

College Setting Helps LGBTQ Students Emerge and Thrive

Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series about the LGBTQ college experience and its impacts on health. This part explores the personal story of one Northeastern student; the second part, to be published next month, delves into general health outcomes.

BY ISAAC STEPHENS

Alicia Payne anchored her eyes to the school nurse's hands as they laboriously rolled a condom over the tip of a banana. She wouldn't let her attention waver. If she wanted to have sex, Payne thought, she needed to know how to do

this. Now 23, and a graduating fifth-year at Northeastern University, Payne laughs at her younger, more close-minded self. "Joke's on you, 14-year-old Alicia. You're a lesbian."

Payne has known in some way or another that she is attracted to women for about two years now. But realizing that was difficult. At her small private high school in Oxford, Connecticut, only one student in her class of 50 was openly gay, and most, she says, bordered on homophobic. Payne says for a long time, this included herself.

When she finally came into her own and started dating women, the attitudes and stigmas she had internalized as a teenager stuck around, and she was left stranded, neck-deep in a river of self-doubt and anxiety.

For Payne, these feelings were rooted in ideology. For many, the problem is broader than that. Members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning) community are, in general, considerably more likely than others to live with mental health issues like anxiety and depression. Lesbian and bisexual women are close to four times more likely than heterosexual women to live with generalized anxiety disorders. Men who have sex with men deal with major depression and panic disorders at respective rates four and five times greater than strictly heterosexual men. In large part, studies suggest, this is a direct result of cultural and systemic stigmatization.

Payne says for her, this was epitomized by her high school's far-from-comprehensive sex education program. "It was about how men and women have sex," she said. "It was never about how gay people have sex." The curriculum perpetuated the attitude of heteronormativity—the idea that gay people are apart from the norm—magnifying the community's already-intolerant atmosphere. Because the school had established the LGBTQ community as alien, Payne suggests, people felt they had license to build walls.

Payne remembers, for example, joking with her friends about a teacher with a pride flag on her desk. She remembers scoffing as her parents, two black Democrats in a town largely made up of rich, white Republicans, cried "happy tears" watching Obama win reelection. And she remembers staunchly opposing the legalization of gay marriage, along with most of her friends.

Fenway Porchfest Gets Bigger, Better

PHOTO: SOPHIE PARK



The second annual Fenway Porchfest took place on Saturday, June 15, at more than 30 sites across the community. Here, Fish House performs outside Tiger Mama. More photos appear on page 7.

Timothy Wang, a senior policy analyst at the Fenway Institute, a national research center that focuses on LGBTQ health, says the heterosexual-exclusive sex education classes at Payne's high school likely contributed to its intolerant environment.

"In schools that have more inclusive [curricula], LGBTQ youth feel more accepted or safer in schools," he says. "It's moralizing. It de-stigmatizes the entire issue, and just presents it as a normal part of human existence."

A variety of studies support Wang's assertions. According to a 2017 study by GLSEN, an LGBTQ education organization, queer-inclusive curricula are associated with safer school environments, stronger sense of belonging, and lower levels of victimization. Sex education researchers also found that classes that portray the LGBTQ community positively or neutrally are correlated with a reduction in prejudicial attitudes.

Payne found herself on the other side of the stigmatization as well.

After enrolling at Northeastern and interacting with gay people in her daily life, she started to become more open-minded. She realized she liked women in her third year at Northeastern, and shortly afterward, Payne started her foray into the WLW ("women who love women") dating world. But she had never been taught how to have sex with a woman. So, no matter how much she wanted to, she couldn't—mostly out of anxiety.

"When I would have sex with girls, I would clam up. I just could not do it," Payne says. "I became emotionally unavailable, where I was just too afraid to connect, too afraid to get too deep into it, because if I

messed up, or I wasn't good enough—or wasn't gay enough—I didn't want to get hurt." When one of her first female partners brought her fears to life, telling her she "wasn't ready" to be with a woman, it only served to magnify one of her other insecurities.

Payne is black, and since freshman year of high school, she's stood over six feet tall. She sometimes has doubts about her sexuality, she says, because she doesn't fit the WLW stereotype. "If I don't say I'm a lesbian, people often don't know," she says. "I had a lot of trouble in the beginning with feeling gay enough to date another woman."

Beyond her own physicality, Payne's doubts were amplified by fears that she was still actually attracted to men. For the year or so after finding out that she liked women, she thought she was bisexual. "When I walked into a bar, I picked out the guy who I thought others would find the most attractive and go for him," she said. "I just wanted them to want me." She now realizes that she was never attracted to men in the way that she is attracted to women. When she went for guys, she says, she was just looking for male validation—doing what she had been taught her whole life to do.

Payne's self-doubt, coupled with her sexual anxiety, was too much for her to deal with on her own. "I really was very messed up for a very long time," she says. It took months of therapy—and meeting a more understanding partner—for Payne to be confident in herself again. But even now, she says, the little voice telling her she "isn't gay enough" hasn't completely gone away.

Isaac Stephens is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

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Renovation Plans Worry Longtime Mission Hill Tenants

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Fifty years ago, Mission Hill residents on Francis Street, Fenwood Road, Kempton Street, and Saint Albans Road organized as the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard (RTH) to preserve their homes.

As a result of Harvard's purchase of 13-plus acres of land between the Riverway and the medical area, the university was now their landlord. Labeled by some as a militant community group, RTH successfully negotiated development of the high-rise Mission Park towers on land that had been cleared for medical area surface parking.

Replacing the parking was part of the deal, and now RTH owns a three-level Vining Street underground garage that serves Brigham and Women's Hospital. Across the street from the hospital, the wood frame two- and three-family houses, 777-779 Huntington, and the upper-story apartments above the retail between Fenwood Road and Francis Street—in

total close to 200 apartments—are what remain of the "Old Neighborhood."

Some tenants are still battling, not the town/gown fight of decades past; now the fight is opposition to the RTH administration and its hired consultants. *Steamrolling, fait accompli, and Mission Hill is not Beacon Hill* were some of the phrases heard from attendees at a May 30 community meeting called to discuss proposed real estate projects.

RTH is now a major nonprofit that owns close to 1,000 apartments, primarily low-income. Curiously, the name persists, even though Harvard sold its share to the organization in 2000. Historically, after Mission Park was developed, there were plans for home ownership and co-ops for the "Old Neighborhood," but those goals were not realized, and all the apartments remained rentals. Trinity Management currently manages the leases.

As evident at RTH's recent once-a-year membership meeting held in the gymnasium at the Vining Street

community center on June 9, plans for new housing on vacant land at 761-773 Huntington Ave. and the prospective \$24 million renovation of 109 units in the "Old Neighborhood" are causing angst and concern. Residents have petitioned for green space options for the vacant land, but RTH executive director Karen Gately questioned their support. Surveys had been distributed last year, but the response rate was quite low according to Jen Lewis of Francis Street, one of the authors of the petition drive.

The proposed renovations have sparked fears that rents will rise and that residents will be unable to return to their apartments after the work ends. Legacy tenants worry about temporary relocations and a possible requirement for elaborate accounting of household income and assets (including the value of life insurance), not to mention uncertainty and disruption.

