



# HIDDEN GARDENS *of BEACON HILL*

## *90th Anniversary Celebration Tour*



THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

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Welcome to the 2018 Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Annual Tour - celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

We are delighted to have you, our special friends, visiting our neighborhood and our celebrated green spaces. It is your energy that makes the tour a wonderful success.

This day honors a tradition of urban gardening and hands-on community service in Boston. Through your support of the tour, we are able to roll up our sleeves and provide expertise and plantings to local gardens in the city.

You also make it possible for us to generously fund a wide range of environmental, conservation and education programs. For a list of grant recipients, please see page 52.

This year's tour features 10 inspiring member gardens and two special "ribbon" gardens of our neighbors.

Please be sure to stop by our complimentary tea where you can enjoy refreshments in the Church of the Advent's lovely garden. Please, take time to enjoy the local shops and restaurants in our neighborhood. There are special menus and all-day events planned by our local businesses.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate one of Boston's favorite spring traditions. We hope you have a wonderful day exploring the charming spaces that make Beacon Hill so special.

Happy Tour Day!

Kim Stockwell & Diana Coldren

2018 Garden Tour Co-Chairs



## BASIC TOUR INFORMATION



- The tour is self-guided. You can visit the gardens in any order.
- Look for our Yellow Flags marking entry to the ten gardens.
- Complimentary Tea & Coffee at the Church of the Advent's Moseley Hall (*enter via Mt. Vernon Square*)
- Restrooms are available: Church of the Advent (*enter via Mt. Vernon Square*) and at Beacon House (19 Myrtle Street)
- Refer to the map on pages 28-29 for specific locations of gardens, restrooms and Tea.

### THE BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB

*cordially invites you to our*

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Tea & Coffee

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

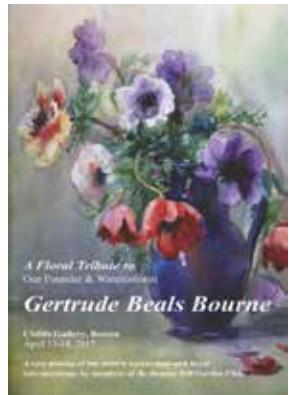
Church of the Advent's  
Moseley Hall

*(Please enter the church garden  
via Mt. Vernon Square)*



## THE BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB HAS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

The Beacon Hill Garden Club is 90 years old. At its beginning, the club owed much to the vision and tenacity of founder Gertrude Beals Bourne, a gifted watercolorist and avid gardener. She and her husband, Frank, resided at the Sunflower Castle, the picturesque landmark at 130 Mt. Vernon Street.



The Club was conceived during the last years of the “Roaring Twenties,” a Golden Age of post-war exuberance during which the Beacon Hill neighborhood experienced a resurgence of popularity and a growing sense of community. Following decades of decline, The Hill was again seen as a desirable place to live, and new families arrived to buy up and restore some of the neglected properties.

A common feature of these charming old houses was the walled yard behind the dwelling, an area that in the nineteenth century needfully accommodated such domestic necessities as laundry lines, a wood shed, an out house, and a trash pit. Before long, some of the new residents recognized the potential of these compact outdoor spaces and converted them into pleasant little gardens. And thus it was that in September of 1928, a group of Beacon Hill residents gathered with the purpose of forming a neighborhood club devoted to the pleasures and perils of urban gardening.

It was a diverse group, counting among them five married couples, three single men, and eleven unmarried ladies. They met at 130 Mt. Vernon Street. By all

accounts, Mrs. Bourne was the moving force in the founding of the club. The wife of Frank A. Bourne, a prominent colonial revival architect and founder of the Beacon Hill Civic Association. Among other notable charter members were Miss Eleanor Raymond, a professional architect who is credited with designing the world's first solar-powered dwelling, and honorary member Arthur Shurcliff, a nationally renowned landscape architect who was enormously influential in the history of American gardening. Mr. Shurcliff's most important commission, the design of the restored gardens at Colonial Williamsburg, began in 1931. His plans still form the basis for landscape design throughout Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area.

In its first year, the fledgling garden club, coeducational and 24 members strong,

embarked on two important projects that subsequently became club traditions. In March 1929, members contributed a garden exhibit to the New England Spring Flower Show, and has continued every several years to support that show's parent organization, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Two months later, in May 1929, the club held its first “open gardens tour,” charging \$1 per ticket to visit 11 different “backyard gardens.” The new event was a remarkable success, raising more than \$1,000. Members were then invited to offer suggestions for using this money. In the following months the club voted its first set of charitable donations and funded its first civic planting projects. Tour proceeds continue to be allotted annually.

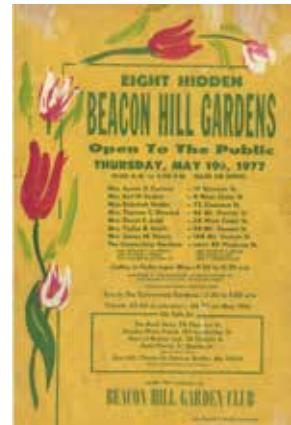
In September of 1929, exuberance began to fade giving way rapidly to a Great Depression. And thus, the Beacon Hill Garden Club came of age during very difficult times. While the 1937 “open gardens tour” netted a dismal \$136.47. However, the club persevered noting the effort itself was an affirmation of renewal, benefiting members and the visiting public alike.

