

Scorning Neo-Nazis, Brigham Staffers Back Anti-Racism Moves

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



On Feb. 16, Brigham and Women's staff members stood in front of the Peter Bent Brigham building at Brigham Circle to show support for efforts to eliminate racist assumptions in care delivery. The stand-out came in reaction to a January rally by a small group of neo-Nazis; misrepresenting the work, they accused the hospital of discriminating against white patients.

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

On Feb. 16, dozens of staff members of Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) stood together affirming the hospital's commitment to standing against racism in healthcare. They stood near the site where a neo-Nazi group held up a sign in January protesting the hospital's commitment to rectifying disparate medical treatment based on race.

Recent groundbreaking research by two physicians, Dr. Michelle Morse, who is black, and Dr. Bram Peter Wispelwey, who is white, determined that white patients experiencing cardiac failure got preferential treatment in the Emergency Department at BWH. The article

summarized research that found that white patients with cardiac failure were more likely to be admitted to inpatient cardiac services, which produced better outcomes, than non-white patients with similar symptoms. The entire parent system for BWH, Mass General Brigham (MGB), has since adopted policies to rectify these practices.

After these changes went into effect in the Brigham's Emergency Department, Morse and Wispelwey called for a structural shift in healthcare to address racial inequities. Other hospital systems across the nation have joined this movement. Dr. David Ansell and his colleagues wrote a "Perspective" in the February issue of the *New England Journal*

of *Medicine* supporting this race-conscious approach to counter any efforts aimed at maintaining racial disparities in healthcare. Healthcare inequities have been known for many years. Ansell refers to W.E.B DuBois's 1899 publication, *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*, as the first scientific study of poor health outcomes of black Americans. The recent pandemic and the disproportionate toll it has taken on black and brown communities has further spotlighted the issue of healthcare disparity.

To start changing the way it approaches healthcare, MGB has taken its lead from Critical Race Theory, an argument that centuries-old racist assumptions become embedded in the structures of institutions and society.

All MGB employees are able to view an anti-racism educational program called *Stepping Stones*. (It appears on Healthstream, an education and training platform for the healthcare field.) The film compares racial inequities to flowers planted in two containers—one contains fertile soil and one contains rocky barren soil without nutrients. The flowers planted in the rocky soil do not grow as healthy and resilient as the flowers planted in the fertile soil.

Creating more access to COVID vaccines by sending mobile units into marginalized neighborhoods is one way that MGB has helped equalized one racial disparity in health care. In its hospital structure, BWH has introduced quarterly equity rounds, led by medical

residents, in which teams evaluate care with respect to health equity. The hospital says it has also increased attention to diversity within department leadership.

BWH has established an "Inequity Box" that enables employees to report incidents of discrimination, whether they be microaggression or unequal treatment. The hospital has also increased support for staff who might feel threatened by some of the anti-racial news. In a letter to staff, president of the Brigham Dr. Robert SD Higgins affirms BWH's commitment to fight racism as it manifests itself in the four pillars of the BWH mission: care, research, education and, community.

These measures are a start. It may take some time to be able to evaluate the effectiveness of these changes. Acknowledging that these discrepancies exist is the first step. In the *NEJM* article, Ansell quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

CIVIC AGENDA

- **TUE, MAR 1: Brookline Avenue CAC meets to discuss the 2,000,000sf Fenway Corners proposal, 6pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/59nujxbt>**
- **WED, MAR 2: Public hearing on the request to license 16 concerts at Fenway Park this summer. 4pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/57p3z8vc>**
- **WED, MAR. 9: First of two public meetings on the Fenway Corners proposal, 6pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/a8apynch>**
- **TUE, MAR 29: Brookline Avenue CAC meets again to discuss Fenway Corners, 6pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p93jpwj>**
- **WED, MAR 30: Second public meeting on the Fenway Corners proposal, 6pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/4m3aryxp>**



We Return to Print in April!

The Omicron surge scuttled our plans to return to print in January, but we've set our sights on April and hope the pandemic will cooperate.

- **DISTRIBUTION** will change—we've streamlined the number of places to pick up the paper. Key distribution points will include the

Huntington Y and Whole Foods (East Fens); Star Market and the Fenway Community Center (West Fens); and the Parker Hill Library and Mike's Donuts in Mission Hill.