Adding sprinkler systems for fire protection is the stated goal of the

proposed work for the 109 units. Other likely improvements include new flooring and exterior landscaping. The older apartments are considerably more spacious than today's construction. Two-bedroom units have dining rooms, and some have an additional study or den. Consultant Peter Munkenbeck said these could be converted to three-bedroom units. Logically that implies higher rents after renovation. And there is an overriding concern about possible "over housing," a situation when households in subsidized rentals occupy more bedrooms than they are entitled to under current guidelines. Would a resident in an existing two-bedroom be required to move when the unit is converted to a three-bedroom?

As Munkenbeck explained at the June 9 meeting, in addition to low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), financing will take advantage of historic tax credits because the properties were designated a National Register district in 2016. He

MISSION HILL TENANTS on page 3 >

Balky Sound System Plagues At-Large Candidates' Forum

PHOTO: KRISTIN MOBILIA



A candidate forum for the at-large city council race took place on June 18 at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in the South End. Thirteen candidates attended the packed event. Pictured from left to right are candidates Michel Denis, Annissa Essaibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Priscilla Flint-Banks, David Halbert, Marty Keogh, William King, Herb Lozano, Julia Mejia, Erin Murphy, Jeff Ross, Alejandra St. Gullien, and Michelle Wu. Essaibi-George, Flaherty, and Wu are incumbents seeking reelection. Moderator Michael Jonas, editor of CommonWealth Magazine, fired questions at the panel, ranging from how to close the achievement gap in Boston schools to how to improve relations between police and the community. Unfortunately, ongoing problems with the microphones made it difficult for most audience members to hear the candidates' responses.

Task Force, Residents Drill Into Planned Northeastern Projects

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Northeastern University's Community Task Force met on June 12 with the primary purpose of reviewing the proposal for a second science lab building on Columbus Avenue next to Ruggles Station.

The project will be 185 feet tall and include a 7,000-square-foot faculty club. The building will include new chemistry labs, which will replace the out-of-date facilities at Hurtig Hall. NU's already-approved 2013 institutional master plan (IMP) includes the building. A comment period ended 30 days after filing of the IMP Project Notification Form with the BPDA on May 22.

Community Task Force members were underrepresented at the meeting, but other attendees offered plenty of comments about community benefits and overall campus planning.

Discussion of the long-awaited five-year update of the Off-Campus Student Housing Market Study was taken off the agenda and moved to a special July 23 public meeting at the Alumni Center, 716 Columbus Ave. The 91-page market study prepared by consultants Byrne McKinney Associates was posted online at www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/d12057e6-f270-4643-8278-157e69b94656 on June 20.

The report compares 2013 statistics with 2018 and extends projections to 2023. It focuses only on undergraduate off-campus housing, with off-campus defined as the

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Northeastern's large signs around the park dwarf Boston Parks & Recreation signs (the small dark sign on the fence), confusing some neighbors about whether Northeastern owns the park.

Fenway, South End, Mission Hill, and Lower Roxbury neighborhoods. There is some confusion in the study as to whether Lower Roxbury is separately analyzed versus all of Roxbury.

Projected future dormitories include 825 beds in LightView on Burke Street, which is scheduled to open this fall, and another 175 beds in an unspecified location. Also

mentioned are the 500 beds at the proposed Scape building on Boylston Street in the West Fens, as well as 2,500 beds in additional SCAPE projects. At the June task force meeting, Maureen Hickey, Northeastern's director of Strategic Initiatives in Campus Planning, stated that seeking private partners for new dormitories is the school's preferred model.

At the meeting, audience topics included the unattractive but well-used Camden Street bridge that crosses the Amtrak/Orange Line tracks from Gainsborough Street. Northeastern has 24/7 security presence in the guard house on the bridge, located next to the exit doors on the west end of the Mass Ave.

Station's Orange Line platform. Some might think a security guard is there to keep riders from gaining access to the station, but according to security staff, that is not their job.

Carter Playground continues to be a significant topic for community members who expressed disappointment that the renovated facility did not include a basketball court. Several Roxbury residents spoke about the visual contrast between the small green Boston Parks signs and the large Northeastern signs throughout the park as well as the large Northeastern banners on Columbus Avenue. Commenters

said Northeastern's presence dominates, and residents are still confused as to whether the playground is or is not school property.

Task Force members Pat Flaherty and Bruce Bickerstaff asked how the community benefits package negotiated in 2013 could be updated in the new cooperation agreement. Bill Singleton and Nina LaNegra from United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury also focused on improved benefits. Gerald Autler from the BPDA indicated that a Draft Project Impact Report for the new facility might not be required for the project, but said that the Boston Civic Design Commission will be reviewing it.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

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| Mon, July 15 | 7:10pm | Sun, July 28 | 7:05pm |
| Tue, July 16 | 7:10pm | Tue, July 30 | 7:10pm |
| Wed, July 17 | 7:10pm | Wed, July 31 | 7:10pm |
| Thu, July 18 | 1:05pm | Thu, Aug 1 | 7:10pm |

Sociedad Latina Celebrates Graduates

PHOTO: HANNAH LATHAM



On June 4, Sociedad Latina celebrated young residents involved in the group who graduated from middle school, high school, or college. The nonprofit, which inspires Latino youth through arts, culture, education, and leadership, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Here, Angelica Mordan and Yajaira Alvarenga pose with Laura Londoño, ALAS College Access & Success Coach at Sociedad Latina.

Neighborhood Newslines

Kenmore Square Post Office Closes After 44 Years

After 44 years in the same location, the Kenmore Square Post Office mailed its last package on June 14. The U.S. Postal Service had leased the property, located at 11-15 Deerfield St., since 1975. Beginning in 1978, Boston University owned the building, then Related Beal took over in 2016 with plans to build a major office facility in Kenmore Square. Barnes & Noble, several restaurants, and upper-floor commercial tenant on Beacon Street all vacated last year. The only establishment still open on the block, Cornwall's, is slated to move to 642-648 Beacon St. after that building is renovated. According to the developer, demolition of 541 Commonwealth Ave. and the adjacent buildings in the square will begin soon. The Deerfield Street masonry building, constructed in 1925, was once an adjunct to Boston's "Auto Mile," built to serve as a garage and office for auto sales. However, the four floors were soon converted to offices and stockrooms for Gorin's Department Store. USPS has made no announcement about a replacement post office, although some users say they have heard that a new branch might open in a storefront in Audubon Circle near Park Drive and Buswell Street (*The Fenway News* could not confirm this). Signs posted before the closing directed customers to Astor Station in Church Park for packages and other in-person services.

District 8 Council Race Narrows to Five Candidates

On June 25, District 8 City Council candidate Landon Lemoine announced that he will drop out of the race. Lemoine's withdrawal leaves five candidates in the race to replace Josh Zakim, who is retiring: Kenzie Bok, Montez Haywood, Kristen Mobilia, Jennifer Nassour, and Helene Vincent. The preliminary election is Sept. 24.

Award Ceremonies Around Mission Hill

'Tis the season...for achievement awards in Mission Hill.