But perhaps more than the Depression, the second World War profoundly affected and altered the founding ethos of the club. In 1940, the tour was canceled. When the tour came back the following year,

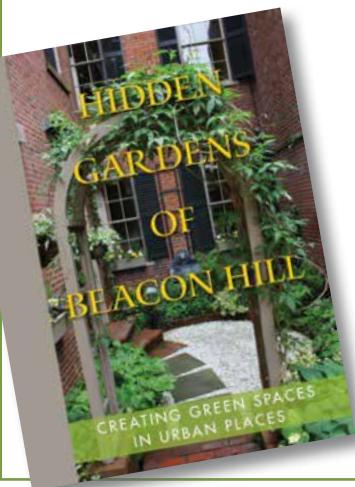
all proceeds were directed to support the British War Relief. In the following years members would “Remember to never forget,” and sent floral arrangements and Christmas stockings to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Chelsea.

A Beacon Hill Window Box Contest was initiated in 1958 with prizes given to neighborhood gardeners with the best displays. This contest, now part of the Beautify Beacon Hill program, has become a year-round campaign. It is co-sponsored with the Beacon Hill Civic Association and the *Beacon Hill Times*.

The Beacon Hill Garden Club became a member of The Garden Club of America in 1972 and in 1977 achieved 501(c)(3) status as a public charity. The club is also a member of the Boston Committee and the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts.



## Tour Day Price \$20



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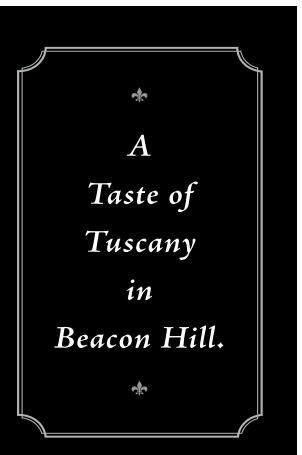
An advertisement for Kodomo clothing. On the left, a young girl with a ponytail is shown from the waist up, wearing a grey t-shirt with a white ice cream cone graphic and light-colored shorts. On the right, there is a yellow graphic with the text "SUMMER CALLS FOR SPF (STYLISH PLAYFUL FUN)" and the Kodomo logo. Below this, details for two locations are provided: KODOMO (579 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02118, 617.936.3808) and KODOMO (ANNEX) (45 River Street, Boston, MA 02108, 617.530.1140). The Kodomo logo is also present at the bottom.



