

# 2009 Somerville Historic Preservation Commission

## Commission Members

**Dick Bauer: (Real Estate Lawyer)** Chairman of the SHPC since May 2008. Dick is a senior attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services and has degrees in both law and urban studies. He is the Somerville representative on the Middlesex Canal Commission, Co-Chair of the Jewish Labor Committee, Co-President of Congregation Kahal B'Raira, and has been an active volunteer for many local non-profit organizations over several decades. He and his wife received a Director's Award in 2006 for outstanding work on their house, after raising two children in it. As an avid bicyclist Dick leads several historic bike tours each year. Dick joined the SHPC in 2003.

**Abby Freedman: (Citizen – Historic District Resident)** Vice Chairman of the SHPC since May 2008. Abby is an independent filmmaker and community videographer. She is currently a member of the Union Square Focus Group, and previously served on the ArtsUnion Street Architecture Committee, and the City's Cable Advisory Commission. She was formerly President of the Board for Somerville Community Access Television (SCAT). Abby and her husband have been restoring their house for 25 years and through her efforts the Aldersey-Summit Local Historic District was greatly expanded in 2003. She has been a SHPC member since 2005.

**O. Susan Fontano: (Citizen)** The long-standing Clerk for the SHPC, Susan partners for two small businesses in historic Lexington, Nefertiti Hair Salon and Up, Up and Away Balloons. A third generation East Somerville and lifelong resident, Susan has enjoyed living in the family's older home that they have been restoring over many years, earning them a Director's Award in 1998. A strong believer in community service she has served on many civic groups, including the Assembly Square Advisory Board, Mt. Vernon Street Association, and the successful "2009 All-American City" presentation team. She is currently President of the East Broadway Main Streets Program, and a Clerk for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Susan has been a very active member of the SHPC since 1998.

**Kevin Allen: (Architectural Historian)** Kevin is a preservation planner who currently manages an innovative historic curator program for the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. He brings 12 years of professional experience in public history, having previously worked as a preservation planner and historian in Watertown. Following college he worked in North Carolina as a historic preservation program manager for a county preservation commission, as well as in a county-wide non-profit organization. Kevin currently resides in an old house in Somerville that helps him appreciate daily the amount of labor, as well as love, that they require to maintain. He has been a member of the SHPC since late 2007.

**Nichole Bookwalter: (Realtor - Historic District Resident)** Originally from the Chicago area, Nichole has a degree in Biochemistry and Early Education, worked at Massachusetts General Hospital as a dietetic, and more recently joined a local real estate firm where she is now Vice President. She volunteers for several local non-profit groups, including Community Cooks helping impoverished young adults, and the Friends of the Community Path. Through family connections Nichole has developed a keen interest in architectural history and older houses, prompting her and her husband to purchase a locally designated historic house in 2002 where they currently reside with their two young children. Their outstanding repair and restoration work on the home earned them a 2009 Preservation Award from the SHPC. Nichole has been an official member of the SHPC since early 2009.

**Denis J. (D.J.) Chagnon: (Landscape Architect)** D.J. is a landscape architect at a Somerville firm experienced in working with historic properties and contexts. He and his wife purchased an 1890's home in Somerville in 2006, and together they are restoring the historic character and details of the house, while he also upgrades the yard and garden. DJ has a Bachelor's degree in design theory and a Master's of Landscape Architecture with a concentration in sculpture. He believes that his knowledge and experience with both landscaping and architectural history can be helpful when discussing with applicants the different landscape materials and options available for their properties. He has been a member of the SHPC since 2005.

**Sarah Degutis: (Architect)** Sarah earned her architectural degree in 2001 and has been teaching and practicing architecture ever since, currently working at a firm in Boston. Living in Somerville for several years she recently bought a condominium in the City where she now finds herself spending much of her free time fixing it up and starting a communal garden with her neighbors. She has long been interested in historic preservation and more recently in how to incorporate "green" practices into building preservation and planning. Sarah officially joined the SHPC in early 2009.

**Tom DeYoung: (Realtor)** Tom earned a BS in Business Administration from Northeastern University and has enjoyed a long career in sales and marketing. He is currently a very active real estate specialist for an international realty office that serves the Somerville and Greater Boston area. He is proud to be showcasing the many historic buildings and assets of Somerville to a wide range of clients throughout the metropolitan region. Tom is an avid skier, as well as a long-term native of the City, who is preserving the family homestead. He decided to give back to his community by joining the SHPC in 2007.

**Ryan Falvey: (City Planner)** Ryan has an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies and a Masters in Education and Cognitive Development. He is currently a vice president of a rapidly growing moving company based in Somerville. Ryan has extensive professional experience in management consulting and software systems design, and has developed and taught several courses at Harvard. Ryan became a 'hands-on' preservation enthusiast after totally renovating and restoring his mid-nineteenth century home in Somerville, for which he won a Director's Award from the SHPC in May of 2007. He joined the Commission in late 2007.

**Barbara Mangum: (Architectural Historian)** Barbara is a conservator of sculpture and decorative arts and was formerly the Chief Conservator for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. She is the principal of a private practice based in Somerville that does conservation work throughout the New England and New York region. Barbara is also the founder and current President of Historic Somerville, Inc., a non-profit organization that sponsors educational programs about local history, including the annual Ghosts of Somerville performance at the Milk Row Cemetery, and helps to raise funds for preservation projects in Somerville. She has served as a technical advisor on the restoration of numerous municipal properties, including the historic Central Hill Park, Nathan Tufts Park, and the West Branch Library. Barbara and her husband someday hope to restore their Somerville home, after raising their three children. She has been a member of the SHPC since 2001.

**Eric Parkes: (Architect – Historic District Resident)** Eric received his architectural degree in 1989 and started his own private practice in Somerville in 2007. He has extensive experience with the remodeling and preservation of older residential and municipal buildings throughout New England. He and his wife spent four years, often with their own hands, restoring the exterior of their locally designated historic house in Somerville, purchased in 1999. They were very proud to win a Preservation Award from the Commission for the work in 2004. Now they are focusing on raising their two young children and dreaming of improvement projects to tackle in the future. Eric officially joined the SHPC in early 2009.

**Michael Payne: (Architect)** Past Chairman of the SHPC for over a decade. Michael is a very experienced architect and a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Architectural Engineering Institute, and the Boston Society of Architects and their Historic Resources Committee. Michael is principal of his own planning and architecture firm in Boston, and he has a wealth of knowledge in the preservation field. He and his wife, also a preservation architect, have extensively worked on their own older home, while raising their two children. Michael cares deeply about helping people to realize their improvement goals for their historic buildings, and he has been doing this as an active member of the SHPC since 1997.

**Derick Snare: (Architect – Historic District Resident)** Derick is an experienced architect in private practice in Somerville. He and his architect wife and daughter live in a designated historic house that they have been gradually restoring since purchasing it in the 1990's. Derick works closely with the Somerville High School CAD Program, providing technical assistance and guidance as the students create architectural drawings each year as part of the Commission's Annual Preservation Award Program. Derick has been a member of the SHPC since 2002.

**Brad Stearns: (Contractor)** Brad is a Somerville-based general contractor with a specialty in Victorian era home repairs and restorations. He regularly gives practical advice to applicants about how to approach the maintenance and preservation of their historic homes. He was formerly a rental property owner, a real estate agent, and a landscaper, and he has been working on his own Somerville Victorian home for more years than he can recall. Brad is the founder of the Somerville Garden Club, and remains an avid gardener. He likes being active in the community where he lives with his wife and two children. Brad joined the SHPC in 2005.