- On April 8, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) presented their Community Builder Awards, recognizing four individuals: **SANDY PASCAL**, Wentworth Institute of Technology's vice president of community relations, for her commitment to NHS and support for affordable housing in Roxbury Crossing; **RICH GIORDANO**, for his passion and persistent efforts to keep the Back of the Hill CDC thriving; **MAGGIE COHN**, for her past leadership for an Elder-Friendly Business District and her recent work to improve the Mission Hill Link bus service; and **ALICE DIGGS**, for decades of support for community revitalization efforts.
- On May 1, the Boston Landmarks Commission presented its annual awards, recognizing the lifetime achievement of former State Representative **BYRON RUSHING** and the preservation efforts of **ALISON PULTINAS**.
- On June 20, Mission Hill Main Streets held its reception, recognizing former State Rep. **JEFFREY SANCHEZ** with the Outstanding Public Servant award and longtime resident **MOSSY MARTIN** with the Volunteer of the Year award. **MILKWEED CAFE** was awarded Business of the Year; **FATHER PHILIP DABNEY** of Mission Church received the Kevin Fitzgerald Award; **MICHEL SOLTANI**, owner of Mission Bar and Grill, was awarded the Cherished Neighborhood Asset; and **SOLID GROUND CAFE** received the Golden Broom Award. Great Neighbor Awards went to **TONY LEE**, "an inspiration to youth," **NORTHEASTERN AMBASSADORS**, **JOHANNA SENA** of Wentworth, and **PATRICK O'CONNOR**, local photographer.

Longwood Apartment Complex Sells for \$180 Million

On June 19, the *Boston Business Journal* reported that two real estate investment firms have purchased the CityView at Longwood apartment complex, at 75 Saint Alphonsus St., for approximately \$180 million. The buyers, Jefferson Apartment Group, based in Virginia, and Lasalle Investment Management, based in Illinois, do not own any other assets in Boston, but Jefferson does own properties in Arlington, Lawrence, Malden, and Norwood. The companies plan to upgrade the 249-unit property, adding amenities like a community kitchen, roof deck, fitness center, and lounge, while also renovating the units.

Fresh Produce Service Launches at Fenway Community Center

A new shopping app has launched with ties to the Fenway Community Center. WhatsGood is a virtual farmers market where users can order local produce on demand, and either have their order delivered or pick up their order at designated locations...like the community center. After the customer selects their products through the app, WhatsGood staff will assemble the order and drop it off at a designated location. The app gives customers more access to local produce, while pick-up locations like the community center, can increase foot traffic and offer an additional service to members or residents.

> **MISSION HILL TENANTS** from page 1 stated that the high percentage of low-income residents in Mission Park already qualifies RTH for LIHTC investors.

Coincidentally, in June, RTH advertised the reopening of its wait list for family housing at Mission Park for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 and LIHTC programs. However, the legal notice includes the disclaimer that no units are currently available. A lottery is scheduled for July 10. The list had been closed for 8-10 years according to board member Jackie Boston.

At the June 9 meeting, Munkenbeck repeated assurances of continuing leases based on HUD Fair Market Rent (FMR) levels. For a one bedroom in the 02115 zip code, under the Boston Housing Authority's proposed Small Area FMR plan, FMR for mobile voucher holders would increase from \$1563 to \$2230. The BHA claims that these changes, to take place July 1, would not affect any current Boston tenants. However, RTH households are worried, anticipating that multiple transitions are happening in their neighborhood that are beyond their control.

The plan for phased relocation utilizes the apartments on 777 and 779 Huntington Ave., there are 11 units currently in each building. The current occupants in those apartments have been told their leases are ending early. According to Munkenbeck, those renters were not subject to federal regulations. RTH Director Gately said the units will be cleaned and available for residents from Fenwood Road and Francis Street during the relocations. The apartments will be furnished, and cable and internet provided. Tenants' belongings would be packed and stored elsewhere during the move outs.

At the required June meeting held annually to elect new representatives to the 13-member resident board of directors, controversies rose up quickly when Gately stated that ballots would have two questions on the reverse side

but didn't read them out loud or share information about their significance. She announced that the expected presentations on the real estate projects would move further down on the agenda after the election and director's report. Ballots were to be printed during the meeting, after nominations had closed but the presentations on the proposed projects would now be after lunch. However, typically residents would likely leave a meeting that was already three hours long.

In an emotionally tense moment, resident Carmen Torres from Fenwood Road took the floor and asked for a motion for separate votes: one ballot for the board election and a future meeting on the questions related to the proposed real estate venture at 761-773 Huntington Ave. and the retrofits. Her motion passed and the already printed two-sided ballots were ripped up. The organization's bylaws require that the board of directors cannot undertake major development projects of 30,000 square feet or more of new or rehabilitated space or development costs in excess of \$10 million without the approval of the voting membership.

For the election, 262 ballots were cast and Izrail Tselnik and Sophia Deng, who successfully campaigned as part of a slate, were the top vote getters. RTH's population is one of the most diverse in Mission Hill and community meetings utilize Spanish, Cantonese, and Russian translators. Perhaps somewhat unusually for an affordable housing development, RTH board members are compensated for their service. They receive \$100 for each meeting attended, and officers receive up to \$400.

As expected, many attendees on June 9 did not stay for the presentations from Munkenbeck and David Traggorth about the proposed projects. The board of directors will be in charge of scheduling a future meeting for the required votes.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Graduates Celebrate at Area Schools



PHOTO: PATRICK O'CONNOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

On June 7, Fenway High School held its graduation ceremony at Emmanuel College. Pictured at top, Geoffrey Walker, headmaster of Fenway High, joins salutatorian Salamata Barry (left) and valedictorian Alexa L. Lopez (right). In total, 81 Fenway High graduates received diplomas. On June 10, Boston Latin School held its graduation ceremony at Rockland Trust Bank Pavilion in the Seaport, with 381 students graduating. Pictured below, BLS students stop for a photo at the event. The Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers also held its graduation in June, handing out 85 diplomas to grads. This year, the McKinley Preparatory High School had 18 graduates.

FENS VIEWS

What It Really Means When They Dis the 'Hood

BY ALISON BARNET

“A decade ago, the Fenway neighborhood was little more than gas stations and tumbleweeds”—*Boston* magazine, May 2019. OUCH! Was it a deserted area? No people? The magazine may have been referring only to Boylston Street in the West Fens, but still! People who lived there ten years ago didn't characterize their neighborhood that way. Besides, have you ever seen a ball of phragmites rolling down streets the way tumbleweeds do in Arizona?

Such negative descriptions of a neighborhood are what I call the Outsider's Point of View or OPV.

Or maybe it should be DPV or GPV—Developer's Point of View or Gentrifier's

Point of View. It usually paves the way for gentrification. That's why the Fenway can be “little more than gas stations and tumbleweeds” on one page of a magazine and on another page of the same magazine “Now Boston's Hottest Neighborhood.” Everything may look better, cleaner, and fancier, but where is the neighborhood, where are the people?

When you hear the words *rundown, shabby, desolate, neglected, poverty-stricken, forgotten, crime-ridden, seen better days*, and, especially, *gritty*...watch out! Did I hear right that Scape development company called the 1252-1270 Boylston St. block shabby?

As a long-time South End resident, I'm sensitive to this phenomenon. I've seen negative descriptions get downright creative:

“Tremont Street in the South End is a mulligan stew of filth, poverty, and dead-end futility”—*Boston* magazine, 1965.

“Only a short time ago, the South End was a place to escape from. Now, almost overnight, it is an area of great promise and one to move

into...”—*Boston Record American*, 1963.