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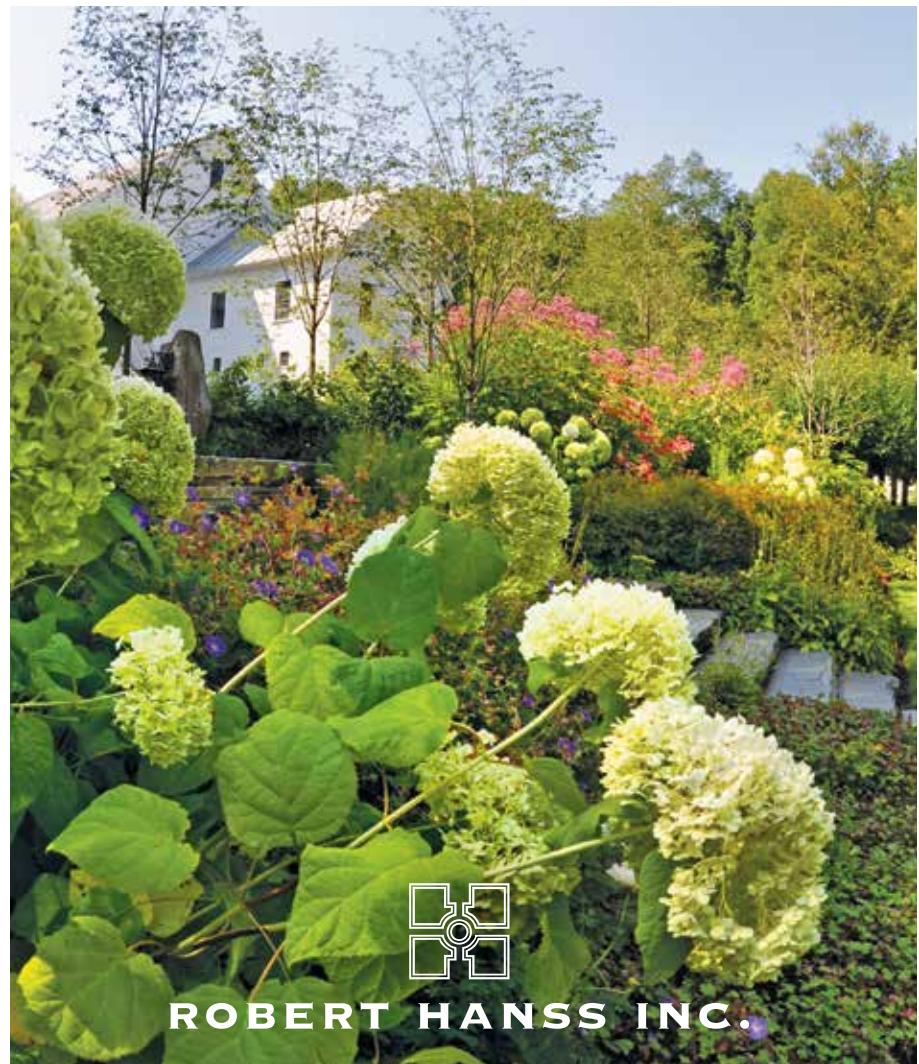
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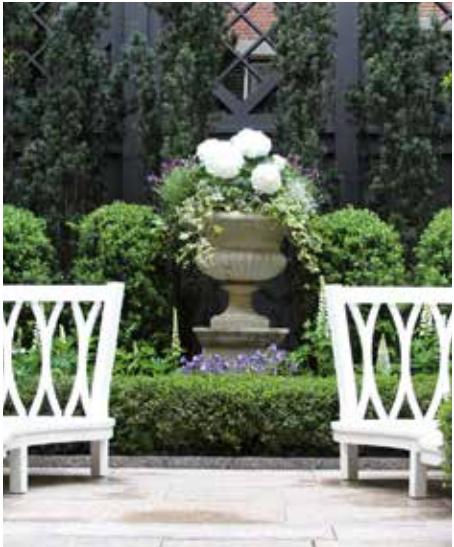
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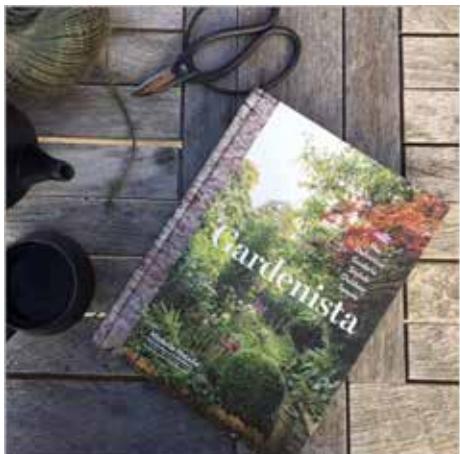
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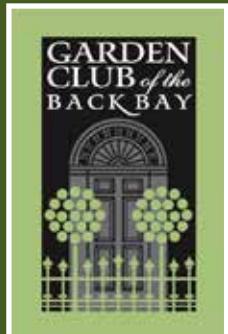
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1

## 112 MT. VERNON STREET

(enter via Cedar Lane Way - two lines to see 112 & 114 Mt. Vernon)

After several years of trial and error to determine the plants that will flourish in this space, the owners of the garden's 1820s Federal-style townhouse, have newly planted this garden. They were inspired by the Blue Garden in Newport, Rhode Island and have used blue hydrangea as lavishly as possible in window boxes, urns and plantings. Being a Beacon Hill garden, however, the background will always remain green against brick, and it will contain plantings traditional in our neighborhood, namely a Japanese maple tree, a boxwood hedge, climbing hydrangea and English ivy.



One challenge has been that while the garden is shady much of the year, there is considerable sunlight during May, June and July, when the sun is high in the sky. The arched trellises add another dimension to the garden. It is the owners' hope that over time the climbing hydrangea will be visible from the kitchen windows that overlook the garden.

The planters were selected with specific purposes. The contemporary gray planters help create a linear boxwood hedge along the handrail to another Hidden Garden. Outside of the gate is a gas light that serves as a night light for the garden and a 'weather light' for the owners to determine the unpredictable precipitation in New England. This sweet little Hidden Garden gives a welcome oasis from the hustle and bustle of the city of Boston.

2

## 114 MT. VERNON STREET

(see above)

The garden entrance on Cedar Lane Way begins with descent down three stairs to a walkway into the potting shed and into courtyard garden. A Japanese-style lattice work is seen on the



stairs, low fence with handrail. The courtyard is defined by lower red brick and upper cedar lattice walls. The raised garden beds are of red brick. The lead fountain of a mermaid child holding a seashell is on the south wall. French doors on the south wall open into the kitchen. Copper wall sconces illuminate the courtyard at night.

A 50-foot wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) climbs up to the roof level on the Southside fire escape; this is approximately 18 years old. Two younger wisteria vines are on the south wall of the courtyard. Murine invasion last year necessitated revision of the garden last fall.

Plant material includes Tsutsusi (evergreen azalea), Leucothoe, Chamaecyparis obtusa (hinoki cypress), Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel, Enkianthus, Ilex 'mesog' (China girl holly) and Taxus (yew). The garden maintains a peaceful and zen-like atmosphere with a simple color palette of chartreuse, blue and white. Seasonal orchids on an antique pedestal, perennial ferns, mosses and iris make up the remainder of the flora.

The house was built in 1828 as a single family residence; the top floor was added at a later date. Louis Brandeis owned and lived in the house between 1890 to 1900. Brandeis was a successful champion of preserving the Boston Common from proposed a train track running through it!

