

City Reinforces Mass. Ave. Bike Lane



A concentration of restaurants and coffee shops has long drawn drivers to park in the bike lane on the west side of Mass. Ave. between Haviland Street and Church Park. The City recently installed concrete curbing along the lane, which should end the problem. Barriers also went in for the section of bike lane across the street that runs alongside the Christian Science campus.

HOUSING KEEPS CHANGING HANDS IN MISSION HILL, DESPITE CORONAVIRUS

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The pandemic hasn't stopped real estate sales in Mission Hill. Larger transactions in the past 12 months include two six-family, 19th-century buildings. Mission Hill native Eric Alden purchased 775 Parker St. at the corner of Alleghany and will potentially develop the adjacent parking lot. The vacant six-family at the dead end of South Whitney Street sold in March to Anthony A. A. McGuinness for \$2 million. The previous owner of 3-5 South Whitney had obtained approval for a demolition without a public hearing from the Landmarks Commission and had plans for a nine-unit, six-story building. At the end of April, real estate investors Michael and Janice Ye purchased a three-family at 97B Calumet St.—a hidden house behind 99 Calumet St. near the corner of Calumet and St. Alphonsus—for \$1.24 million. Less familiar to neighbors than some other landlords, Janice Ye came to the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) a few months ago seeking support for variances to pave the back yard at 17-19 Sunset St. before going to the Zoning Board of

Appeal in March. CAMH voted 12-11 in favor of parking, and the ZBA also approved it.

97B Calumet St. sits cheek by jowl with three other properties that all have backlot houses, an unusual cluster near Calumet Square. The former owner David

Julier had also owned 99 Calumet St. for several decades. He retains two other student rentals, 91 Hillside St. and 33 Calumet St.

Public listings of real estate transactions come from the Warren Group, which publishes the weekly *Banker & Tradesman*. Another resource is the *Boston Globe's* website, realestate.boston.com, and the *Sunday Globe* listings. Mission Hill is not its own neighborhood in either source—some sales appear under Roxbury and occasionally, by mistake, under Jamaica Plain or the Fenway. Not all transactions are reported publicly.

More \$1 million-plus sales in 2019 and 2020 included 6 Bucknam St.; 8 Cherokee St., sold to Ellie Li of Keystone Management; 24-26 Lawn St., sold to Aihui Zhu of Lexington; 32 Fisher, sold to Kieran Maher; and 724 Parker, purchased by Lee Guzovsky doing business as ABW Rentals.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



3-5 South Whitney St. sold for \$2 million.

The Power of Dual-Language Programs in Boston's Schools

EDITOR'S NOTE: Boston Public Schools closed on March 17 and won't reopen this school year. Many educators, parents, and experts are thinking about what schools will need to look like when they do reopen and envisioning how they could be transformed. This article, about English language learners and bilingual education was written last year.

BY LAURA RODRIGUEZ

Ready to start her day, Genevieve McDonough turns the corner of the Boston Public School district office to the Dudley Cafe, and orders an Americano. She sips her coffee with a smile as she sifts through the paperwork she's brought, clips it all into the clipboard in her hand, and adjusts a name tag that reads "Boston Public Schools Instructional Specialist." Her smile widens as she recounts the story of Willie Gomez, a high school graduate of the Margarita Muñiz Academy. McDonough recently saw him articulate the benefits of bilingual education

at a scrimmage debate for the Boston Debate League—all in Spanish. It is with people like Gomez in mind, that McDonough works so diligently to educate Boston Public School (BPS) districts on legislation that will propel English learners forward academically.

English language learners (ELL), or students who are unable to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English, are among the most diverse of all students in Massachusetts. In Boston alone they make up 30 percent of all students. According to the Center for English Language Learners at American Institutes for Research, approximately 12 percent of the students who began as ELL did not achieve English proficiency statewide by the end of the study period. The Boston public-school system throws bilingual students into a classroom with the hope that they figure out the nuances of academic language eventually. But in reality, it takes up to seven years to pick up the academic language, and even then, their brains don't process language the same way a native speaker does.

In November 2017, Massachusetts passed the Language Opportunity for Our Kids (LOOK) Act, which aimed to provide districts with more flexibility in their language acquisition programs. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education was supposed to establish benchmarks, guidelines, and English learner success templates by Sept. 1, 2018, for districts

to implement no later than March 1, 2019.

A new system to help students who learn English in the classroom is necessary in order for these students to have successful academic careers. I myself grew up in a Hispanic household, where everything I learned in my mother tongue was only useful in a social setting. The older I got, the more I longed for an education system that could bring me up to speed with my age-counterparts in my parent's country of origin.

Graduate Professor of Urban Education at the City University of New York, Ofelia Garcia says that bilingual people are constantly reverting back and forth between their native and learned languages throughout the course of their lives.

When she spoke at the Multilingualism & Diversity Lectures in 2017, Garcia recalls when she started to truly understand the benefits of bilingual education. A student brought it to light in her classroom, back when she taught in a bilingual school.

"When I asked one child one day, 'What is happening here?' he said to me, 'well even though Spanish runs through my heart, English rules my veins,'" Garcia said.

The issue is really multifaceted—how can we incorporate both languages into a child's academic life and disprove the myth of separateness?

Considering that two-thirds of the English language is similar to Spanish, how can teachers in the public school system expect

students to function in the classroom setting if they continue to preach the separate nature of the two languages, both academically and socially?

McDonough and others within BPS believe that bilingual students and ELLs deserve the opportunity to thrive in the classroom. Under the LOOK Act, people like Gomez can thrive, starting from the early ages of Pre-Kindergarten all the way through elementary, middle, and high school.

"We were really excited that the LOOK Act was passed in 2017, because it brings back bilingual and biliterate opportunities for our students," McDonough said, "I know particularly for the office of English Language Learners we're really excited about that because it takes away the mandate that all students have to learn sheltered English in immersion environments."

