

# THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Summer/Autumn  
1987

## Save The Harbor: Save The Bay

by Ian Menzies

**T**he note from the Kennedy Library was quite explicit. Tell us something about Save the Harbor: Save the Bay. What is it? Why was it formed? Who formed it? What are its goals? And do it in 500 words or less.

It's a little awkward writing about an organization one assisted in founding; on the other hand, as the Library reminded me, who better.

The story goes back to October 1983 when William Golden, city solicitor for Quincy, disgusted at the sight of the city's beaches, brought suit against the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), enjoining them to cease and desist polluting the harbor.

The suit came before Judge Paul Garrity in superior court, a jurist who had a way of making people sit up and take notice, which is precisely the impact he had on the Massachusetts Legislature.

Under hardball pressure from Garrity in superior court, strong support from Governor Dukakis, plus critical contributions by the court-appointed special master, Harvard law professor Charles Haar, the legislature, on December 19, 1984, established the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) with independent fund-raising powers. Senate President William Bulger worked hard for the bill as did House Speaker Tom McGee and Representative John Cusack.

My own role in this story developed, as is the case with most newspapermen, from the sidelines. I had, beginning way back in 1975, written 32 columns for the *Boston Globe* calling in various ways for a cleanup of the harbor and for an independent authority to do the job.

It was now October, 1985. William Golden had become a state senator, Paul Garrity had left the bench to return to law practice and, retired from the *Globe*, I was now a senior fellow at UMass Boston's McCormack Institute.

As a panelist of a public meeting on the harbor, at the New England Aquarium that October, I pointed out that even though we now had the MWRA to clean up the harbor what we still needed was a "noisy, vociferous, enthusiastic, demanding constituency; a sort of barely restrained intelligent mob," to ensure that the job was done. And, with considerable temerity, I publicly proposed that Garrity head it.

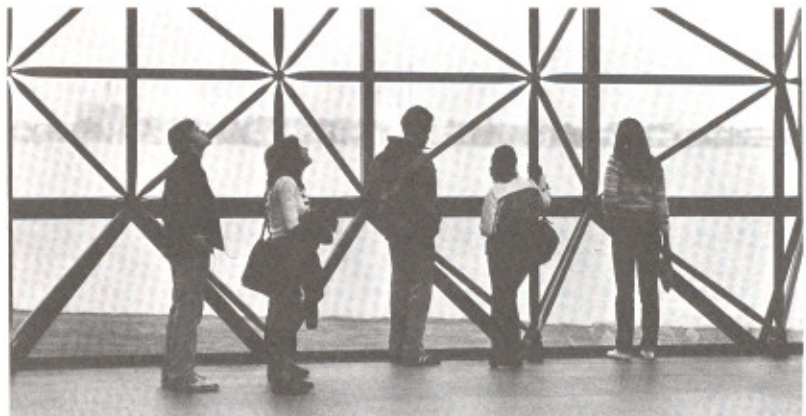
Hearing that call, Gerard Bertrand, president of the Massachusetts Audubon Soci-

ety pledged \$10,000 to get such a group started. Golden called Garrity and myself and said: "what about it?" And the founding meeting, most appropriately, and with thanks, was held January 16, 1986, at the Kennedy Library.

Our little triumvirate couldn't have got going, however, without two other critical helping hands—a grant of \$60,000 from The Boston Foundation and \$50,000 from the Cox Foundation.

Today, Save the Harbor: Save the Bay, a one-purpose grassroots organization committed to a cleanup of the Harbor BEFORE the century ends, has well over 2000 members, a number it hopes to double within two years. It conducts sewer tours, helps monitor harbor waters, sponsors "town meetings on the harbor," works with teachers and schools and presents films on harbor pollution.

While supportive of the MWRA it will call the shots as it sees them. It has only one goal: To be out of business in the shortest possible time and anyone sharing that goal is invited to join by calling 742-SAVE.



*View of Boston Harbor from the Library's glass pavilion.*

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## Summer Institute for Teachers: A Ten-Year Tradition

**S**ince 1978 the Library and the University of Massachusetts at Boston have co-sponsored two-week programs in July aimed at helping teachers improve their understanding of the American political process. Although the topics of these sessions have varied from year to year, the basic ingredients have remained constant: Twenty-five teachers and graduate students gather to discuss how best to teach young people about politics, and prepare papers or curricula reflecting their new understanding of how the system really works.