3

## 18 LOUISBURG SQUARE

(enter through front door at 18 Louisburg Square to see both 18 and 20 Louisburg Square - one line)

**LOWER TERRACE** Upon entering this garden the visitor notices a large magnolia tree dominating the space and providing shade and privacy to the rear of the home. The tree is surrounded by Gridded Green Mondo Grass and White Orchids. The tree helps soften the south-facing brick wall which is covered with moss and centered by a fireplace. On either side of the moss wall are columnar Boxwood and Boxwood spheres surrounded by pots of white climbing Mandeville bordered by English Ivy. By the double door on the left is a *Pinus parviflora*, 'Chinese white pine', a silvery blue version of our eastern white pine. Across from that in the corner by the brick wall is a Dawyck Gold beech tree, which grows in a tight column. Next to this is a Hinoki cypress. On the right of the fireplace is an Irish Belle pine and a Dawyck Purple beech. Its soft downy new foliage turns wine red. Other pots contain heuchera, ajuga, muehlenbeckia, Leucothoe axillaris and pansies.



**UPPER TERRACE** The big pot in the corner holds a weeping blue spruce, '*Glaucia Slenderina*'. At this time of year it is usually luxuriously festooned with pendulous branches of silvery blue. In the pot across from it on the railing is a European silver fir. The long, low planter in the middle has a medium-size and a smaller-size fern spray false cypress with an underplanting of heuchera. The two fluted pots against the dining room wall also contain the fernspray false cypress, as does the walkway in front of the house. Ground covers are giant ajuga, pansies and candytuft for a white accent.

4

## 20 LOUISBURG SQUARE

(see above)



*The materials consist of a wooden lattice, a marble mantel and a glass mirror with a golden eagle above.*

The gardens between Louisburg Square and W. Cedar Street were formerly known as the Connecting Gardens. In 1997 the garden owners agreed to separate them and local architect James McNeely and landscape architect Carol R. Johnson of Cambridge turned this space into a private garden. It lies off the kitchen and functions as an outdoor room.

A white flowering redbud tree overlooks it all. The current owner wanted to achieve a sparser and crisper look for the shady garden on the next level, which is a patio with brick and granite, recently expanded. It holds a glass and concrete table with four red chinoiserie chairs from Trellilage. The next level lies outside the lowest level of the house. Mirrors are used throughout all the levels.

Classic granite accents and light-colored lattice fencing helps brighten the space. The brick walls are softened by climbing hydrangea and hardy English ivy. Overhead you will notice the magnolia and redbud trees have been sculpted by years of growing within this deeply shaded confine. The refined green borders are home to well-established boxwood, hosta and sheet moss mulch.

## 2 WALNUT STREET

This property, including the building and the garden, was initially part of the garden at 8 Walnut Street, a building constructed in 1811. More than four decades later, land was taken from that garden to create 2, 4, and 6 Walnut Street. The large ash tree that towers more than five stories high at the back corner of the present garden may have been part of the original plantings. When the house at 2 Walnut was built, the garden was actually a service yard and the giant hooks in the brick walls were used to string clotheslines and hang laundry.



Beacon Hill's slope defines this garden, which is steeply terraced at the rear. This slope creates a wonderful showcase for all that is most glorious about city gardening. Upon opening the garden gate, the visitor is greeted with climbing hydrangea that dominates the opposite wall. Just behind the gate is a large redvein enkianthus. The flower boxes on the ground outside are at eye level to a viewer inside the house.

The back garden is inspired by a woodland. It features such shade-loving plants as rhododendron, azalea, mountain laurel and trillium. In the far corner, under the shade of the ash tree, a garden seat located near two Japanese andromeda bushes beckons. The garden also features American holly, dwarf Solomon's seal and a variety of hostas and other perennials.

## 8A WALNUT STREET

Whereas most Beacon Hill gardens are reclaimed service yards, this garden has probably always been a garden. The 1811 house is shown on an early map surrounded by a large piece of land. In 1973 the house was divided into two condominiums and the garden was preserved and separated into two distinct areas.



A visitor approaches the garden owned by the residents of 8A through a gate fronting on the street revealing a walkway lined with privet. A walk through the iron gate and into a brick courtyard leads visitors to a stairway and up to the formal garden.

The beds are planted with yew, flowering pear trees and shade-tolerant echinacea and astilbe. The rear brick wall is punctuated with a trellis and a bench flanked by hydrangea. An urn provides a focal point for the central planting bed, which contains peonies and allium bulbs, planned to bloom in unison. A low iron fence and gate separate this area from the garden belonging to the owners of 8 Walnut Street.

## 16 CHESTNUT STREET

(enter to the left of 16 Chestnut Street)

This house was built in 1823 by Hepzibah Swann, the only female member of the Mount Vernon Proprietors, the real estate development company begun in the late 18th-century that constructed large houses on Beacon Hill. The newly built Massachusetts State House had finally made Beacon Hill fashionable.