From sheltered immersion to 'translanguaging'

The goal of Sheltered English Immersion programs is to provide English learners with a comprehensive curriculum in all content areas, as well as develop a student's English language skills. Students come out of the classroom having mastered how to speak, read and write in English.

The way that Diana Weiner, a bilingual teacher from Long Island, New York, describes English immersion programs is that "a new kid comes from a different country, they're thrown into a classroom and are expected to figure out the academic language eventually," she says, "but they're basically not learning anything from ages five to seven because they're still trying to pick up both social and academic cues in each language."

According to Garcia, there are two perspectives—one is the external societal perspective, which states that there are two main languages that can be connected back

DUAL LANGUAGE on page 2 >

CORONAVIRUS & THE FENWAY

- The Fenway News continues publishing online only this month.
- A statewide ban on eviction cases and foreclosure proceedings remains in effect until 45 days after the state of emergency is lifted, or mid-August, whichever comes first. We've got more information on page 6.
- Many restaurants in the Fenway

continue to offer takeout service even though the state's phasing plan doesn't let them reopen until later in June. Visit www.fenwaycdc.org/ and click the "We are Open" tile for a list.

- Lifeboat Food Bank continues at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, at the corner of Jersey & Peterborough streets. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-5pm.



Goodbye, Tony C's. Hello, SOJUba.

With the sole exception of Domino's Pizza, commercial tenants in the first block of Boylston Street in the West Fens have emptied out in preparation for the site's redevelopment. Built as automobile showrooms in the early 20th century, the block at one time housed two landmarks of Boston's gay community, the Ramrod and the 1270. SOJUba, formerly located at 1260 Boylston (the old Sweet Caroline's) has found a larger home just across the street in the old Tony C's space at 1265 Boylston. As its name suggests, the restaurant features the Korean spirit soju and Korean food.

> **DUAL LANGUAGE** from previous page to nation-states and physical territories. This method is the primary way that students are taught and tested in the United States today and places the greatest level of distinction between different languages. It refers to a dominant language that academic material is taught in, or L1, which would be English in many BPS districts, and less important subsequent languages, L2 and L3, such as Spanish or Haitian Creole that form a type of hierarchical relationship in the classroom.

The second perspective, plurilingualism, deals with students switching between multiple languages in the classroom, depending on the situation and for the sole purpose of facilitating communication. While the plurilingual concept is more fluid with language, it still limits the confidence that a student has in a second, third or even fourth language, and so the hierarchy of the first perspective remains, where English is the dominant language in the classroom, and power is still only present in the language itself, and not the speaker. From this, Garcia introduces the idea of ‘translanguaging.’

“We all have an idiolect that is ours, and this, of course, is also surrounded by this communicative repertoire,” Garcia says, “So it’s not only our linguistic repertoire, which is related to our idiolect, but also how we surround it by gestures, by contexts, and how we bring that forth as hints, so that you, the hearer, can construct a message.”

What Garcia brings up is a concept that could revolutionize teaching in classroom settings across the United States—translanguaging lets a student use their entire language memory without facing the consequences of code-switching in front of academics. No dominant, no hierarchy of learning languages, they’re all on equal levels and can be substituted without oversimplification of terms or meanings lost in translation. Students can research and gain knowledge in their native language and transfer it to English in the classroom, thereby improving their academic knowledge in both languages.

“It’s important to remember that all bilingual communities translanguage,” Garcia said, stressing the social aspect of a language over its linguistic value. “It is the norm in bilingual communities to do this.”

Garcia believes that it is a disservice to ELL students not to provide the necessary avenues in an academic setting.

“When translanguaging is not taken into account, you are doing injustice to the children, to the language-minoritized children,” Garcia said, “You are only mobilizing less than half of their repertoire. You’re leaving another big part out, and when you assess them, you are testing them in less than half of their repertoire.”

A history of policy in Boston

The LOOK Act requires school districts to create an evaluation plan for the effectiveness of current programs for ELL students, which would include ways to help a student achieve English proficiency in an academic setting and a description of the steps that the district would take in the event that a student starts to fall behind his/her native English-speaking peers.

I remember entering the New York City and State public school systems as an ELL student. I was temporarily held back on reading levels at times due to a lack of proper program implementation for students like me. I had to bear the brunt of this resource absence in my small Westchester County town, where the Hispanic population makes up 11 percent of the population. I was on my own when it came to catching up to my peers, whether it meant reading more outside of class, or seeking out teachers to give me additional work. Not everyone has this privilege, due to a lack of resources and funds in some BPS districts, and cannot be expected to find success in the academic system alone.

This is not the first time an act like this has been passed—The Bilingual Education Act of 1968 is noted as the first official federal recognition for students with limited English speaking ability, later changed to students with limited English proficiency and now simply called English learners.

The recommendations of the bill included teaching Spanish as a primary learning language, teaching English as a second language, and designing programs that would give Spanish-speaking students an appreciation of cultural heritage and language. Though it targeted Spanish-speaking students, the Bilingual Education Act, also known as Title VII, laid the foundation to believe that, as opposed to their native English-speaking peers, all ELL students have specific needs, and that in the interest of equal educational opportunity, bilingual programs should be federally funded.

The act provided funds in the form of competitive grants, used to support educational programs, train teachers and teacher aides, develop and disseminate materials and for parent involvement projects. While the act did not explicitly require bilingual instruction or the use of the students’ native language in the academic setting, it encouraged new programs and ways to teach students English. It prioritized low-income families, but non-English-speaking students from families with moderate income levels were not included.

In 1978, the act was amended to address the vague nature of the 1968 guidelines and make participation by school districts volun-

tary. This meant that ELL students could be denied equal opportunities in the classroom, and so the Equal Education Opportunities Act was swept into the conversation because the solution to the language barriers students encountered could be solved with competent instructional programs.

