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14th annual Lantern Festival set for July 12 at Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 11, 2012 02:27 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The 14th annual Lantern Festival is set for Thursday, July 12, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The popular event at Lake Hibiscus in Forest Hills Cemetery is run by the Forest Hills Educational Trust. The group said in an e-mail that it needs volunteers to help sell shades, pass out programs and distribute lantern bases among other tasks.

There are two volunteer shifts: from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Volunteers will receive free parking and a free lantern, according organizers. Those interested should e-mail j_clark@foresthillstrust.org.

“A much-loved community event for Jamaica Plain, as well as Greater Boston, the Lantern Festival draws its inspiration from the Japanese [Buddhist] Bon Festival -- a celebration each year when a door opens to the world of their ancestors allowing loved ones to send messages to the other side,” the trust’s website said. “It is a time when neighbors come together to share stories, celebrate, and honor the memories of loved ones.”

Festival admission is free. Attendees are encouraged to use public transit.

A key part of the ritual is sending out memorial lanterns on water. In past years, a \$10 donation has been requested per lantern and parking has cost \$10

A rain date for the festival is scheduled for the following Thursday, July 19.

For more information, visit www.foresthillstrust.org or call 617.524.3150.

To see photos from last year’s festival, [click here](#). To share your own photos from last year’s festival, [click here](#).

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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