For the first four years, the institutes focused on the general process of teaching children at all levels about their responsibilities as members of various communities.

## Physicians Launch Public Outreach Campaign

**O**n August 6, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) held a press conference at the Kennedy Library to unveil a multimedia public outreach campaign designed to encourage Americans to participate in the effort to prevent nuclear war. Dr. Victor W. Sidel noted the aptness of the date, August 6, the anniversary of the first use of the atomic bomb in the attack on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. "We're here on a day that should hold a special place in the conscience of all Americans," said Dr. Sidel, "and through this new educational

This fit well with the Library's goal of encouraging boys and girls, even at a young age, to start thinking about politics and public service.

Beginning in 1982 the summer institute took on a more historical tone, and for the next four years our focus was the period of the 1960s. Participants explored the background and implications of the great events and personalities of that turbulent decade.

In 1986 we decided to experiment with a different format by devoting the entire institute to a detailed discussion of J. Anthony Lukas' prize-winning book, *Common Ground*. Each day a different topic was explored—leadership, religion, ethnicity and neighborhoods, civil rights, the courts, media, etc. The mornings were spent on an overview; the afternoons, on a case study linking the topic to the events covered in Lukas'

campaign we will appeal to that conscience, relying on the ability of the American people to channel information and concern into effective, democratic action."

Describing the significance of the new campaign, Dr. Sidel recalled the group's founding days in the early 1960s, when the organization set out to educate residents of the greater Boston area about the results of a nuclear attack on their city. A PSR study released in May 1962 received publicity in many publications, helping to mobilize support for the Limited Test Ban Treaty signed by President Kennedy in 1963.

With next year marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the treaty, it

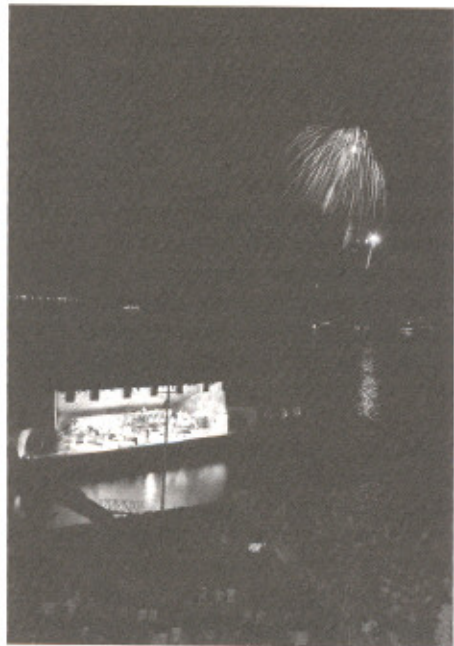
political history of Boston from 1968 to 1978. The book itself, as useful history, was examined by both critics and the author.

This past July the program was entitled "The Constitution: A Bicentennial Perspective." For ten days participants and guest speakers wrestled with a number of critical topics: the control of pornography, the right to bear arms, capital punishment, taking the fifth amendment, mandatory AIDS testing, secret government and foreign policy, parental rights and the content of school textbooks, affirmative action, civil rights and equal education, and amending the Constitution.

Working with teachers has become an extremely important part of the agenda of the Kennedy Library. The Library staff looks forward to planning with UMass faculty the next decade of summer institutes.

was fitting for the Physicians for Social Responsibility to launch their campaign at the Kennedy Library.





### **A Father's Day Celebration at the Kennedy Library**

**O**n Sunday, June 21, the Kennedy Library celebrated Father's Day and the beginning of summer by hosting the American Waterways Wind Orchestra in a free, floating concert.

Over 4,000 people enjoyed picnics under the stars while waiting for the large vessel docked at the shore of the Library to open into a hatch-shell. As the orchestra opened its program with Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," the Kennedy Library took on a magical look. The enthusiastic crowd was treated to over an hour of patriotic and classical selections which were followed by a surprise fireworks show!

The American Waterways Wind Orchestra performs on a one-of-a-kind floating arts center that boasts a 75-foot-wide, hydraulically lifted stage. Self-propelled, 195 feet

long and 38 feet wide, Point Counterpoint II is the only vessel of its kind in the world. The 45-member orchestra was founded in 1957 by conductor and skipper, Robert Boudreau, a Massachusetts native.