The current garden is smaller than it was originally as the previous owners expanded the old carriage house by approximately four feet. Pre-2006 the garden was bricked with two parterres and a fountain at the end. Now, at the end of the garden an iron stair leads to a large patio off the kitchen. The statue from the original fountain remains, but is now nestled amongst the hosta, astilbe, and rose vine. A simple pool fountain has taken the place of the original, more ornate one. Six stewartia trees soften the texture of the large, red brick wall as lily of the valley scents the air in springtime. A patio lies opposite the fountain, providing the perfect place to enjoy the trickle of water or the flame from the fire pit.



## 23 CHESTNUT STREET



This Regency-style house was built in 1809 by housewright Jeremiah Gardner. The small garden is a source of pleasure for the family in all seasons, serving as a shaded and serene outdoor dining space in the summer and providing a snowy backdrop for the kitchen and adjoining breakfast room in the winter. A Kousa dogwood takes center stage, and assorted containers allow the owners to change the mood of the garden – classic boxwoods one year may give way to tropical palms the next. A spiral staircase leads to a balcony that incorporates a set of early 19th-century medallions salvaged from an old Philadelphia house. The lattice covering the stone foundation beyond features an antique mirror-backed faux door with a purple glass knob, tempting the imagination of children and adults alike.

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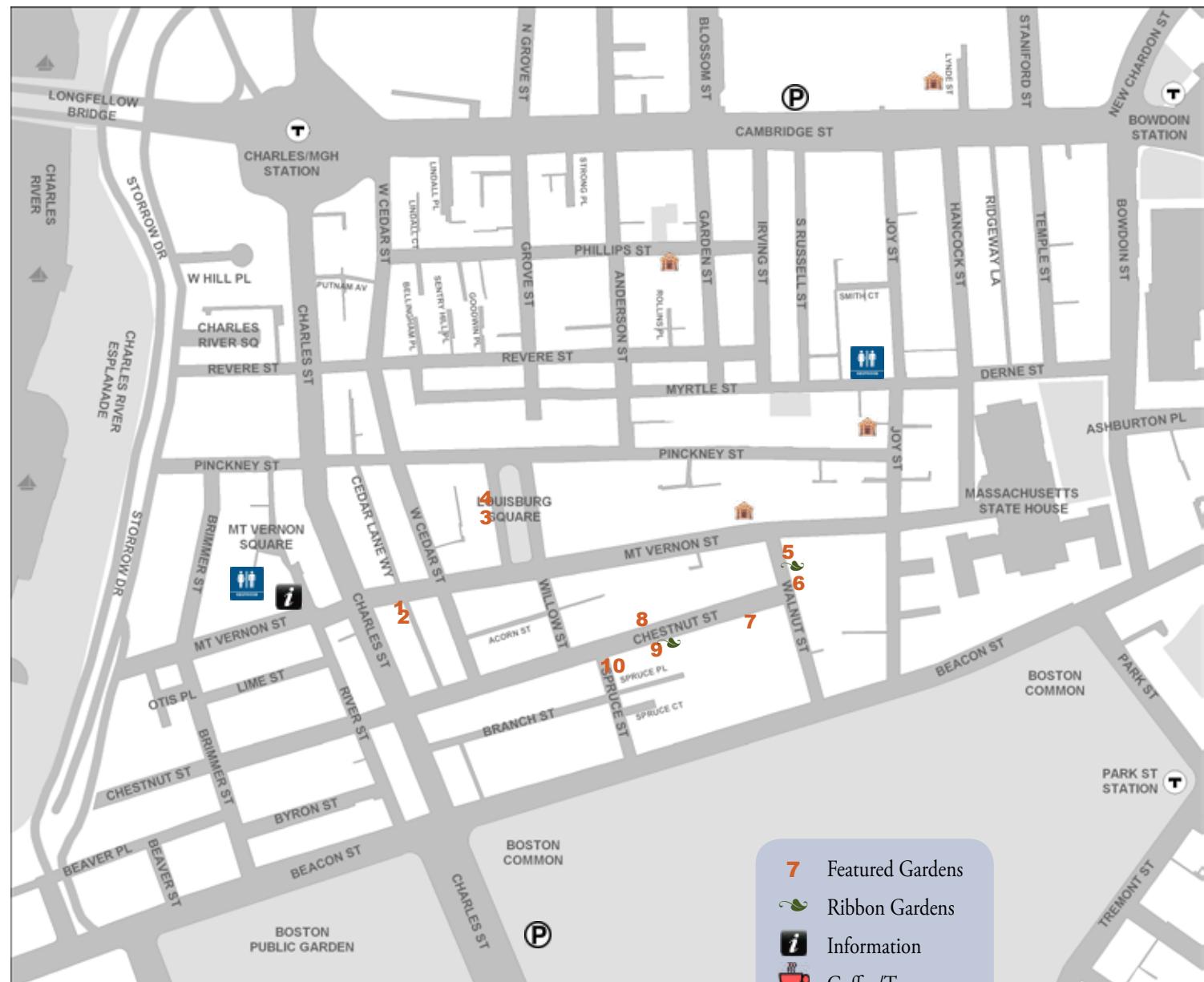
The tour is self-guided and the gardens can be viewed in any order.