Controversy around the proposed legislation included questions of whether the federal or local governments would control education in the long run. Should schools teach exclusively English or allow the native language to be used? This question rang in the ears of many, and in 2002, Massachusetts passed Question 2, which eliminated the state’s existing bilingual education programs and required ELL students to be enrolled in sheltered English-immersion programs for one year. This ballot initiative lowered instruction rate for about 40 percent of all English learners in the U.S.

Back in the classroom

There is little evidence to support the idea that English learners can learn English in one year, as the 2002 Massachusetts education reform required. The proponents of an English classroom model believed that this initiative would help bridge the gap between the English learners who were falling well behind their native English-speaking peers. Getting rid of the bilingual model would also reduce costs by taking away specialized instruction for English learners.

On top of this, finding qualified bilingual teachers in Massachusetts became a struggle following the implementation of the English-only education law. Framingham and a few other districts still had permission to keep teaching students math, science and other subjects in their native languages, but a job posting for a classroom teacher that would normally attract about 100 applicants only brought in around five when it came to teachers instructing students in Spanish or Portuguese.

With growing numbers of first-generation immigrants, districts must be equipped to handle an influx of ELL students. Despite the challenges, a bilingual model remains a strong contender as a substitute teaching method in the public-school system.

According to Aspen (SIS), English learners in Boston collectively speak more than 70 different languages. The LOOK Act provides districts the flexibility to choose the English learner program that best fits each individual population.

New York recently announced the opening of 47 Pre-Kindergarten programs for dual languages in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Haitian Creole.

At its September 2014 meeting, the New York State Board of Regents amended part 154 of the Commissioner’s Regulations regarding Bilingual Education and English as a New Language (ENL) programs. The amendment would require school districts to achieve the same educational goals and standards established for all students.

The future of bilingual education

As the daughter of Colombian immigrants, and someone who learned English as a second language, I find progress in the field of bilingual education astounding, and starkly different from the late 1990s, when I went through a Pre-Kindergarten English-only model of education. Mastery of both a native and learned tongue is a skill widely desired in many competitive fields of work.

“We know economically being bilingual

and biliterate will really open yourself to be competitive in the global market,” McDonough said.

Regardless of strides within the bilingual education debate, opponents of the Act still adamantly believe that the English-only education model was implemented for a reason, and that it is a mistake to bring back the bilingual education system.

“I would encourage them to see it in person and talk to actual students who have gone through dual-language programs,” McDonough said, addressing opposition. Take Willie Gomez and his job as MC of the Boston Debate League scrimmage in Spanish.

“I was a debater Spanish, and English, one, because of my ability to speak both fluently, my experience going to Margarita Muñiz Academy, which is a bilingual school,” Gomez said. “BPS one gave me comfort in both languages and then gave me exposure to professional Spanish.”

Gomez and other bilingual students like him tend to flourish more in environments that can represent their lives outside of school. For Gomez, that meant adequate representation in the demographic makeup of the teachers and staff at the Muñiz Academy.

“I had classes in English, classes in Spanish. Basically, all the teachers I had were all bilingual or Latino,” Gomez said. “I feel like I didn’t have an experience where I felt isolated culturally, and I feel like that’s a thing that needs to be present at BPS.”

Gomez grew up in a Spanish-only household with parents who immigrated from Ecuador. But he and I knew very different academic settings growing up, as with the Rafael Hernandez school all the way up through the Muñiz Academy, Gomez knew a level of Spanish that transcended the confines of an immigrant household.

“My high school was majority Latino, and I feel like in a sense that can be something that’s not good,” Gomez said, “But in the sense of having students who at least have a seal of biliteracy, that is always good to have. The students at my school at least felt that that’s something they’ll carry with them for the rest of their journey.”

Across the scope of the education field, teachers and advocates are promoting the benefits of legislation like the LOOK Act.

“People throw terms like ‘50-50,’ or ‘90-10’ but not really knowing there’s the population of students 50-50 English and Spanish,” McDonough said.

The key lies with the future of bilingual education—the children themselves, like Gomez. We, as children of first-generation immigrants, know the struggle it took our parents to get us here. We want to learn and be successful and we care more than the 70 percent of our peers, because we have the privilege of seeing the world through multiple lenses and want to live to give back half of what our parents gave us in academic opportunities. These reasons alone spark debate and let the innovative learning system prevail in the academic community.

“He stood up there and spoke about the benefits of being bilingual and my colleague Renae, who has known him since he was in K-1 at the Hernandez, was literally goosebumps and crying,” McDonough said, speaking about Gomez, “Because everything he stood up there and said about the benefits of being bilingual, are all the things we talk to the kids about, and to hear him on his own, as an influential figure to his peers a few years younger than them, was just so meaningful to hear.”

Laura Rodriguez is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

DUCK, DUCK (NO) GOOSE

From the start of the stay-at-home advisory in March, many Fenwickians relied on walking in the Back Bay Fens as one of the few approved ways to get exercise while maintaining physical distance (and stave off cabin fever). It looks like some folks also started feeding the waterfowl, as this mother duck eagerly brought her ten-chick brood six inches of visitors in search of a snack last month.



Pandemic Confers New Cachet on Community Gardens

EDITOR'S NOTE: For years community gardens in Mission Hill and the Fenway have drawn residents looking for a stronger connection to nature. This year, however, gardens have taken on new importance. During the lockdown period, working in a garden was one of the few sanctioned ways to get out of cramped quarters while maintaining distance from others and clearing out mental cobwebs. Nationally, concerns about food-supply disruption have driven new interest in home-grown vegetables. We caught up with local gardeners last month as spring arrived in full.



