

# Wellesley Boston

WELLESLEY COLLEGE ALUMNAE OF BOSTON

[boston.alum.wellesley.edu](http://boston.alum.wellesley.edu)

FALL 2019

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Greetings WCAB Members!

#### If you are new to the Boston area, Welcome!

It is my hope that our club can support you in connecting with one another and with the College. Whether you join fellow alums at a movie night, celebrate

the holidays with us, network and learn together, or volunteer for an admissions event, I hope that you will discover many ways you want to get involved. We are also always open to suggestions and feedback. If you would like to volunteer with us or suggest an idea for an event, please reach out to me and other board members! The greater the diversity of ideas, the greater likelihood we can reach and truly serve our local area alumnae.

I would like to thank our outgoing presidents Jane Materazzo '83 and Joanna Jung '90 for their incredible and dedicated service to our Club. I am also excited to report that they will both continue as active volunteers on our Board.

At our Annual Meeting in May, we nominated our new Club Leadership and we welcome many new Board members this year. This summer, we have been planning for our year ahead and we look forward to spending time with you all. Our E-Blasts are delivered to your inboxes on the 1st and 15th of the month. New this year: keep an eye out for our new spotlight features of our board members and volunteers in the e-blasts – we hope that you will find us at future events, and discover a way you might like to get involved!

If you are not receiving these e-blasts, please reach out to the Alumnae Office to ensure that your contact information with the College is up to date.

Of course, our programming, scholarships, and book awards would not be possible without your volunteer efforts, dues, and additional contributions. While we collaborate with the College in supporting the needs of Boston-area alumnae, WCAB does not receive funding from the College. To the extent you are able, we hope you will choose to support the club by registering as a dues paying member at [boston.alum.wellesley.edu](http://boston.alum.wellesley.edu) ("Support Our Club" tab.)

And if you can volunteer for WCAB (for just a few, or many hours) please email us at [programming@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:programming@wellesleyboston.com).

Finally, new this year, we have created the WCAB Spirit Fund to assist alums for whom the cost of a WCAB event presents a personal financial burden. Now, thanks to generous donations to the Spirit Fund, if alums reach out to us in confidence for support to attend an event with an associated charge, we can help subsidize or fully cover the cost. If you would like to donate to the Spirit Fund, you can do so when you sign up as a dues paying member of our WCAB club.

All my Wellesley best,  
*Caroline*

Caroline Bodager '14  
[president@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:president@wellesleyboston.com)

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## SPRING 2020 EVENTS PREVIEW

MakerSpace Event in Kendall Square, Made With Love Cookie Exchange, Annual Membership Appreciation Event, our favorite group meetups:

MetroWest Dinners and Brunches, Downtown Lunch Group, and more events in partnership with SIGs!

Keep an eye out on our website for more information on events coming Spring 2020!



# Authors on Stage at the Wellesley College Club

Twice a year, WCAB's Authors on Stage invites you to fill your morning with engaging presentations by three authors discussing how they came to write their recently published books.

After every program, Authors on Stage donates proceeds from the program to the Wellesley College library. Since its founding in 1981, Authors on Stage has donated over \$200,000 to the library, thanks to our loyal audiences of local residents and alumnae.

Programs take place at the Wellesley College Club, starting with coffee at 9:45 a.m. and the program at 10:30. Admission is \$27.

After the program, the authors autograph copies of their books—available for purchase at a discount. Stay for lunch for \$16 (including tax and tip). Several weeks before each program, the names of the books and authors are published on this WCAB website and in the invitations sent to our mailing list.

To join the mailing list, contact:  
authorsonstage@gmail.com

**Purchase Tickets and RSVP here:**

<http://bit.ly/35EObqc>



## Next Program: November 5

**Susan Cooper**—*The Shortest Day*

Written for the Christmas Revels show that is now performed throughout the United States, the beloved poem *The Shortest Day* captures the magic behind the returning of the light, the yearning for traditions that connect us with prior generations—and the hope for peace that we carry into the future. “This cyclical volume offers an alluringly haunting alternative to more familiar seasonal fare” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review). Susan Cooper is the author of many books for children and adults. Her fantasy sequence *The Dark Is Rising* includes the Newbery Medal winner *The Grey King*. She lives in Marshfield, Massachusetts.



Photo Credit: Tsar Fedorsky

**Marjan Kamali**—*The Stationery Shop*

*The Stationery Shop* is a beautiful exploration of loss, unbreakable family bonds, and the overwhelming power of love. “Simultaneously briskly paced and deeply moving” (Booklist), the novel is set against the upheaval of 1953 Tehran. “A wistful look at two idealists and the world they should have inherited... Kamali offers a paean not just to lost love, but to the poetry, food, and culture that fed their memories for 60 years” (*Christian Science Monitor*). Marjan Kamali was born in Turkey to Iranian parents. Her degrees include an MBA from Columbia and an MFA from NYU. She lives in the Boston area.



