 27th. All shows are free and open to the public and begin at dusk (approximately 8 p.m.). Bring your picnic blanket or folding chair for comfortable viewing under the stars, and a flashlight for easier exiting. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted. Parking is limited, so participants are urged to walk, bike, carpool, or use public transportation. High winds or rain could require cancellation, in which case the movie will be rescheduled to the following day. Bring your dinner and join Brookline Quest Families for a picnic prior to the evenings film at 7:00. Look for the Brookline QUEST banner.

Schedule of Events

- August 2 - Brookline QUEST Board of Directors Meeting at the Vine Ripe Grill, 5:30
- August 5 - Emerson Park Concert Rico Barr & the Jumpin Jive Review: Swing, 6:30
- August 6 - Special Olympics Softball, 6:00-7:30
- August 7 - "On The Town" TBA
- August 8 or 9 - Special Olympics Softball Amherst MA
- August 12 - Emerson Park Concert Vanessa Trein & the Jumping Monkeys: Children's Songs, 6:30
- August 14 - Brookline QUEST Barbeque, 5:00-8:00
- August 21 - "On The Town" TBA
- August 22 - Family Event - Boston GreenFest 2009, 10:00am
- August 29-30 - Family Campout at Larz Anderson Park, 1:00pm

August 2009

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Family Campout

Join the Brookline Recreation Department for the first annual family campout at Larz Anderson Park! Don't let equipment get in the way of enjoying this fun family event— tents and sleeping bags will be available upon request. Activities will include a historical tour of Larz Anderson, a cookout, storytelling, and more! Space is limited so please register early. Fee \$35.00 per family (up to four people). \$5 for each additional member. Campout takes place Saturday August 29 1:00pm to Sunday August 30 10:00am. For more information or to register for the campout visit the [Brookline Recreation website](#).



Brookline QUEST Barbeque

Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and friends and celebrate the end of summer with Brookline Quest at our Family Barbeque and Field event at Brookline High School on Friday, August 14. Food will include burgers from BGOOD and Cupcakes from Party Favors in Brookline. There will be a Soccer Goal Challenge, Kickball game, Frisbee Toss and more. Tickets are \$10.00 each and will include food, beverages and desert.

Family Event - Boston GreenFest 2009

Join families and friends of Brookline QUEST on Saturday August 22 from 10:00-5:00 as we attend the Boston GreenFest 2009. The event will address the problem of climate chaos through art, music, discussions and interactive exhibits. It will engage the participants, young and old, in a search for new ideas and approaches to reduce our impact on our planet. The festivities will include "Project Recycle Runway", a walk through the Time Tunnel, gospel with the Boston Community Choir, fun with the "YoYo Show", lots more entertainment, food, and fun activities for children. Festival-goers will learn what it means to eat and grow local organic food, improve nutrition and healthcare, green our city, build

healthy communities, take political action, create green jobs and a green economy. This is a chance to celebrate our strengths as a community and to become empowered to lead a more sustainable life within our homes and our neighborhoods. Boston GreenFest 2009 is presented by the Foundation for a Green Future, Inc. This event is FREE to everyone and will take place at Boston City Hall Plaza. You can find more information on the Boston Greenfest at their website: <http://www.bostongreenfest.org>



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*Quality Unique Enrichment
for Special needs Teens*

*Participants permit the taking of
photos and videos during Quest
events for publication and use as
Brookline Quest deems necessary.*

We would love to publish your submissions in our upcoming newsletters. Please mail or email photos, artwork, articles, and information on upcoming events to the address below. If you would like your submission returned, please include a self addressed, stamped envelope.



Brookline QUEST families and friends walked in the Jolly Jaunt for Special Olympics as part of their commitment to community service.

Join our SOMA Softball Team!

Softball is an exciting team sport. Join us and enjoy the friendship and teamwork that make Special Olympics so much fun for everyone!

We play slow-pitch Softball, which involves two teams of 10 athletes each and also participate in individual skills competitions to allow athletes of all abilities to train and compete with their friends.

- Athletes of all ability levels are welcome to join
- Adults and Children ages 6 and up
- Would you like to volunteer or coach? Please contact us.

Practice is at Cypress Field (Brookline High School).

Thursday evenings 6:00-7:30pm

The season is from June 18th to August 9. All athletes who plan to compete in the softball tournament must attend the qualifiers in July.

Why Participate in Community Service?

(Continued from page 1)

another opportunity to demonstrate your leadership skills. This kind of involvement speaks to your interests, values, and character.

Community service can take on many forms. It can be an activity you do alone or with your family or school group. It can be purely a volunteer experience or an internship for which you may get paid. It can be something you do on a regular basis or on a single day or weekend.

Some examples of activities are:

- Mentoring another student
- Being a Big Brother or Big Sister
- Assisting at a nursing home or homeless shelter
- Shopping for an elderly

member of your community

- Working on environmental projects
- Building homes through Habitat for Humanity
- Working at a food bank or a soup kitchen
- Helping out at an animal shelter or zoo
- Collecting clothes, toiletries for needy families
- Reading to children at a daycare center

The types of activities are as broad as your imagination, your ability to see a need, and your desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

Most importantly, volunteering is about participating in an activity that really interests you. It is about doing something you believe in. Think about what you enjoy doing,

what subjects interest you, what kinds of people you most enjoy working with, what career possibilities you might like to explore, what you are most passionate about, what ways you would like to see your world change.

Karen Kuskin-Smith is Retired Director of Guidance at Brookline High School and an advisor for TeenLife Boston, a media company that helps families and schools to connect middle and high school students with "opportunities beyond school." For more information please visit their website at www.teenlifeboston.com

Brookline Quest will be arranging monthly volunteer outings to various locations in Brookline starting in the fall.

Families are welcome to join us in exploring local volunteer opportunities. If you know of volunteer opportunities that we would be able to participate in contact Kathy at Kathym@brooklinequest.org