In Mission Hill, Oscar-Parker gardener Ed turns the earth in the plot he's tended for more than two decades.



Dakota lends a paw as Maureen Sullivan tends her plants at the Symphony Road Community Garden.



At Symphony Road Community Garden, Nasreen Latif waters her garden. She specializes in growing vegetables from her native Bangladesh.



Cheryl Koh sets up fencing around her jalapeño, habanero and sweet pepper plants in the Fenway Victory Gardens.



Josh, Jess, and Suzy work plots in a garden on Lawn Street owned by the Back of the Hill Community Development Corporation.



On May 22, Northeastern continued its long tradition of distributing flowers to residents through the Fenway Civic Association. The pandemic altered some of the logistics this year, with distribution to smaller groups in three places—Symphony Road Community Garden, Ramler Park, and the Victory Gardens, where FCA president Tim Horn and FCA member Brenda Lew helped distribute geraniums, impatiens and petunias.

LOCAL COVID-19 UPDATES

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

A public health advisory remains in place for Boston: all nonessential workers are urged to stay home between 9pm and 6am, and residents must wear a mask in public.

As of May 26, the City reported 12,521 confirmed cases of COVID-19; 6,019 recorded recoveries; and 622 deaths. These numbers may not reflect the full reach of the virus, as all residents have not been tested, but the City is making an effort to expand COVID-19 testing.

Neighborhood testing numbers:

- In the Fenway, 1,719 people have been

tested; 15.6% of tests were positive.

- In Mission Hill and Roxbury, 3,773 people have been tested; 23.6% of tests were positive.
- In the Back Bay and Beacon Hill, 2,816 people have been tested; 13.6% of tests were positive.
- In the South End, 3,116 people have been tested; 25.5% of tests were positive.

COVID-19 has infected African Americans at a significantly higher rate than other racial groups: They account for 25% of Boston's population but 45% of COVID-19 cases in the city.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens. Visit www.boston.gov/news/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-boston for updated news and resources.

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STREET CLEANING & TRASH PICK-UP

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

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

STREET CLEANING

The **CITY OF BOSTON** has suspended ticketing of cars parked in designated street-cleaning zones until further notice. Check the City website for temporary transportation information at <https://bit.ly/2KJ3TXV>.

The **DCR** cleans state-owned streets along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- SECOND THURSDAY**
8:00am-12:00pm: The Riverway

- SECOND FRIDAY**
 - > 8:00am-noon: The Fenway from Ave. Louis Pasteur to Westland (includes inside lane) + Forsyth Way
 - > 12:00-3:00pm: 8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) + Boylston + Charlesgate East + Charlesgate Extension
- THIRD TUESDAY**
 - > 8:00am-noon : Park Drive from Boylston St. to Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral (includes inside lane) + upper Boylston Street
 - > 12:00-3:00pm: Park Drive from Holy Trinity to The Pierce, then from D Line overpass to Beacon Street

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fenway/download>

Unassuming Stretch of Beacon Street Hides History Behind Facades

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Between Audubon Circle’s Mountfort Street and Kenmore Square, Beacon Street is, as the late architectural historian Candace Jenkins called it, “an area of mixed character.” However, there is hidden history here, some quite amazing. Between the loss of buildings demolished in 1961 and 1962 for the Boston extension of the Mass. Turnpike and the obliteration of original architectural features and character of the

remaining streetscape, there’s a sad absence. Both sides of Beacon have stories to tell—unusual businesses and schools, as well as Boston’s first arthouse movie theater.

Only three buildings on the block are listed on the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s Massachusetts Cultural Resources Information

System database: the Buckminster Hotel, the imposing Edison Electric Illuminating Company transformer station at 693 Beacon St., and 677 Beacon St., an anonymous-looking, three-story Boston University facility.

Jenkins co-authored Boston University’s 2005 Historic Preservation Plan. Her assignment included documenting university-owned buildings not previously included in historic surveys, including 677 Beacon, built in 1916 and labeled in the BU plan as, “altered

beyond recognition” and of “no style.” The Marist Fathers’ Lourdes Center, at 698 Beacon, and the ornamental façade of 700 Beacon, former home of the Art Institute of Boston, face it from across the street. Besides the Buckminster, the Lourdes Center is the only building on the block that holds an occupancy permit for residential use. The 1962 renovation sponsored by Cardinal Cushing put a new veneer over the former Gulf Oil Company office—one of the

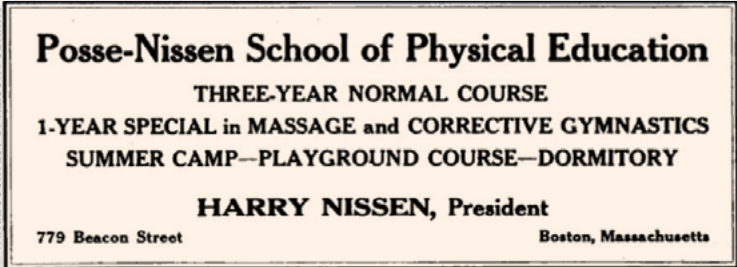


The Edison Electric Illuminating transformer station at 693 Beacon St.

Kenmore Square companies known for their brilliant neon signs. All these buildings, except the Buckminster (1897), date from 1915 and 1916, though there is little trace of their original appearance. An adjunct of “Automobile Row” on Commonwealth Avenue, the buildings were originally constructed as automobile-related businesses, showrooms, garages, repair and supply warehouses. The configuration of the lots allowed for construction of large

warehouse-type buildings with rail access at the rear. The building permits used the word “mercantile” to describe the future uses.

Its founder, Daniel Berkeley Updike, is considered one of the finest representatives of the Arts and Crafts movement in American book



Ad promoting the Posse-Nissen School of Physical Education.

arts. The company archives are stored at the

On the north side of the street, properties extended to Commonwealth Avenue and Blandford Street. The large open-floor structures later proved well suited for diverse light manufacturing and storage businesses and easily retrofitted for future offices, labs, and classrooms.