Photo Credit: David E. Lawrence

**Jack Goldsmith**—*In Hoffa's Shadow: A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth*

As a young man, Jack Goldsmith revered his stepfather, Jimmy Hoffa associate Chuckie O'Brien. Yet as he pursued a career in law and government, he distanced himself from the man long suspected by the FBI of perpetrating Hoffa's disappearance. Years later he reconsiders and reunites with his stepfather while exploring Hoffa's rise and fall and how the golden age of blue-collar America came to an end. “A thrilling, unputdownable story that takes on big subjects—injustice, love, loss, truth, power, murder” (Bill Buford). Jack Goldsmith is a Harvard Law professor and former assistant attorney general.



Photo Credit: Martha Stewart

**Authors on Stage Program Committee** Chair: Mary Baughman; Moderator: Lia Hunt-Zylstra; Committee: Claire Austin-White, Jean Canellos, Kathleen Clay, Karen Gaylin, Anne Harper, Janice Hunt, Suzanne Kreinsen, Mary Landergan, Leigh Maccini, Faith Parker, Alison Randall, Dottie Robbins, Toby Schwartzman, Katherine Strehle, Blythe Sterling, Diane Triant, Gina Wickwire, Jennifer Zannetos



# WCAB Fall Kick-Off Event with Professor Eni Mustafaraj

BY QUIANA AGBAI '02

At our recent Fall Kick-Off Eni Mustafaraj, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, shared an engaging presentation on how the intersection of information sharing and profit have shaped the Internet into such a force. Prof. Mustafaraj began by peppering alums who gathered in the LuLu Chow Wang Campus Center with questions about various Internet history trivia while challenging us to be critical in our consumption of the Internet.



One of the most eye-opening projects that Prof. Mustafaraj shared was us was Wikipedia “edit-a-thons” which involve Wellesley students hunkering down to update and create pages. It was a lesson in the crowdsourcing format of Wikipedia as well as shedding light on the fact that approximately 90% of the pages are written by men. This information spurred many alums to inquire about a future edit-a-thon event to literally hack this troubling statistic. Stay tuned...

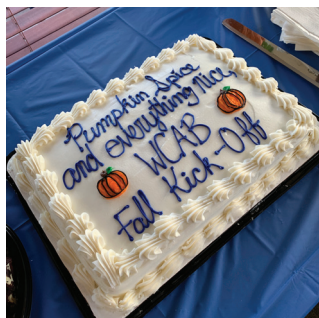
With next year’s election approaching, the work that Professor Mustafaraj is doing is crucial especially given that she uncovered the first ever documented use of Twitter bots to attack a political candidate during an election - you can read more about that on her website (<http://bit.ly/31ol14h>). Currently, Prof. Mustafaraj is in the midst of a 5-year NSF grant studying signals that can be used to evaluate the credibility of online sources on the Web.

The implications of Prof. Mustafaraj’s research is crucial in understanding the ways we are funneled through navigating online from social media to search engines and ultimately, pushes us to think critically about what information we’re sharing as well as best practices for protecting our privacy. By the end of our time together, Prof. Mustafaraj agreed that yes, while this is daunting, we must never back down in being conscious and critical consumers of what we find on the Internet.

## WCAB Fall Kick-Off Events

During the Fall Kick-Off events we were able to give a warm Wellesley welcome (back!) our new WCAA Executive Director, Kathryn Mackintosh '03 and celebrate WCAB Day.

Photo Below: WCAB Day was one of our featured Fall events: five events over the course of the day in five different locations! At our kayaking outing, hosted by Janet Liu '98, we re-created the favorite boat formation of the Wellesley “W”.



## WCAB Board & Committee Members 2019-2020

### President

Caroline Bodager '14  
[president@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:president@wellesleyboston.com)

### Vice President

Quiana Agbai '02

### Secretary

Melanie Bellini '12  
[secretary@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:secretary@wellesleyboston.com)

### Treasurers

Amelia Hill '07  
Janet Liu '98  
[treasurers@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:treasurers@wellesleyboston.com)

### Programming Chair

Jane Materazzo '83  
[programming@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:programming@wellesleyboston.com)

### Membership Chair

Emily Wood '13  
[membership@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:membership@wellesleyboston.com)

### Admissions Chairs

Samantha Tackeff '08  
Dominique Ledoux '14  
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### Website

Carie Cardamone '02  
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### Authors on Stage

Mary Baughman '66  
Suzanne Kreinsen '78  
[aos@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:aos@wellesleyboston.com)

### Young Alum Chair

Connie Troung '17

# WCAB Celebrates Olmstead

BY JANE MATERAZZO '83

On September 14th, about a dozen WCAB members (representing classes from at least four decades!) gathered at the Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site to begin a day of celebration for America's foremost landscape architect. As luck would have it, our terrific tour guide Val had a Wellesley connection (MA in Chemistry – yes, that's right, Wellesley used to confer MA degrees!).