The thrust of such statements is: it was a terrible neighborhood until I—its savior—arrived. This is most prevalent among new business owners, especially restaurateurs. In 1996, the owner of a new South End restaurant claimed the neighborhood was a rough place: every house boarded up, drug dealers on every corner, and a high likelihood of someone shooting through the window after he raised the grate.

A friend asks, “Why would anyone open a new business if they were so afraid? After all, they apparently knew what they're getting into—or thought they did.” The attitude is: I'm here now and I'm going to improve your neighborhood, going to change your neighborhood for the better.

They are classic “urban pioneers.”

I recently ran into Matti Kniva Spencer on a bus and we talked about this phenomenon. Matti was a long-time West Fens resident who now lives in the South End and would like to return to the Fenway. He sticks by what he told me nearly a decade ago (back in the day of “gas stations and tumbleweeds”). Arriving in the 1970s, he says, “There was nothing wrong here...The neighborhood was filled with kids; it was affordable. I met people; it was an open, friendly neighborhood.” When people started moving out because they couldn't afford it anymore, he hit the nail on the head: “It affects morale.”

With every new modern tower or “monster” (Matti's word), there are fewer and fewer people of color and people of lower income. “Don't they realize,” said Matti, “that they've destroyed this neighborhood? In five years it'll be like downtown”—a prophetic statement. And diversity is a thing of the past—like tumbleweeds rolling across Boylston Street.

Alison Barnett lives in the South End.

GUEST OPINION

Karilyn Crockett Keynotes Our Annual Meeting on July 11

The Fenway News Association will hold its 2019 annual meeting on Thursday, July 11, at the Fenway Community Center at 1282 Boylston St. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm. In addition to light refreshments and a keynote speech from Karilyn Crockett—a lecturer in Public Policy and Urban Planning at MIT and author of *People Before Highways*—we'll present a year-end summary and hold elections for new and continuing members of the board of directors.



Karilyn Crockett

Membership in the Fenway News Association is open to anyone in the Fenway and other communities we serve. According to our by-laws, one must join at least 14 days before the annual meeting in order to cast a vote.

We hope to see you on the 11th!

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AS OF JUNE 28, 2019: Delia Alvarez, Shannon Al-Wakeel, Arlene Ash, Nicole Auberg, Jonathan Ball, Alison Barnet, Elizabeth Bertolozzi, Mary Ann Brogan, Will Brownsberger, Kelsey Bruun, Tony Capobianco, Bob Case, Steve Chase, Conrad Cizek, Brian Clague, Suzanne Comtois, Tracy Conta, Jerry Cooper, Helen Cox, Tracey Cusick, Alex Danseco, Bennie diNardo, Kerry Do, Richard Dunshee, Margot Edwards, Johnette Ellis, John Engstrom, Stan Everett, Barbara Fay, Lisa Fay, Mary Finn, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Nikki Flionis, Michael Foley, Marie Fukuda, Raul Garcia, Slim Gelzer, Galen Gilbert, Elizabeth Gillis, Kathy Greenough, Renee Harmon, Sam Harnish, Steven Harnish, Tim Horn, Tracey Hunt, Cathy Jacobowitz, Akshata Kadagathur, Rosie Kamal, Sajed Kamal, John Kelly, Joseph Kenyon, Ruth Khowais, Robert Kordenbrock, Nasreen Latif, Kristen Lauerman, Nate Lescovic, Brenda Lew, Adanya Lustig, Aqilla Manna, Joanne McKenna, Maureen McLaughlin, Kristen Mobilia, Pat Murphy, Joan Murphy, Letta Neely, Timothy Ney, Patrick O'Connor, Catherine Pedemonti, Eesha Pendaharkar, Richard Pendleton, Jana Peretz, Camille Platt, Gloria Platt, Lauren Deway Platt, Ryan Polhemus, Susan Povak, Michael Prentky, Cara Presley, Alison Pultinas, Michelle Reinstein, Carl Richter, Karla Rideout, Michael Rogan, Mallory Rohrig, Mike Ross, Rosaria Salerno, Valarie Seabrook, Helaine Simmonds, Matti Kniva Spencer, Ginny Such, Will Tentindo, Mat Thall, Bonnie Thryselius, Eric Tingdahl, Theresa Tobin, Fredericka Veikley, Chris Viveiros, Derrick Warren, Jim Wice, Hugh Wilburn, Margaret Witham, Steve Wolf, Erica Yee

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING FRESH WITH THAT FENWAY FRANK?

Green City Growers, which operates urban farms throughout the Boston area, has operated Fenway Farms on the Fenway Park rooftop since 2015. The 5,000-square-foot farm produces more than 5,900 pounds of organic produce a year for use by food vendors throughout the stadium.



PHOTO: JAN PERTEZ

CORRECTION

In our June Issue, the headline for the announcement of the Fenway News annual meeting incorrectly spelled keynote speaker Karilyn Crockett's last name. We also misstated the title of her book, which is *People Before Highways*. We regret both errors.

The Fenway News

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“Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.”

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today's Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

> FREQUENCY <

The Fenway News reaches distribution sites on the Friday closest to the first of each month. Our next issue will appear

Friday, August 2.

> DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is

Friday, July 26.

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A LOT HAPPENED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, INCLUDING...

Two years after receiving an official warning, the nursing program at Roxbury Community College has lost state certification of its nursing program. A *Globe* story described the state board as having lost patience with the slow pace of changes after it outlined deficiencies including administrative turmoil [the program has had five directors in 2.5 years], curriculum problems, and poor preparation of students for national exams. In response, RCC said it has sunk \$13 million into new equipment and a curricular reorganization since 2016. ➤ **The Giant bike store on Kilmarnock Street has closed.** ➤ A member of the Berklee faculty, Eric Cornell, shared the Tony Award for best revival of a musical as co-producer of *Oklahoma!*. The revival has won praise for stripping down a sunny surface to reveal darker themes lying underneath. ➤ **A Northeastern grad student discovered questionnaires, apparently intended for recruits to a white-nationalist group, inside a book from the university library. The dean of libraries has opened an investigation.** ➤ For the sixth year in a row, Children's Hospital topped *US News and World Report's* ranking of US pediatric hospitals. Children's programs in ten specialties all ranked in the top five nationally. ➤ **Move over, Arnold Arboretum—Northeastern announced that it has received accreditation from the nonprofit group ArbNet as an arboretum. The campus's 1,400 trees include representatives of 143 species.** ➤ Working mostly after the evening rush hour, crews from MassHighways completed a resurfacing of The Fenway, from Boylston Street to the Johnson Gates, and a small section of Boylston from Hemenway Street to the Bowker Overpass. Restriping had not begun as of press time. ➤



COMMUNITY meetings

MON, JULY 1 Public meeting hosted by the BPDA on the Fenway Theater & Fenway Park improvements. The developer proposes a roughly 91,500-square-foot, performing arts center, with a capacity of 5,400, and improvements to Fenway Park. 6-8pm at the Dell EMC Club at Fenway Park. Enter at 20 Jersey St.

TUE, JULY 2 Public meeting to present updates in proposed mitigation for the proposed hotel at 1241 Boylston St., and to discuss the applicability of the Parks Ordinance to the site. 6-8pm. Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St.

MON, JULY 8 Article 80 Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting hosted by the BPDA on the Fenway Theater & Fenway Park Improvements Project. 6-8pm. Ford

Clubhouse, Fenway Park, 72 Brookline Ave.