The event was sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in cooperation with the businesses of Columbia Point and WMJX-FM. The Santore Brothers of New Jersey dazzled the concert goers with a twenty-

minute fireworks display while the orchestra played patriotic songs. "This was a special way to celebrate the beginning of summer with all of our Columbia Point neighbors, and we were happy to have the opportunity to hold such a marvelous event in a unique corner of Boston," said John J. Cullinane, Chairman of the Foundation.

The Foundation plans to begin every summer with similar Father's Day celebrations for all to enjoy.



## A Look Back: Governor Paul A. Dever

**P**aul A. Dever, like John F. Kennedy, had a highly successful, but much too brief, political career. After graduating from Boston University Law School in 1926, Dever practiced law for a couple of years and then went on to be elected to the Massachusetts legislature at the age of 25.

Although the Roosevelt years were generally boom times for the Democratic party, Massachusetts Democrats were hurting themselves with a series of intraparty feuds. In addition to a basic split between the Al Smith conservative wing of the party, led by Senator David I. Walsh, there were recurring primary battles that often left the party ill-prepared to face the Republicans in November.

In 1938, Paul Dever was the only Democrat to win a state-wide race, retaining the attorney general's office he had won in 1934 at the tender age of 31. James Michael Curley was at the top of the ticket in 1938, having defeated incumbent Democratic Governor Charles Hurley in a bitter race.

Dever, like JFK, learned the political game well and used his understanding of the process to move on rapidly. He ran against the very popular incumbent governor, Leverett Saltonstall, in 1940 and lost by less than 1% of the votes. After the war, however, he bounced back and won the governorship in the watershed Democratic sweep of 1948, defeating the rising star of the Republican party, Robert Bradford. Dever and his Democratic colleagues took advantage of the public's great fear of a postwar infla-

tion and, among other issues, hit hard at the proposed increase in MBTA fares to 15 cents.

As governor from 1949 to 1953, Dever launched an ambitious program of social reforms and measures to help the ailing economy of Massachusetts. Unfortunately, Eisenhower's strong campaigning for the Republican ticket, combined with the worsening of Democratic fortunes nationally in 1952, allowed Christian Herter to defeat Dever in his bid for a third term.

Dever did not retire from political life, however. Until his death in 1958 he played an active role in both state and national Democratic affairs. In 1956 he was one of the leaders in the effort to gain the vice-presidential

nomination for John Kennedy, and in the next two years he worked tirelessly in the early effort to generate national support for a 1960 Kennedy presidential race.

John Kennedy and Paul Dever will be brought together once again. Thanks to a very generous gift of \$300,000 by the Paul A. Dever Foundation for Education in Politics, the Kennedy Library is embarking upon an exciting new program aimed at encouraging young people to get involved in politics.

In combining forces, the Library and Dever Foundation hope to instill in young adults the love and interest in politics of John Kennedy and Paul Dever, and to help translate that love and interest into active participation.



*Members of the Board of Trustees of the Paul A. Dever Foundation present gift to Caroline Kennedy; Senator Kennedy; and John Cullinane, Chairman of the Kennedy Library Foundation.*

## Odds & Ends

### Found in the Museum . . .

**E**ach President brings a bit of his home state to the Oval Office, and certainly President Kennedy was no exception. His love for Cape Cod and Boston were evident in his office, as well as in the entire White House during his administration.

Along with many other items with which the president liked to surround himself as reminders of the sea, were models of Cape birds, two killdeers, which Mrs. Kennedy had given him as a birthday gift. She purchased the birds from Peter Peltz of Sandwich, and the carvings are now a part of the president's personal collections exhibited in the museum.



### Kennedy Library Opportunities

**T**he Kennedy Library often has vacancies for both paid and volunteer staff. Positions are currently available in the museum and museum store. We offer both full and part-time employment with flexible hours. If you would like to learn more about the available staff positions, please call 929-4500.