Val took us on a fascinating tour of the home and design studio where Olmstead and his family lived during Olmstead's later years, and where Olmstead, his sons, and their successors ran the Olmstead landscape firm until 1979. We learned that Olmstead was actually a "late bloomer" who sampled several other careers before becoming America's foremost landscape architect, and that once he settled on landscape design, his work was deeply informed by his social conscience.

For Olmstead, a beautiful park was not just an end unto itself, but a way to transcend race, creed and social class by providing a place where all people could enjoy, together, a common experience of the beauty of nature. After exploring the interior of Olmstead's home and design studio we enjoyed an outdoor tour of the diverse landscapes that exist right on the property's grounds, which Olmstead cultivated as a way of "advertising" to prospective clients the varied types of designs he could create for them.

At the conclusion of our tour we got a peek at records indicating that Olmstead's firm consulted for Wellesley College both in the early days of the College and again in the 1970's (a "teaser" for those who want to explore further Olmstead's connections to the College.) We concluded our day with a lovely picnic lunch in Olmstead Park, one of the gems of Boston's Olmstead-deigned Emerald Necklace.

Thanks to all who participated! It was a wonderful day.



Photo Credit: National Park Service

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## Admissions Committee Update!

Tidings from the WCAB Admissions Committee! We're a committee of fearless volunteers who run several different sub-committees: off-and on-campus interviews, college fairs, letter writing to admitted students, and book awards! It's a big undertaking, and we're always looking for new WCABers to help us out - either in one-off participation or as a bigger commitment. There's lots of work to do!

Uniquely WCAB volunteers play an important role in the admissions process for the College in recruiting high-achieving young women in the Greater Boston area to Wellesley. Potential applicants \*love\* interacting with alums and hearing your stories. And through programs, such as the book awards, these students--many of whom would otherwise not have known of or felt qualified to apply to Wellesley - are recognized for their academic leadership and personal contributions to their schools and communities. (A neat thing is that students who receive a book award and get in to Wellesley are much more likely to actually go!)

A few fun stats:

- We have over 60 volunteers for our committees! Thank you!
- We mailed over 90 book awards last year, and thanks to the generosity of alums like you, we have been able to fully sponsor and expand this successful program!
- It was another banner interview year for interviews: we participated in close to 100 last season!

If you'd like to volunteer for interviews, or any of our sub-committees (or just want to hang out with us): please register online here: [admission.wellesley.edu/register/newvolunteer](http://admission.wellesley.edu/register/newvolunteer) and send us an email [admissions@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:admissions@wellesleyboston.com) letting us know what you'd like to do.

Cheers!

Dominique '14 & Sam '08



## Did you know?

New this year, we have created the WCAB Spirit Fund to assist alums for whom the cost of a WCAB event presents a personal financial burden. Now, thanks to generous donations to the Spirit Fund, if alums reach out to us in confidence for support to attend an event with an associated charge, we can help subsidize or fully cover the cost. If you would like to donate to the Spirit Fund, you can do so when you sign up as a dues paying member of our WCAB club!

### Visit our website to become a member:

[boston.alum.wellesley.edu/memsub.html](http://boston.alum.wellesley.edu/memsub.html)

### Are you receiving monthly e-blasts on the 1st & 15th?

If not, you can update your contact information in three ways:

**Email:** [recordupdates@wellesley.edu](mailto:recordupdates@wellesley.edu)

**Online:** [boston.alum.wellesley.edu](http://boston.alum.wellesley.edu)

**Phone:** 1-800-339-5233

## Upcoming Fall Event Spotlight

### Downtown Lunch Group

**When:** Noon on Wednesday, October 23; Tuesday, November 19; and Thursday, December 19.

**Where:** Parker's Restaurant, Omni Parker House Hotel, 60 School Street, Boston

**Cost:** Attendees responsible for the cost of their own meal.

**RSVP and Questions:** Ellen Simmons,  
[ebsimmonseseq@comcast.net](mailto:ebsimmonseseq@comcast.net)

## We've explored many places, new and familiar this year!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who help create such a wonderful variety of events for WCAB. Check out the map in more detail here: <http://bit.ly/2BeCMPB>. Have an idea for where we can host our next event? Would you like to volunteer with us? Contact: [president@wellesleyboston.com](mailto:president@wellesleyboston.com)



# **You are invited!** **WCAB Annual Holiday Party**

**At the home of Diane Cataldo '75 in Back Bay**  
**Evening of Thursday, December 5th, 2019**

RSVP WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1. SPACE IS LIMITED. GO TO [HTTP://BIT.LY/2VKG8S3](http://bit.ly/2VKG8S3) TO RSVP AND FOR MORE INFORMATION. ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON RSVP. COST: FREE FOR WCAB DUES PAYING MEMBERS. \$15 FOR YOUNG ALUM NON-DUES PAYING MEMBERS AND \$20 FOR OTHER NON-DUES PAYING MEMBERS. QUESTIONS? EMAIL [PROGRAMMING@WELLESLEYBOSTON.COM](mailto:PROGRAMMING@WELLESLEYBOSTON.COM)

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