In 1915 and 1916, a single survey company, Fuller and Whitney, created almost all the site plans. Prolific real estate developer Albert Geiger, Jr. was involved with most of the lots.

Connecting Boston to Brookline was the goal of a group of men associated with the West End Railway, the horse-drawn streetcar company that quickly turned electric in the early 20th century. Investors associated with future development along the Beacon Street corridor—John C. Ropes (the Ropes & Gray founder), James Eldredge, J.Q. Adams II, Thomas Rothwell, Charles Paine, and Henry M. Whitney were promoting a fast link to the Chestnut Hill reservoir with a widened roadway for the West End Railway. The company funded a steel bridge over the train tracks in 1886. There were four tracks then; now there are only two.

In the 1960s, when the turnpike extension’s eight lanes were built, the train tracks were moved west. The land takings

Huntington Library in San Marino, California, and the Boston Athenaeum, and the Providence Public Library has a room named after Updike. Merrymount’s limited-edition books and ephemera are highly valued by collectors. A recent exhibit of Merrymount Press publications at the Rhode Island School of Design included photographs from 712 Beacon.

In 1949, Cosmopolitan Manufacturing purchased the building and needed all the floors for its men’s outerwear business, Great Dane coats. In 1972, owner Fred Monosson died, and his heirs later sold the facility to Boston University.

718-720 Beacon St. was a three-story concrete-and-brick building first occupied by automobile battery companies. It became an aviation school in 1940, then the Art Chrome Company, and in 1960, the School of Practical Art, predecessor to the Art Institute of Boston. In 1971, the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) moved into 700 Beacon, where it stayed for more than 40 years. When AIB moved to Cambridge to become part of Lesley University in 2015, it sold the building to BU.

Yet another school was located across the street at 777-779 Beacon—the Posse-Nissen Gymnastics School of Education. The school was founded in 1890 by Baron Nils Posse



In 1961 the Kenmore Theatre’s marquee announces its closing due to construction of the Mass. Turnpike extension. The theater often hosted regional premieres of European movies, like Federico Fellini’s “La Strada,” which played in October 1956 and Vittoria Da Sica’s “Shoeshine,” which opened on Christmas Day in 1947.

on Mountfort and Beacon streets left behind an empty landscape. Buildings including the Kenmore Theatre at 779 Beacon, the six-story Hotel Regent at 780 Beacon, and entire blocks of multifamily residences on Mountfort Street were lost.

The long pedestrian corridors along the Beacon Street overpass will shorten when the second phase of John Rosenthal’s five-building Fenway Center gets under way. On May 13 the Zoning Commission unanimously voted to approve the revised plan for a 22-story, mixed-use commercial, office, and lab space. The complex will include a five-story garage above the highway and another 12-story office lab building.

Across the street from the future high-rise, Boston University’s brick science building has a Commonwealth Avenue address and no entry doors on Beacon Street. It is a 1980s reconfiguration of the former warehouses at 712 and 718-722 Beacon St. The original buildings had large floorplates and showrooms on the first floor and were used by a variety of businesses.

From 1932 to 1949, The Merrymount Press, a world-famous printing company, leased the top floor of 712 Beacon.

and Baroness Rose Posse, and was later led by Norwegian Hartvig Nissen, author of the 1916 book *Practical Massage and Corrective Exercises*.

After the school moved, 779 Beacon became a movie theater. Louis Richmond opened the theater—which boasted 685 seats plus a balcony, on Christmas Day 1938. When it closed in 1961, the marquee read “Closed on Account of New Toll Road.” At the time of the closure, the theater was owned by Esquire Theaters and managed by George Kraska. In 1963 the same team opened the Kenmore Square Cinema, which closed in 1977. This second theater was known for its association with Justin Freed, who revived the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

The Beacon Street bridge block is now primarily owned by a single institution. Rosenthal’s Fenway Center, with pedestrian connections to Lansdowne Station and a quick walk across the street to the Blandford steps, connects transportation infrastructure with new development just as the West End Railway men envisioned more than a century ago—although this time, the highway is omnipresent.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Mayor Walsh made one thing clear last month: he plans to proceed *verrrrry* deliberately with reopening the city. To that end, City Hall will issue no permits for festivals or parades through Labor Day. Canceled June events include the Haley House Block Party, pretty much all of Pride Week, and the Boston Art & Music Soul Festival in Franklin Park (which absorbed Berklee Jazzfest last year). July's losses include the Boston Pops concert and fireworks on the Esplanade and the Dudley Jazz Festival. 🚫 **What does the mayor's ban mean for the contentious concert series at Fenway Park? It might not matter, as the series seems to be imploding on its own. At press time, touring acts had canceled or postponed tours affecting six planned concerts. In any case, only two of the original 12 bookings would take place after Labor Day: Aerosmith (Sept. 18) and New Kids on the Block (Sept. 19)—but cancelation of the marathon suggests that those might not survive, either.** 🚫 During a Red Sox community call, Boston Police Capt. Steve Sweeney reported that crime year-to-date in Area D4 had fallen by 27% compared to last year. 🚫 **On the 21st a fire at the Huntington Ave. YMCA—which for years has managed housing for formerly homeless families and adults—displaced 66 residents and caused \$100,000 worth of damage.** 🚫 Father John Uni of St. Cecilia's Parish on Belvidere Street told WBUR's "Radio Boston" in mid-May that the parish would take a cautious approach to relaunching services once it could review the State's reopening guidelines. Uni said he hoped to open doors sometime in June. 🚫 **On a happy note: Pavement's three Fenway shops have started to stir after a two-month shutdown. Order and pay for pickup through a new mobile app (Apple and Google). Pickup runs from 7am to 12pm daily; you can buy bags of house-roasted coffee beans, as well.** 🚫