- 1** 112 Mt. Vernon Street  
(enter via Cedar Lane Way - two lines to see 112 & 114 Mt. Vernon)
- 2** 114 Mt. Vernon Street  
(see above)
- 3** 18 Louisburg Square  
(enter through front door at 18 Louisburg Sq. to see both 18 and 20 Louisburg Sq. - one line)
- 4** 20 Louisburg Square  
(see above)
- 5** 2 Walnut Street
- 6** 8A Walnut Street
- 7** 8 Walnut Street (view from 8A Walnut Street)
- 8** 16 Chestnut Street  
(enter through to the left of 16 Chestnut Street)
- 9** 23 Chestnut Street
- 10** 24 Chestnut Street (enter via Spruce Place)
- 11** 22 Chestnut Street (enter via Spruce Place)
- 12** 1 Spruce Street (enter via Spruce Place)

= Ribbon Garden

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL**

Neither the Beacon Hill Garden Club nor any homeowner displaying his/her garden on the tour is responsible for damage, property loss or injury sustained during the tour.



Tea, coffee and refreshments are available from 9:00-4:30 at Moseley Hall at the Church of the Advent (enter via the church's garden entrance off Mt. Vernon Square).



Restrooms are available at Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street and at the Church of the Advent in Moseley Hall (enter via the church's garden entrance off Mt. Vernon Square).

- 7** Featured Gardens
- 8** Ribbon Gardens
- i** Information
- Coffee/Tea**
- P** Restrooms
- T** MBTA - Subway
- P** Parking
- H** Museums



Look for our Yellow Flags that mark garden entry.

## 24 CHESTNUT STREET

(enter via Spruce Place)



*For comparison – the garden's Second Incarnation when last shown in 2012*

The garden at 24 Chestnut has had only three incarnations in almost 200 years. The latest is shown for the first time today, and pays 21st century homage to the work of its two prior renowned landscape architects: Charles Bulfinch in the 19th century, and Arthur Shurcliff in the 20th century.

The garden door remains as it was in 1823, graced on both sides with iron latches and straps, hand-forged in Federalist design by Sturbridge blacksmith Ned James. It opens to a new balcony and sweeping staircase, which was created by metalwork artisans of the 21st century. Metal lattices support vines and soften the verticality of the brick walls.

Bulfinch's terraced approach to navigating 14' of grade change was celebrated in the renewal of the granite terrace walls. Peastone was selected for the groundplane to accentuate the terraces and retaining walls. An archeological window made of glass and steel reveals a glimpse of the original construction of granite retaining walls.

Mature white birches and drifts of evergreen and perennial plantings punctuate the peastone surface, creating a woodland respite.

## 1 SPRUCE STREET

(enter via Spruce Place)

This tiny shade garden measures just nine by eighteen feet with an entrance through an attached garage. A bed of ivy and a large, black locust tree, one of the largest on Beacon Hill, provide an edge along the right side of the garage as you enter. Three steps lead up to a brick patio with planters. There is little soil in this garden so the owners have employed planters and containers to hold plants. An ailanthus tree, considered a weed in the city, grows through an opening on the small wooden deck that leads to the house and provides additional shade.

An English Regency bow window from a breakfast room looks out onto the garden, which has a simple green and white design with boxwood and ivy in stone and metal planters and climbing white hydrangea plants on a fence trellis. Additional planters sit atop the garage edge and upper deck to create a lush, intimate space.



## RIBBON GARDENS

Ribbon gardens are provided by neighbors who are not members of the garden club. They have graciously agreed to share their gardens for this day, and we appreciate their support.

### 8 WALNUT STREET

(view from 8A Walnut Street)

This sun-filled space with its lawn and colorfully planted surrounding beds serves as a perfect play area for the young family who live here. Their kids hone their athletic skills amidst beds planted with a varied selection of rhododendron, azaleas, hydrangeas, dogwoods and hollies. In the back corner of the garden is a large beautiful yellowwood specimen tree.

### 22 CHESTNUT STREET

(enter via Spruce Place)



22 Chestnut's garden debuted with the Club's signature red brick garden floor at the First Hidden Garden Tour in 1929. In the 1980s, a new owner built out the whole of the space, introducing a four-car garage with a lovely "rooftop" atrium accessible from three sides of the house. The fourth side boasts a planting bed of perennials its entire length and a living wall above composed of succulents, ferns, and cyclamen.

*The garden at 22 Chestnut and the 'Sunflower Castle' garden (130 Mt. Vernon) were part of the Beacon Hill Garden Club's first tour in May 1929 and later that year were featured in the November issue of *House Beautiful* (photo left).*

See the map on page 28-29 for specific locations.