WED, JULY 10 & JULY 24 Fenway Fair Foods, 3-5pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. Get a bag of fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables for \$2. Everyone welcome! To learn more, contact Helen Murphy, hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org, 617-267-4637 x21.

THU, JULY 11 Fenway CDC's Organizing Committee Meeting, 6pm to 8pm. Morville House, 100 Norway Street, Boston. Contact Colleen Fitzpatrick at cfitzpatrick@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x 16.

TUE, JULY 23 The BPDA will host meeting about housing under the Northeastern Institutional Master Plan. NU Alumni Center, 716 Columbus Ave., 6pm.

DASHBOARD

→ STREET CLEANING

The City cleans Fenway streets between 12 and 4pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month [odd-numbered side] and the second and fourth Wednesdays [even-numbered side]. More info at 617-635-4900 or www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping. The state cleans streets along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- **SECOND THURSDAY**
The Riverway, 12:00-3:00pm
- **SECOND FRIDAY**
The Fenway (includes inside lane), Charlesgate Extension and Forsyth Way, 8:00am-12:00pm

- **SECOND FRIDAY**
8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) and Charlesgate Extension, 12:00-3:00pm
- **THIRD TUESDAY**
 - > Park Drive (includes inside lane), upper Boylston Street, 8:00am-12:00pm
 - > Park Drive, from Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral to Kilmarnock Street and from the Riverside Line overpass to Beacon Street, 12:00-3:00pm

Visit www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm for a complete schedule and maps.

Street cleaning ends for the season on December 1.

→ TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- **BACK BAY:** Trash and recycling on Monday and Thursday
- **FENWAY:** Trash and recycling on on Tuesday and Friday
- **MISSION HILL:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday

Farmers Markets

Look for broccoli, carrots, and peppers, as well as herbs like basil, cilantro, and dill, and a range of stone fruit and berries like cherries, peaches, raspberries, and blueberries.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE) | |
| Tuesday & Friday | 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. |
| COPLEY SQUARE | |
| Tuesday & Friday | 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. |
| B.U.: 775 COMM AVE AT MUGAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY | |
| Thursday | 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. |
| MISSION HILL: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (HUNTINGTON/FRANCIS) | |
| Thursday | 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. |
| SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET) | |
| Sunday | 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. |

Inspire the future!

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship (MPF) places 40 AmeriCorps Fellows at non-profit organizations and schools across Massachusetts to lead out-of-school time programming for youth in grades 6-12, with a focus on academic enrichment and college and career exploration. Fellows receive a generous benefits package that includes a stipend, healthcare, an opportunity to pursue free coursework at Northeastern University, and more.

Learn more and apply at masspromisefellows.org. Program start date: August 5, 2019



NEW LAWNS PUT SPRING IN THE FENWAY'S STEP



Two major projects have upgraded one iconic green space in the East Fens and added a completely new one in the West Fens. The photo at left shows the new lawn at 401 Park—the new name for the Landmark Center—as developer Samuels & Associates prepared for the opening of the Time Out Food Hall at the corner of Park Drive and Brookline Avenue. The lawn replaces a parking lot for 401's retailers. The photo at right shows the renewed and enlarged lawn facing Mass. Ave. at the Christian Science Center. The center's entire exterior has been under renovation for nearly two years. Chain link fencing around the lawn has come down; the less-obtrusive protective fencing shown in the photo will be removed shortly.

Trust Awards More Than \$80k in Grants to 18 Local Groups

BY STEVE CHASE

The Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust met on June 5 at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design to distribute grants to 18 groups that serve the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

The trust distributes grants to community-based Mission Hill and Fenway nonprofits, community development corporations, and other civic groups to promote and enhance quality of life. The grants fund specific projects in varied areas, including arts and education; youth sports and recreation; activities for seniors; community gardens; affordable housing; social services; and any other categories the board of the trust deems appropriate.

This year's grants:

- Friends of the Parker Hill Branch Library received \$2,000 for an audio system for the library's lecture hall.
- Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services received \$5,300 for summer

tai chi and yoga programs and jazz concerts at Kevin Fitzgerald Park.

- Roxbury Crossing Senior Building received \$4,250 for senior exercise and art programs at Maria Sanchez House.
- Sociedad Latina received \$2,750 for a Latino Heritage Month celebration.
- Tobin Community Center received \$5,100 for summer outdoor events in the renovated Ida Graves Yard.
- Mission Hill Artists Collective received \$1,625 for landscape painting workshop and pop-up art shows in 2019 and 2020.
- MissionSAFE—A New Beginning received \$10,800 for a paid summer internship program for nine youth in Mission Hill.
- Boston Pirates Youth Sports received \$2,000 for baseball and softball equipment for indoor use during off-season training.
- Phillips Brooks House Association, received \$4,000 for a summer

program that serves youth living in Mission Hill.

- YMCA of Greater Boston, Huntington Branch, received \$3,500 for summer camp scholarships for five Mission Hill youth.
- Mission Hill Health Movement received \$1,540 for a Mission Hill line dance party and farmers market tastings.
- Fenway Civic Association received \$2,300 for public fitness classes at Symphony Community Park and musical entertainment for two public events in the Back Bay Fens.
- The Fenway Alliance received \$6,000 for artist honoraria for Fenway Porchfest in June.
- Peterborough Senior Center received

\$8,700 for field trips and healthy food program for seniors.

- Operational P.E.A.C.E. Northeast received \$7,670 for its Summer Academy youth-enrichment program for Fenway youth.
- Friends of Ramler Park received \$2,800 for preventive care of trees.
- Emerald Necklace Conservancy received \$3,000 for its Community Movie Night in the Back Bay Fens.
- Fenway Community Center received \$10,000 for "Health and Wellness for All" programming at the center.

Steve Chase lives in the West Fens. For more information about the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust, visit missionhillfenwaynt.org.

Defining Health Broadly, BIDMC Meeting Finds Lots of Issues

BY JIANCHENG MO

At a Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) community meeting on June 12 at Morville House in the East Fens, representatives from Beth Israel's Community-Based Health Initiative (CHI) engaged with Fenway/Kenmore residents and community leaders about tackling top health and social issues.

Beth Israel launched the CHI to identify and address important community health needs through donations to local organizations. Beth Israel has invested \$22.5 million to support this citywide initiative.

After an introduction, attendees separated into small groups based on their preferred language. CHI committee members asked the residents whether they agreed that six currently identified issues—housing, violence, mental health, jobs and financial security, substance abuse, and education—should be the community's top priorities. The residents agreed that those six were definitely issues and also suggested adding access to healthy and affordable food, transportation, and healthcare.

Within the groups, the committee members collected feedback from the residents and community leaders and asked for strategic suggestions to resolve each issue. Residents were particularly concerned about mental health and substance abuse.

They thought more mental health and drug-detoxification facilities might help, but thought the stigma surrounding mental illness and substance abuse might be a barrier to seeking treatment. "We should

implement educational programs for the community and the health workers as well to reduce the stigma," said one participant. The group also suggested expanding urgent care centers to include mental health and primary care services and accept a wider range of insurance plans, which would improve access to care.

The residents also advocated for access to healthy food at a subsidized cost. One resident suggested that open courses and cooking classes be made more available to the community.

Participants also talked about the lack of affordable housing and career opportunities in the area. Beth Israel representatives explained that they offer programs in community training and career development, and that the Fenway Community Development Corporation has been working to increase affordable housing options.