Renters And Owners Still Have Housing Protections

A law signed in April created a statewide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. As Sen. Will Brownsberger wrote in our May issue, "Landlords cannot initiate eviction proceedings, pending eviction proceedings are suspended, and even if an eviction order was previously granted, a sheriff or constable cannot enforce it." The law also freezes any foreclosure proceeding already in the legal system. Under the moratorium, even if you can't make rent or mortgage payments as

a result of coronavirus income or job loss, you'll have to make up those payments eventually. Landlords and banks should be willing to set up a payment plan. The moratorium lasts for 120 days (through mid-August) or 45 days after the emergency officially ends, whichever comes first. The law allows the governor to add 90-day extensions if he extends the declared emergency. If you have questions, call Sen. Brownsberger at 617-771-8274.

Neighborhood Newsline

Multiple T Construction Projects Are Up and Running

- Track work on the Green Line D branch service resumes in June, with shuttle buses replacing trains between Kenmore and Newton Highlands on evenings and certain weekends. The schedule can be found on www.MBTA.com.
- On May 24 North Station became the final stop on the northbound Green Line because of work on the Lechmere Viaduct for the line's extension to Somerville. Buses will carry passengers beyond North Station for approximately one year.
- At the other end of the line, track repair and installation of new rubber crossings will shut down service between Heath Street and the Prudential Center during August. The T will run additional service on bus route 39 to compensate for the absent trains. In an email to Mission Hill resident Rich Giordano, Angel Pena, head of the MBTA's Green Line Transformation Project, promised a virtual public meeting several weeks in advance of the August construction to share details about what to expect. Riders might ask if this could be an opportunity for work on Symphony Station.
- On the Orange line, more improvements for Ruggles Station are forthcoming. A \$20 million contract is expected for Phase 2 of the current reconstruction. The T issued a request for qualifications for architectural and engineering service in May.

Local Enterprises Will Get Small Business Relief Funds

On May 13, Mayor Marty Walsh announced that 561 small businesses in Boston received funding through the Small Business Relief Fund, which kicked off with an initial funding dedication of \$2 million. Fenway and Mission Hill businesses receiving funding include Boston Burger Company, Boston Yoga Union, Laughing Monk Cafe, Love Art Sushi Boston, nathalie wine bar, Neighborhoods Cafe, Playa Bowls, Poke Bar and Kitchen, and Woody's Grill & Tap.

Fenway Health Begins Limited COVID-19 Testing

Fenway Health has set up tents behind the Millmore School on Peterborough Street and is giving COVID-19 tests. Tests are by appointment only, made by calling 617-927-6000. For the time being, the agency will only test Fenway Health patients who show symptoms, but it plans to expand testing in the future.

West Fens Fire Causes \$1 Million in Damage

Early in the morning of May 17, firefighters responded to a fire at 1191 Boylston St. The crew kept the fire contained to one apartment, but it injured the occupant and caused an estimated \$1 million in damage.

Dropkick Murphys Perform Live-ish at Fenway Park

On May 29 at 6pm, the Dropkick Murphys opened for Bruce Springsteen at a Fenway Park concert. Due to the pandemic, however, they played to an empty stadium. The concert, "Streaming Outta Fenway," was free to watch online and raised money for the Boston Resiliency Fund, Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston, and Feeding America.

Tiffani Faison and Irene Li Win Beard Award Nominations

Tiffani Faison, owner of Fool's Errand, Orfano, Sweet Cheeks Q, and Tiger Mama in the West Fens received a nomination for Best Chef: Northeast from the James Beard Foundation. With the exception of Cassie Piuma of Sarna in Somerville, her competition in the category is all based in Maine. Up the road in Audubon Circle, Irene Li of Mei Mei received a nomination as Rising Star Chef. The foundation scrapped its normal spring announcement because of the pandemic; it will announce winners in September.

Northeastern University Support for Nonprofits and Small Businesses During COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the challenges our Boston communities face, Northeastern University is offering a variety of resources to help small businesses and nonprofits in our neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, the South End, and Roxbury respond to real-time needs and build resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you would like to be connected with a Northeastern staff or faculty member with expertise relevant to your organization please complete the form at tinyurl.com/communitysupportform.

Please send any questions to communityengagement@northeastern.edu.

Silver Linings

IMAGINING A POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE

A FENSFUND CONTEST

\$250 1ST PRIZE • \$150 2ND PRIZE • \$100 3RD PRIZE

We're in the middle of a frightening and tragic pandemic, threatening and taking lives and creating an economic crisis. But during this strange time, have you seen any silver linings, any changes you'd like to keep when the pandemic ends?

We're asking you to tell us what those silver linings might be. We're asking you to imagine what changes could make our lives better once we have a vaccine or

treatment for COVID-19.

Will there be a way to support local farms? Can we keep our air clean? Can we make housing truly affordable or design it more safely? Will we continue to work remotely, bike or walk more? Could we re-purpose our consumerism?

What new ways of being in this world do we want to see, and what small or large changes do we need to make them happen?

The Fine Print

ELIGIBILITY

You must have a current or past Fenway connection: working, living, studying, volunteering, a public official representing the neighborhood, an artist or gardener.

REQUIREMENTS

- Entries can be up to 150 words. You can submit up to three entries.

- The FENSFund Board will choose up to 20 entries to publish in the July *Fenway News*, and readers will choose the top three to be awarded prizes in August.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

- Describe something that can be created or improved that will add

to a positive quality of life in Boston and/or beyond.

- Briefly describe what things are necessary to make the idea work.
- Suggest a first step for making it happen

Please send entries by June 20 to **fensfund@gmail.com**.