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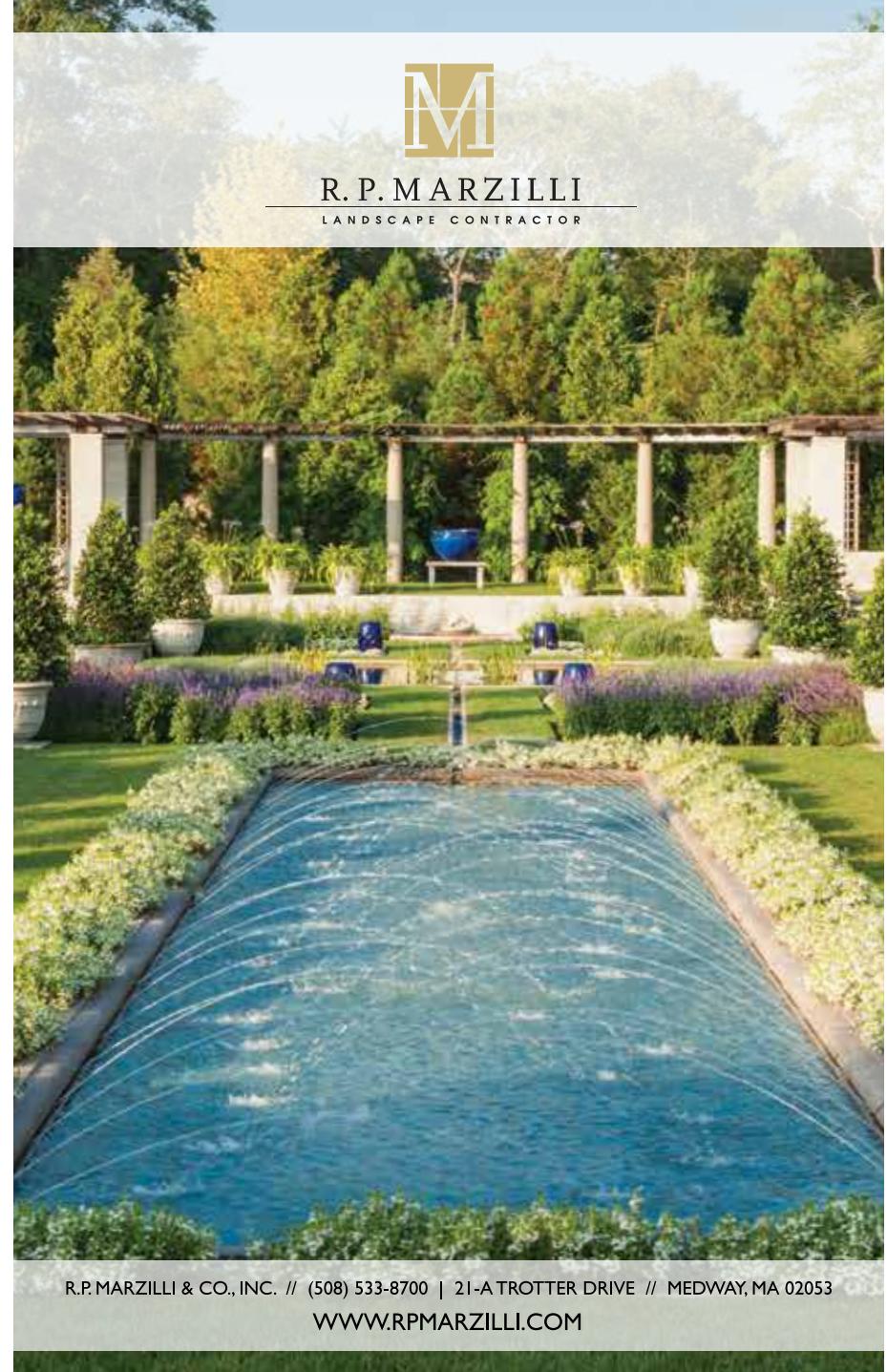
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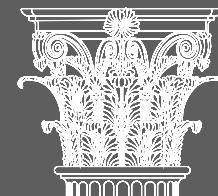
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Caesar Salad	8.50
Stuffed Mushrooms	11.00
Eggplant/Garlic & Oil	11.00
Mussels Bianco o Rosso	12.00
Sautéed Escarole	9.00
Prosciutto, Mozzarella & Tomatoes	13.00
Mozzarella & Tomato Bruschetta	9.50
Garlic Bread	6.00
Artichokes Principesse	11.00
Stuffed Clams	11.50
Shrimp Cocktail	12.00
Artichokes Margarita	12.00

## VITELLO / VEAL

Veal Pasta & Broccoli	18.50
Veal Parmigiana	18.50
Veal Marsala	18.50
Veal Piccata	18.50
Veal Braciolettine Marsala	19.00
Veal / Eggplant	20.50
Veal alla Antonio	19.50

## HOUSE FAVORITES (continued)

Shrimp Scampi / Linguine	20.50
Shrimp Cacciatoro / Linguine	20.50
Shrimp Fra Diavolo / Linguine	20.50
Chicken Rafaella over Fusilli	19.50
Steak Pizzaiola	Market Price
Steak, Mushroom & Onion	Market Price

## ZUPPE

Tortellini soup	Cup	4.50
	Bowl	6.00
Pasta Fagioli	Cup	4.50
	Bowl	6.00

## PASTA

Linguine / Ziti	Marinara	13.00
	Pesto	14.00
	Garlic & Oil	13.50
	Carbonara	14.00
	Meatballs	14.00
Fusilli	Marinara	15.00
	Pesto	15.00
	Garlic & Oil	15.00
	Carbonara	15.00
	Meatballs	16.00
Gnocchi	Marinara	14.50
	Pesto	15.00
	Al Forno	15.00
Cheese Ravioli	Marinara	14.00
	Al Forno	15.50
Tortellini	Alfredo	15.00
	Pesto	15.00
Fettuccini	Alfredo	15.00
Manicotti		14.00
Spinach Ravioli	Al Forno	15.00