"BIDMC seems genuinely interested in helping to provide services and improvements in the community," said Conrad, a resident in the East Fens and meeting participant. "We are hoping that BIDMC will take these feedbacks and implement them into programs and services for the community."

Conrad encourages everyone in the Fenway to attend meetings and contribute to community discussions. Residents who were unable to attend can still submit their thoughts at bidmc.org/chi.

Jiancheng Mo is a pharmacy student at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science.



Public Meeting

12-28 Lansdowne Street (Fenway Theater)

Monday, July 1
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

20 Jersey Street
EMC Club
Boston, MA 02215

Project Proponent:

175 Ipswich Street, LLC

Project Description:

175 Ipswich Street, LLC proposes an approximately 91,500 square foot, approximately 5,400 person capacity performing arts center. The proposed project is located on a 64,700 square foot parcel at the corner of Ipswich and Lansdowne streets, adjacent to Fenway Park. The proposed project also entails improvements to Fenway Park, including a new area connected to the back of the ballpark's bleachers with concession stands, restrooms, and function space, and renovations to the existing Fenway Garage connecting the new venue to the ballpark.

mail to: **Tim Czerwienski**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.5303
email: tim.czerwienski@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
7/29/2019

The Arts

Exhibit Explores Pitched Battle Over Women's Voting Rights

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

One hundred years ago, on June 25, 1919, Massachusetts ratified the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Up until that point, Massachusetts women could only vote in school committee elections. Women voted for the first time in the 1920 presidential election.

A new exhibit at the Massachusetts Historical Society outlines the bitter battle between pro- and anti-suffragists through cartoons, posters, calendars, photographs, and broadsides. For over a century, Americans debated whether women should vote.

Anti-suffragists believed that women could not simultaneously vote and be good mothers. They feared that women would not be able to remain virtuous or feminine. They feared that female voters would abandon their families and leave their domestic chores to men. To illustrate, a 1910 poster titled "Home" depicts a man with a lunch pail arriving home from work. His children

are upset because their mother left them alone. In another poster, "Can She Do It?" a woman unsuccessfully attempts to juggle four items: a frying pan, her child, a ballot, and a broom. The broom falls. A broadside from 1913 has a dramatic illustration featuring a woman holding a bomb and torch with the text "Votes for Women" in the smoke. In the illustration, she has left the city behind her in ruins. Men on the right, labeled "Anarchist," "Socialist," and "Idle Worker of the World" appear jealous that she has stolen their tactics. Anti-suffragists believed that women should not parade in the streets. Women who did so were portrayed as wild, masculine creatures who wanted to destroy society.

Suffragists, according to the exhibit, wanted to convince the public that political women really could take care of their homes and families. In contrast to cartoons that depicted female voters as masculine and aggressive, they countered with female voters wearing fine hats and dresses. They published cookbooks, and distributed

charming pictures of mothers with their children. Black suffragists distributed pictures showing that they needed the vote to protect their children from racist laws. In the 1910s, British suffragists inspired American suffragists to march and stage public events. In 1913, there was a major suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. Suffragists wore yellow roses or sashes and used the bluebird as their symbol. Anti-suffragists wore pink or red roses.

In Massachusetts, women suffragists were powerful. In 1850, Worcester hosted the first national women's rights convention. Later, Lucy Stone led the nation's largest suffrage organization and founded the *Woman's Journal*. Fellow Bostonian Josephine Ruffin founded one of the first national groups to advocate for the rights of women of color. In 1915, when male voters were about to vote on a state constitutional amendment that would have enfranchised women (it did not pass), suffragists hung 100,000 tin bluebirds that stated "Votes for Women" and held a

suffrage day at Fenway Park.

The exhibit points out that states along the East coast were the last to grant women the right to vote. In 1860, women in Wyoming became the first female voters in the United States. Other western states followed. An illustration titled "The Awakening," published in the magazine *Park*, depicts Lady Liberty wearing suffrage yellow striding triumphantly across the western states.

Allison Lange, an assistant professor at Wentworth Institute and curator of the exhibit, noted in a tour on June 21 that the 19th amendment did not guarantee all women the right to vote. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses disenfranchised many women of color. Lange said, "There are still a lot of conversations happening today about who has the right to vote."

The exhibit at the Mass. Historical Society is worth viewing and runs until Sept. 21.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

PHOTOS: SOPHIE PARK



PORCHFEST!

The sun smiled on Saturday, June 15, as the second annual Fenway Porchfest—jointly sponsored by the Fenway Alliance, Fenway Civic, and the Fenway CDC—brought local performers to more than 30 Fenway locations. At far left, Kate & Logan perform at the Fenway Community Center. Near left, Caleb Nathan + FamBamClan perform at the Museum of Fine Arts. Right, Austin Bullock performs on Boylston Street.



BERKLEE STUDENTS' SCORE DEEPENS A PASSIONATE SILENT FILM

BY JOHN ENGSTROM

The adage, "Too many cooks spoil the broth" rings true on most occasions. But when the cooks are an international team of seven student composers from the Berklee College of Music film scoring department—the world's foremost undergraduate training ground for fledgling composers who aspire to write for the silver screen—and when the broth is an audacious orchestral and vocal accompaniment to one of the greatest of all silent films, the occasion is anything but ordinary.

I'm referring to the June 6 world premiere at the Coolidge Corner Theater of Berklee Silent Film Orchestra's (BSFO) exciting musical score for the *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928), Danish director Carl Theodor Dreyer's harrowing masterpiece about the trial and martyrdom of the remarkable young woman who became one of history's most unlikely saints and a timeless national heroine for the French.

Along with Dreyer's groundbreaking direction (which included a ban on actor make-up on the set so that the flesh tones would look more natural on film), the picture is considered a landmark by cinema historians because of the performance of Renee Maria Falconetti as Joan, a portrayal of such searing incandescence that, once seen, cannot be forgotten. Among film actresses today only Vanessa Redgrave and Fiona Shaw approach her thrilling intensity and emotional candor. Dreyer said he wanted Falconetti for the part because she could evoke "a woman of sorrow." She never made a film again after *Passion*, which did well in critical circles but not at the box office.

Another outstanding performer in *Passion* is the young, intense actor-poet Antonin Artaud, portraying a French priest sympathetic to Joan. Artaud also played a French Revolutionary in the Abel Gance-

directed epic *Napoleon* and, as a radical theater reformer, published a book of essays in which he called for a "theater of cruelty" where artists would be like "victims burned at the stake, signaling through the flames."

I first saw *Passion* as an ardent, idealistic college student at the Brattle Theater in Harvard Square, recognized as a model for what serious (i.e., good) film could be, and found myself swept away by Dreyer's inspired handling of the actors—shooting their unmade-up faces from unexpected angles and in giant close-up (Falconetti's shifting looks and moods get the most screen-filling scrutiny). Dreyer doesn't just bring Joan to life; he re-creates unforgettably her English, French, and Latin-speaking judges, jailors and torturers and makes them seem as cruel, distorted, and sinister as the tormentors of Christ in a grotesque panorama by Hieronymus Bosch.