FENSFund exists to encourage neighborhood-based artists, education, arts, writing and other cultural activities in the Fenway through financial support of arts, educational, cultural, literary, calendar and similar content in The Fenway News and through encouragement and financial support of appropriate activities such as contests, readings, lectures, exhibits and other events that support these values.

The Arts

CREATIVE WHILE CAPTIVE
After the initial shock of a 24/7 lockdown wore off, some folks binged Netflix, some cleaned closets... and some found new creative outlets in media both familiar and new. Here's a sample of what we found.

COVID-19
*I pray
Not to be prey.*
LISA FAY, WEST FENS



↑ Owl (acrylic)—Ruth Khowais, West Fens



↑ Spring Sky (watercolor)—Loretta M. Dixon, Mission Hill



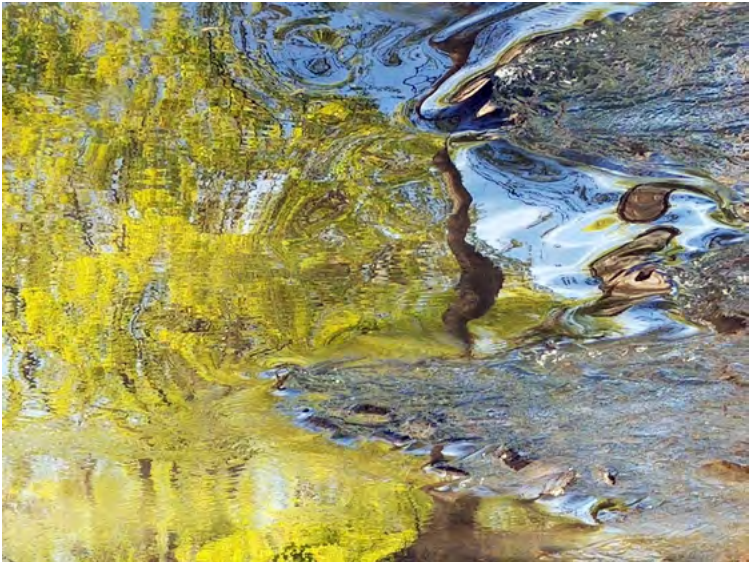
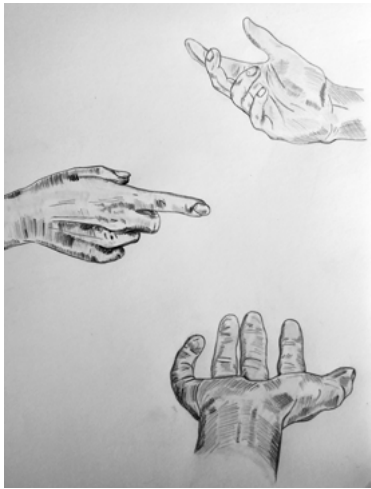
← Still life of model catboat “Betsy 2” by the artist (oil on panel)—John Storrow, East Fens
↓ Handmade jewelry—Diane Sabella, Mission Hill



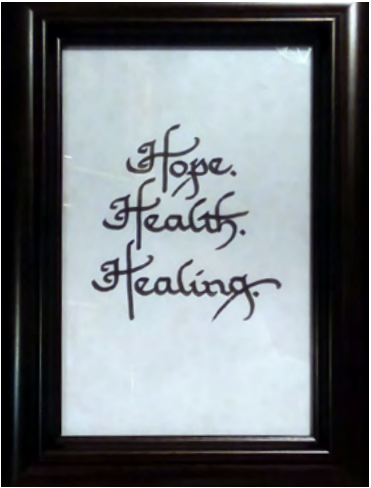
← Wearable art—Nan Hass Feldman, Fenway Studios
↓ Muddy River Flow—Leslie Pond, West Fens

THE SIGN OF SPRING
*Spring announces
Itself with the chirping
Of a pair of red finches
Who return each year
To remake their nest,
Preparing it for their young
Under the eave of
Our apartment balcony.
Taking up their
Daily occupations –
Flitting, flying, hopping,
Roosting, singing. They live in
parallel with us.
Their arrival reminiscent
Of that of the celebrated
Swallows of Capistrano.*
DEBBIE WEISS, BACK BAY

↑ Handmade jewelry—Lydia Pena, Mission Hill
→ Tote bags, masks, and digitally printed flour sack towels—Ityng Deng, Foxfire Studios, Mission Hill
→ Hands (graphite and pencil)—Isabella Cusick, East Boston



↑ For Warmth (work in progress: egg tempura)—Lisa Graf, East Fens
→ Acrylic painting—Dae Woody, Roxbury (Instagram dae_core)



→ Masks for front-line workers—Iris Tan, marketing and development director, Fenway CDC



← Calligraphy—Lynda McNally, Fenway Studios
→ Still Dreaming (acrylic and Sakura Pigma Micron pen)—Stacey Williams, Dorchester



↑→ Custom-made bags (upcycled materials)—Walter Pultinas, Mission Hill (pultina.com)

DID WE MISS YOU? We expect we'll hear from more area artists once we release this issue. Are you one? Let us know, and we'll include you in the sequel. Email Ruth at rekhows@earthlink.net or send us a message on Facebook.

The Arts

IMAGE COURTESY OF KAJI ASO STUDIO



Tanabata: The Art of Longing, Connecting

BY KATE FINNEGAN

On July 7 at 7pm look toward the sky. You may see bright stars come out and colorful streamers in the breeze. Are the weaver princess and her true love meeting again after having to be apart for so long? The celebration of Tanabata is a beloved tradition in Japan and one that Kaji Aso Studio has promoted annually as a theme show. This year's virtual presentation of art, music and poetry will creatively translate our own longing, separation and wish for connection into hope and encouragement during these challenging times.