## PESCE / SEAFOOD

Swordfish Pizzaiola tossed w/ Penne	16.00
Mussels Bianco o Rosso	16.00
Clams Bianco o Rosso	16.50
Ciopino	19.50
Swordfish Pasta & Broccoli	17.50
Shrimp Margarita	17.50
Schrod Margarita	17.50
Shrimp Pasta & Broccoli	17.50

## HOUSE FAVORITES

Lobster Ravioli	17.50
Chicken Ziti Saldate	16.00
Eggplant Braciolettine	16.00
Angel Hair Pomodoro	15.50
Spinach Ravioli	15.00
Fusilli Amatriciana	16.50
Eggplant Parmigiana	15.00
Pork Chops with Vinegar	15.00
Peppers & Potatoes	19.00
Chicken / Sausage with Vinegar	
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Chicken Cacciatore / Linguine	19.50

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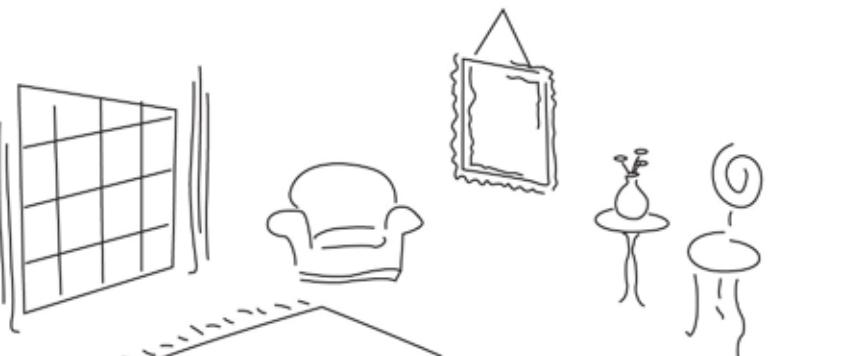


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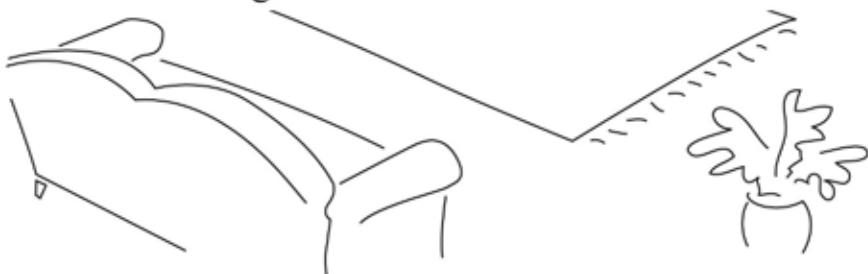
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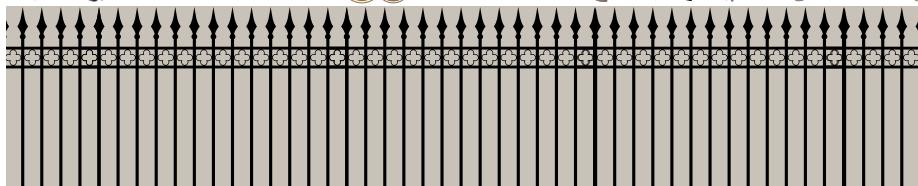
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## BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB HISTORY OF GIVING

Since its founding in 1928, Beacon Hill Garden Club continues to expand its reach by making contributions to local, state, and national organizations whose missions, like ours, include education, conservation and horticultural improvement of the urban landscape. Proceeds are used to encourage the love of horticulture and urban gardening, improve the urban landscape, and provide direct financial support to organizations dedicated to conservation, the environment, and civic improvement.

### 2017 GRANT RECIPIENTS

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## NOTES

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The tour is self-guided and the gardens may be viewed in any order.

See map on pages 28-29

- 112 Mt. Vernon Street (*page 24*) enter via Cedar Lane Way - two lines to see 112 & 114 Mt. Vernon
- 114 Mt. Vernon Street (*page 24*) see above
- 18 Louisburg Square (*page 25*) enter through front door at 18 Louisburg Sq. to see both 18 and 20 Louisburg Sq. - one line
- 20 Louisburg Square (*page 25*) see above
- 2 Walnut Street (*page 26*)
- 8A Walnut Street (*page 26*)
-  8 Walnut Street (*page 31*) view from 8A Walnut Street
- 16 Chestnut Street (*page 27*) enter to the left of 16 Chestnut Street
- 23 Chestnut Street (*page 27*)
- 24 Chestnut Street (*page 30*) enter via Spruce Place
-  22 Chestnut Street (*page 31*) enter via Spruce Place
- 1 Spruce Street (*page 31*) enter via Spruce Place

 = Ribbon Garden

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