Passion is an intense experience with which to begin your film studies. But I have seen the Dreyer production a half dozen times, always in theaters (it's the only Dreyer film I've seen other than his 1943 witchcraft drama *Day of Wrath*, another film with spiritual confession and stake-burnings). Part of the power of the Dreyer treatment is its visceral connection to history: Dreyer based his script on the 1431 transcripts of Joan of Arc's trial, drawing directly from the actual language of the historical Joan and her judges. The dramatic result is a rare authenticity of expression.

During preparation for the BSFO presentation of *Passion*, Berklee Professor of Film Scoring Sheldon Mirowitz created a 27-page "libretto" based on the film that supplements the 1928 inter-titles with dialogue from the trial in both Latin and French. Mirowitz's addition was shaped by Dreyer's script, and by careful study of the actors' lip movements. When the four student vocalists (including sweet-voiced soprano Rose Hegele

as Joan) performed the sung text over a full orchestra, you felt you were in the fervent presence of a *Passion* by J. S. Bach. Mirowitz said in an interview in *The Arts Fuse*, "The religiousness of the subject matter lends itself to voices and choirs. But what we are doing is much more than that. We are actually SINGING the speech that is on camera, making the score basically an opera, or oratorio." Mirowitz's work on the sung text clarifies and amplifies Dreyer's drama to such an extent that it changes the film we thought we knew, re-creates the whole production.

Dreyer nearly bankrupted the Danish film industry with the elaborate, monumental, and expensive scenery he ordered for *Passion*. The stylized settings, based on medieval architecture, evoke the stark Rouen fortress, the interrogation and torture chambers, the fortress battlements, and the town square where the burning of Joan takes place and her legend begins. During filming, the fortress's interior walls were painted pink so they would turn up on the black and white print in tones of gray.

What BSOF achieves with its musicalization of Dreyer's visionary film is magnificent: it adds gravitas and majesty to a production that already has them in spades. Toward the end there are some bombastic passages, but for the most part the music is sensitive to the rhythmic ebb and flow of Dreyer's cuts and compositions. (The student composers were assigned one reel each, but the combined effect is remarkably seamless.) The Berklee performance proved that the film—which is strong enough to hold up with no sound at all, let alone music—can withstand a fresh, original interpretation that shakes it to its foundation without ever convincing us that here is the definitive way to enjoy the work.

Truly a galvanizing event that entertained and excited a sold-out house and prompted a standing ovation at

the Coolidge, the unveiling of BSFO's *Passion* arrangement was of interest to culture vultures everywhere, but also to Fenwickians. The screening may have been held in Brookline, but Berklee and its film-composition program are local treasures in a neighborhood that brims with cultural distinction—the BSO, the MFA, the Gardner, Jordan Hall, and the New England Conservatory—all within walking distance of each other.

BSFO's performed the score, as always, "live to picture," using a newly restored version of the film that was adjusted to the original projection speed of 20 frames per second—by eleven student instrumentalists from Berklee (joined by others from BU, NEC and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee) and the four student singers.

The BSFO orchestra version is the 25th score to be written for the Dreyer film, which after a lengthy disappearance surfaced in a Norwegian mental hospital in 1981. This artifact turned out to be Dreyer's final cut, the version nearest to his original concept. Audiences at the Coolidge saw this restoration, which was released in 2017. Other notable musical treatments for the film in recent years have been done by Nick Cave and the Dirty Three (1995) and Rob Byrd for the Burning Man Festival (2003). *Passion* has inspired generations of filmmakers and musicians; it's been screened in concert venues with live accompaniment from such diverse musical genres as rock, electronic, classical, baroque, and medieval.

The Berklee program repeated June 9 at the Cabot Theater in Beverly and June 20 at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center at Vineyard Haven. No doubt it will enjoy a future life of touring and perhaps a transfer to DVD like the ensemble's recent composition for *The Man Who Laughs* (a silent film made the same year as *Passion*).

John Engstrom lives in the East Fens.

July

CALENDAR

⊕ THIS SYMBOL INDICATES THAT AN EVENT IS FREE.

arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Now → Sun, 7/14

FAYE DUNAWAY STARS AS KATHARINE HEPBURN reflecting on her life and career in a pre-Broadway run of the one-woman show, *Tea at Five*, at the Huntington Avenue Theatre. Tue-Thu, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sat-Sun, 2pm; Sun, 7pm; Wed, 2pm. Tickets \$49 to \$119. Visit www.bostontheatrescene.com/season/tea-at-five/ for details and tickets.

Now → Wed, 7/31

REFLECTIONS: AN ART EXHIBIT BY THE MISSION HILL ARTISTS COLLECTIVE. At the Parker Hill Branch Library, 1407 Tremont St. FREE.

Now → Sun, 9/15

The new exhibit at the Gardner Museum, **BIG PLANS: PICTURING SOCIAL REFORM**, examines how the fields of landscape architecture and photography worked together at the end of the 19th century to develop responses to the urban ills created by rapid industrialization and immigration. Photos, plans and maps focusing on Boston, Chicago and New York. Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, Wed-Mon 11am-5pm (except Thu until 9pm). Tickets \$15/12/10 (adult/member/student). More details at www.gardnermuseum.org

Tue, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23 & 7/30

- **CHAIR YOGA CLASSES AT SYMPHONY COMMUNITY PARK.** Join in free, age-strong programs at Symphony Community Park! ⊕ 10-11am. Symphony Community Park, 39 Edgerly Road. FREE
- **TAI CHI CLASSES AT KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK.** All ages and skill levels are welcome. Classes are cancelled if it's raining. 145 Saint Alphonsus St. ⊕ 6-7pm. FREE
- **CARDIO DANCE IN MISSION HILL** in Parks Department's Summer Fitness Series. ⊕ McLaughlin Playground, 239 Parker Hill Ave. 6pm. FREE

Wed, 7/3

The MFA opens its adventurous **CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD SERIES** with Niu Raza, a singer-songwriter from Madagascar, and IFE, a performance that blends modern electronic music and Afro-Caribbean languages. One critic describes it as "marrying the traditional influences with contemporary sounds to make something completely original." Every Wednesday night in July; doors at 6pm, performance at 7:30pm. Tickets \$24 members/\$30 nonmember through www.mfa.org/ or 1-800-440-6975.

Wed, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24 & 7/31

YOGA CLASSES AT KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK. All ages and skill levels welcome. No class if it's raining. 145 Saint Alphonsus St. ⊕ 7-8am. FREE

Thu, 7/4, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25 & 8/1

- **TAI CHI CLASSES AT SYMPHONY COMMUNITY PARK.** Join this age-strong program! ⊕ 10-11am. 39 Edgerly Road. FREE
- **TAI CHI CLASSES AT KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK.** All ages and skill levels welcome.