Leading up to the exhibit's online opening, we want to involve the community through awareness about the myth and showing how to display your own wishes at home and decorate with colorful streamers. To find out more details about the myth and upcoming exhibit, please visit kajiasostudioevents.com. The project is supported in part by the City of Boston's Transformative Public Art Program, and Kaji Aso Studio's programming is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council and administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

Kate Finnegan is executive director of Kaji Aso Studio.

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR ARTISTS OF COLOR DUE BY JUNE 8

MassArt's Center for Art and Community Partnerships has announced "Radical Imagination for Racial Justice" in collaboration with the City of Boston. The program invites Boston artists of color, ages 14 and up, to imagine a racially just city. The program will award grants of \$1,000, \$25,000, and \$40,000. The application portal, imaginejusticeboston.org, is open through June 8.

MFA Turns to Insta to Show Artists Adapting to Pandemic

The Museum of Fine Arts recently launched an Instagram series, bringing insights into how local artists have reinvented their practices in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Every Friday, a different artist takes over the Instagram account (@mfaboston) to share their evolving practices.

STICK BY STICK, TRANSFORMING A CORNER OF FENS

Throughout the lockdown—and even as reopening started getting under way—anyone longing to exercise had few options beyond walking and biking. In April, Fenwickians stretching their legs in the Fens noticed a primitive structure beginning to take shape near the footpath along The Fenway edge of the park right across from the MFA's west parking lot. Last month the structure began, um, branching out, and it got a Facebook page. Through it, we reached the West Fens builders of "StickIt, COVID-19," Dennis Brown and sons Caden, 8 (correction—"eight-and-a-half"), and Silas, 5. We'll have more about the StickIt back story in our July issue; in the meantime, watch its progress in person or at www.facebook.com/StickItCovid19/.



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

CALENDAR

arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Now ➔ Thu, 6/18

MASSART MFA THESIS: 2020 features sculptures and paintings by MassArt thesis students. On view at www.massart.edu.

Sat, 6/6

TOGETHER WE CARE: A VIRTUAL GALA CELEBRATING THE YMCA. The gala combines a silent auction, live auction, raffle, and an engaging hour-long program. Donations will support the Y's work during the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing emergency child care centers and two meals a day throughout Boston. 7pm. Register at e.givesmart.com/events/het/

Ongoing, Online

- Check out the virtual art exhibit at Fenway's **KAJI ASO STUDIO**, which

SENIOR EVENTS

Weekly Virtual Coffee & Conversation: Join Operation PEACE's Peterborough Senior Center on Thursdays at 11:30am to socialize and check in with friends! Email mallory@operationpeaceboston.org for more information on how to participate.

features a sampling of the "Small Works" exhibit as well as historical videos about Kaji Aso Studio. Visit www.kajiasostudioevents.com.

- The **ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM'S** Gardner at Home program lets you experience the museum's gardens, art, and music virtually. This would have been the closing week for *Boston's Apollo: Thomas McKeller and John Singer Sargent*, but this fascinating exhibition—examining race, class, and wealth within Sargent's remarkable Boston-area murals—continues its online. Visit <https://www.gardnermuseum.org/>.
- Through BSO at Home, listen to great performances from the the **BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** archives, selected by BSO Artistic Administrator Anthony Fogg, look behind the scenes at orchestra life, and hear from musicians. Visit www.bso.org/brands/bso/at-home.aspx
- With Huntington @ Home, **THE HUNTINGTON THEATRE COMPANY** offers special online performances and messages from artists behind the scenes. Visit <https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/season/upcoming/huntington-at-home/>.
- THE SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AT TUFTS** has created a virtual art gallery for its Master's Thesis

Exhibition. The school hosts a virtual reception to celebrate the show on June 4. Visit <https://smfa.tufts.edu/events-exhibitions/virtual-exhibits>.

@ THE CENTER

With the Community Center closed for the public health emergency, programming has moved on line. Find Zoom links for all events at fenwaycommunitycenter.org.

- Tuesdays, 6:30pm & Fridays, 8pm: FIRST FRIDAY FILMS.** Our movie club is now online twice a week.
- Wednesdays, 6pm: GUIDED MEDITATION & KIRTAN.** Reduce stress and improve emotional health.
- Wed, 6/3, 7pm: DEATH CAFE.** Join moving conversations on death.
- Thursdays, 11am: NAVIGATORS USA.** We're forming a new chapter of this contemporary, inclusive scouting movement, the first in Boston! Join us online.
- Saturdays, 1pm: STUDIO GHIBLI WATCH PARTY.** Striking, fantastical animations captures stories of friendship, loss, and redemption in films for all ages.

@F CDC

- Get current **JOB LISTINGS** and access online training programs. Visit <http://www.fenwaycdc.org/jobs-board/>
- Find services and info on **COVID-19** resources at <http://www.fenwaycdc.org/covid-19/>
- Get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables from **LIFEBOAT FOOD PANTRY**. Tuesday and Thursday, 3–6pm, Boston Temple, 105 Jersey Street. For info, contact Kris at kanderson@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x29.
- Need **FINANCIAL ADVICE OR SERVICES** to stabilize your life? Schedule a confidential session by contacting Kris at kanderson@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x29.
- Join Fenway CDC's **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE** to discuss housing campaigns, the 2020 Census, and more. Thu, June 11, 6–7:30pm. Contact Jaya at jaiyer@fenwaycdc.org for the Zoom link.
- Join a **CENSUS 2020 PHONE BANK** on Weds, June 3, 5–7pm. You'll need a phone and computer or tablet. Contact Jaya at jaiyer@fenwaycdc.org for the Zoom link and log-in.
- As construction and development restart in Boston, the Fenway CDC's **URBAN VILLAGE COMMITTEE** reconvenes. If you're interested in monitoring and reviewing development projects, please contact Rich at rgiordano@fenwaycdc.org for details.