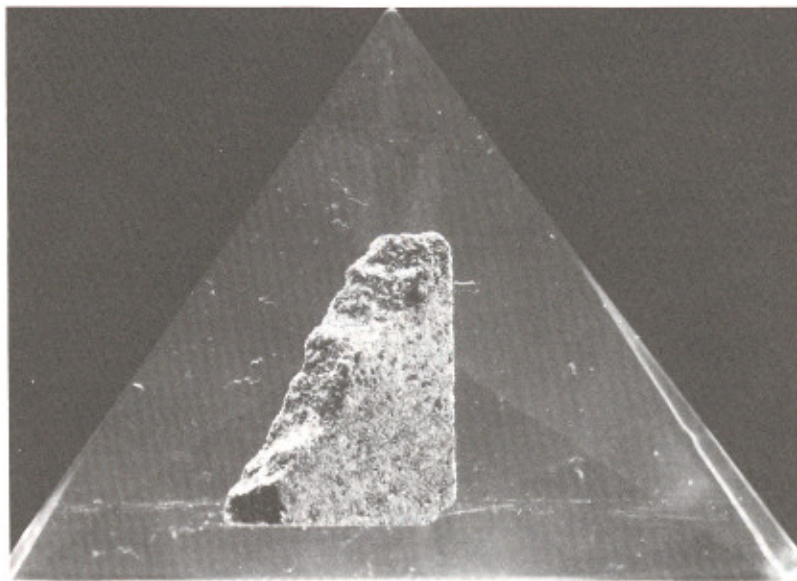
### Found in the Archives . . .

**T**he Kennedy Library's archives contain material on thousands of persons and topics in U.S. and Massachusetts history and political life. The late governor, Paul Dever, is a notable example. He and John F. Kennedy shared the political limelight in Massachusetts for a time. Dever is reputed to be the author of the quip, "Jack is the first Irish Brahmin."

John Kennedy's 1950 congressional files include a copy of the speech made by Dever at the groundbreaking for a new state prison in Walpole. They also include a speech by JFK in 1950 supporting Dever's reelection. JFK's 1952 Senate campaign files include records of Dever's campaign, detailing contributions and expenses, and campaign literature.

The oral history and printed materials collections are rich with references to the relationship between JFK and Dever. Some are quite colorful. Garrett Byrne and Patsy Mulkern tell in their interviews of the maneuvering in 1952 to decide which man would run for U.S. senator and which one for governor. As Dave Powers and Kenny O'Donnell tell it in *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye*, Dever aspired to the Senate but declined to run because of the popularity of incumbent Henry Cabot Lodge. Dever opted to run again for the corner office at the State House leaving the Senate race to JFK. The rest, as they say, is history.

**T**his Apollo 15 lunar sample (moon rock) was collected by Astronaut Dave Scott and is on display at the Kennedy Library. It weighs 155.67 grams and is a fragment of the original rock that weighed 9,613.7 grams. The sample is a mare basalt and is very old—about 3.3 billion years!



## Kennedy Library Events

### September

29

The Housing Crisis in America and Boston—first in a series of evening forums for the general public, 5:00 p.m.

### October

2-11/8

“Ich Bin Ein Berliner”—a special exhibit of pictures and memorabilia from the President's 1963 trip to Germany.

13

The 1988 Presidential Race: The Role of the Media—second in a series of evening forums for the general public, 5:00 p.m.

20

Religion in American Politics—third in a series of evening forums for the general public, 5:00 p.m.

26

The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Twenty-Five Year Retrospective—conference for high school students, 9:00 a.m.

27

Peace or Conflict: A Discussion of Israel's Future Twenty Years After the '67 War—fourth in a series of evening forums for the general public, 5:00 p.m.

### November

1

The Best Sellers: Sunday Afternoons with the Authors—first in a series of discussions with authors of recently published works, 2:00 p.m. Speaker: John Kenneth Galbraith, author of *Economics in Perspective*

8

The Best Sellers: Sunday Afternoons with the Authors—second in a series, 2:00 p.m.

11

Opening of “Boston Women at Work” exhibit, co-sponsored by the Boston Women's Commission

12

Women at Work—fifth in a series of evening forums for the general public, cosponsored by the Boston Women's Commission, 5:00 p.m.

15

The Best Sellers: Sunday Afternoons with the Authors—third in a series, 2:00 p.m.

### December

6

Christmas Carols in the Pavilion—a day long celebration featuring a variety of choral groups and international Christmas cookies for all museum goers, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8

Constitution Forum, co-sponsored by the USS Constitution Museum, 6:00 p.m.

13

Christmas Carols—the second day long Christmas celebration for all museum goers, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Museum Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, and New Year's Day

Reservations are required for all programs. Please call 929-4571. For general information call 929-4500.

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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