@ THE CENTER

These highlights from the Fenway Community Center's calendar are free unless noted otherwise. Visit the Center at 1282 Boylston or check out the full calendar at www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar

- **PARENTING SAFE CHILDREN WORKSHOP,** Wednesday, July 10 at 6pm. Children's Advocacy Center will provide information about talking to children about safety, minimizing the risk of

⊕ No class if it's raining. 145 Saint Alphonsus St. 6pm to 7pm. FREE

Sat, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20 & 7/27

With family-friendly movies shown under the stars, the **PRUDENTIAL CENTER FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL** is a great summer night out. Entertainment, children's activities and giveaways start at 6pm. Movies start at sundown: *Lego Movie 2* (7/6), *Mary Poppins Returns* (7/13), *Incredibles 2* (7/20), *Ralph Breaks the Internet* (7/27). Rain date is the

⊕ following Tuesday. South Garden of the Prudential Center. FREE

Mon, 7/8

COMMUNITY DINNER. Meet neighbors at this monthly event. 6pm to 7pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive, Boston. Contact Helen Murphy at hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x 21. FREE

Tue, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23 & 7/30

SUNSET CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY COMMUNITY PARK. Hear four free concerts in July, featuring ViVi, DREION, Sarah Messias, and Natalie Castro. This series is sponsored jointly by Berklee College of Music and the Boston Parks and Recreation Dept. in partnership with the Friends of Symphony Park and Fenway Civic Association, ⊕ 5:30pm. 39 Edgerly Road. FREE

Thu, 7/11

The **MFA'S SUNSET CINEMA** continues with a French screwball comedy that was a critical favorite at Cannes in 2018. *The Trouble With You* begins with a modern premise but recalls classic comedies of the 1930s and '40s. On the Huntington Avenue lawn at 6pm for picnics, games and art making; the film starts at 7:30pm. Bring a blanket or low chair and a dinner; beer, wine and snacks available for sale. Details at www.mfa.org/film/programs/series/sunset-cinema. FREE

Thu, 7/11 → Sun, 7/28

The 23rd annual **BOSTON FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL** boasts an eclectic lineup of 20 new films produced in France—from comedy and romance to experimental cinema. For show times and tickets visit <https://www.mfa.org/programs/series/the-boston-french-film-festival>. Tickets are \$10 for MFA members and \$13 for nonmembers. Films take place in the Harry and Mildred Remis Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave.

Thu, 7/11 & 7/25

OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES at One Brigham Circle. 1620 Tremont St. Rain date the following Wednesday. Liquid Courage ⊕ performs on 7/11 with LUCKY 13 performing on 7/25. 6-8pm. FREE

Fri, 7/12

The first of two **FREE FUN FRIDAYS** in the Fenway (so many Fs!) is at the MFA today. From 10am to 10pm, your entry will be ⊕ paid for by the Highland Street Foundation. FREE

Viva! Summer Nights at Brigham Circle



Each summer, Sociedad Latina hosts Viva! Summer Nights, an annual event series that celebrates Latino cultures through visual art, music, media arts, theatre, and dance. This neighborhood-wide series includes public art displays, musical performances, cultural showcases, and more. On Thursday, July 18, Trinity performs; Latin Login takes the stage on Thursday, August 1. Program at 5pm, concert 6-8.

PICK OF THE MONTH

Sat, 7/13

- **OPEN GARDENS IN THE VICTORY GARDENS** Get inside the fences for a garden tour and ⊕ art show at this annual community event. 2-5pm. 1200 Boylston St. FREE
- Indie faves **BELLE AND SEBASTIAN AT THE HOUSE OF BLUES**, 15 Lansdowne Street. Doors at 7pm, show at 8pm. Tickets ⊕ \$39.50/\$57 from the box office or at www.houseofblues.com.

Tue, 7/16

If you runs less indie and a more to mainstream pop, **CARLY RAE JEPSEN** performs at the House of Blues on tour to promote her latest album, reputed to be a more emotionally serious collection of songs than anything she's done before. 15 Lansdowne Street, doors at 7pm, show at 8pm. Tickets \$36/\$60.50 from the box office or at www.houseofblues.com.

Thu, 7/18

THIRD THURSDAYS at the Gardner Museum offer a mix of artful activities, cocktails, and music with a different theme each month. Café G is open for snacks, dinner and drinks and there's a cash bar in the courtyard. This month's theme, "Space Makers," explores how to re-claim, re-purpose, or re-activate the green spaces in your community. Connect with artists, activists, and Gardner horticulturists to explore a love of living things and their impact on our health and happiness. 5:30-9pm. \$15 general, \$12 seniors, \$10 for students at gardnermuseum.org or by calling the box office at (617) 278-5156. 25 Evans Way.

Thu, 7/18 & 7/25

SUMMER TUNES WITH BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC. Enjoy summer evening concerts featuring talented musicians from Berklee College of Music at Prudential Center's ⊕ South Garden. 5-8pm. Lick Neon 7/18; Vivi 7/25. FREE

Thu, 7/18 & 8/1

VIVA! SUMMER NIGHTS. This annual celebration of Latino culture, sponsored by Sociedad Latina, features art, dance, music, ⊕ and more. 7/18, Trinity; 8/1, Latin Logic. 5-8pm. FREE

Fri, 7/19

FENWAY CDC MOVIE NIGHT: WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY. 7:30-9:30pm, Fenway Victory Gardens, 1200 Boylston St. ⊕ Contact Helen Murphy at hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x 21. FREE

Wed, 7/24

SWINGIN' IN THE FENS. Join Fenway Civic, Boston Parks & Recreation, and Berklee for the annual tradition of free music at Ramler Park. Marianne Sullivan and her band perform music from her most recent CD. 6:30pm. Ramler Park, 130 Peterborough St. Raindate, August 14. FREE

Fri, 7/26

FREE FUN FRIDAY AT THE GARDNER MUSEUM, underwritten by the High Street Foundation. Activities include art-making in the Studio, fun in the galleries, performances in Calderwood Hall, food trucks, and gallery games. Free admission on a first-come, first-served basis starts at 11am and includes access to the entire museum, including special exhibitions. Entry is timed at every 30 minutes, beginning at 11, with the last entry at 4 pm. 25 Evans Way. FREE

Wed, 7/31

Join **DINA GILIO-WHITAKER**, author of *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock*, in a book signing and discussion at the Leventhal Map & Education Center. Part of the "America Transformed: Mapping the 19th Century" exhibit on view at the center. Talk at 6pm in the Commonwealth Salon, Central Library ⊕ in Copley Square, 700 Boylston St. FREE

Now → Sun, 8/4

ARTIST HENRI TOULOUSE-LAUTREC made his name as the leading poster artist of late-19th-century Paris. In the first flowering of urban advertising posters, made possible by new printing techniques and a growing middle class, the artist helped boost the careers of singers, dancers, and other not-quite-respectable performers. Entrance is \$23 to \$25; free for MFA members. Details at www.mfa.org/exhibitions.

Now → Fri, 9/13

WILLIAM MORRIS HUNT MEMORIAL LIBRARY SUMMER EXHIBITION 2019, Anabel Vázquez Rodríguez Trópico Amargo solo photography exhibit. Anabel Vázquez Rodríguez is a visual artist, curator, and organizer based in Boston, Providence, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Second floor of ⊕ Horticultural Hall, 300 Mass. Ave., open to the public Mon-Fri, 1-5pm. FREE

SENIOR EVENTS

Events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center or Fenway Community Center. Find the Senior Center entrance by walking into the alley between 100 and 108 Jersey St. and looking left. For more information, call 617-536-7154.

- Tuesday, 7/9 at 1pm: Conversation with State Representative Jay Livingstone
- Tuesday, 7/16 at 1pm: "Fall Prevention and TBI Awareness" presentation with Emmalin Nelton, clinical research assistant from Think First (National Industry Prevention Foundation), Longwood Chapter
- Tuesday, 7/30 at 1pm: Tenant's Rights Presentation with Annie Zhang, program manager at the City of Boston's Office of Housing Stability