- **WEBSITE UPGRADES:** We'll be working to make our website more stable and user-friendly this year.

'FENWAY CORNERS' PROPOSAL DEBUTS

BY STEVE WOLF

A filing with the BPDA provides more detail about the massive proposal to redevelop more than 5 acres of land spread across 13 parcels around Fenway Park. Fenway Sports Group's real estate arm—with WS

RENDERING COURTESY OF THE BPDA



Development and Twins Enterprise—launched the review process with the filing of a Draft Project Impact Report on February 7. Now called "Fenway Corners," the mixed-use proposal would add a bit more than 2,000,000 square feet of space (in comparison, the Prudential Tower contains roughly 1,200,000sf of space).

Offices/labs would fill roughly 80 percent of the project, with the rest split between 215 units of housing (213,000sf) and 40 retail spaces (170,000sf). The

filing also promises a range of public-realms improvements, including a 100-child daycare facility; 4 acres of "new/improved public open space" (which includes fully rebuilding parts of Brookline Avenue and Jersey and Van Ness streets); conversion of Jersey outside the ballpark into a pedestrian zone; extension of Richard Ross Way to Brookline Ave.; and new public features such as an amphitheater and upper-level "porch" on Jersey. The proponents also propose contributing \$1.5 million to local nonprofits and \$250,000 to an area-wide transportation study—which residents have asked the City to provide for years.

The BPDA will host two public meetings on the proposal on March 9 and March 30; visit <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/fenway-corners> to register for either meeting. The public-comment period closes April 1. At the same time, the agency is also considering creation of a planned development area (PDA) for the project, which would loosen some zoning restrictions. Comments on the PDA are also due on April 1.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

Northeastern Scrambles to Add Housing Capacity for 2022-23

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The theme of the evening at the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) meeting on Feb. 16, from both Northeastern officials and Community Task Force members: They find themselves between a rock and a hard place.

Northeastern filed a dormitory up-sizing plan in October. It is now in the "hurry up and approve" stage, as the school needs to figure out quickly how to squeeze additional furniture into the singles it plans to turn into doubles and the doubles it will make triples in its high-rise dorms—East Village and International Village. The plan officially begins in the fall semester, although current students have already submitted their housing applications (with deposits), so the impacts are already real.

And the squeeze is on. The university has no capacity for graduate students to be housed on campus during the 2022-23 academic year. And whether the upper-level students, who aren't required to live on campus, will have an on-campus

option next year is also in question. The presentation included a chart showing approximately 8 percent of 11,000 students living in university housing—or 1,210 students—are third-year or above.

Questions from the public clearly reflected a concern that more students will move off campus, either because they didn't win a room in the housing lottery or because the campus just feels too crowded. Students who spoke during the meeting vividly described tight living quarters in these dorms and long lines in the International Village dining hall.

More than 100 participants registered for the public meeting—students and their parents as well as neighbors from the Fenway, Roxbury, and Mission Hill. At the beginning of the meeting, City Councilor Kenzie Bok said that the institutional master-plan process is supposed to avoid surprises like this.

According to John Tobin of the Office of Community Engagement, Northeastern over-enrolled its 2021 freshmen class by

NORTHEASTERN on page 6 >

FCA’s Annual Meeting Shines a Spotlight on O’Reilly Memorial

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

The 60th annual meeting of the Fenway Civic Association (FCA) took place virtually on Feb. 7. There were over 100 attendees.

After the welcome and remarks by President Tim Horn and several elected officials, including Mayor Michelle Wu, FCA reviewed the highlights of 2021. These included sunset concerts, park maintenance, advocacy for the #55 bus and against the



The front of the memorial, at top, features a bust of O'Reilly; the back, in the lower photo, features an allegorical group of Erin, flanked by Patriotism and Poetry.

proposed DCR parking meters, a soil-improvement project, and involvement with Fenway Cares to address food insecurity.

The highlight of the meeting was a panel discussion featuring Brian O'Donovan of WGBH, Peter Drummey of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Patricia Gilrein of the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. The panel discussed the restoration of the 1896 John

Boyle O'Reilly statue in the Fenway.

The bronze-and-granite statue was created by famed sculptor Daniel Chester French in 1896, not long after O'Reilly's death in 1890. The statue stands where Boylston Street meets the Fenway, above the Mother's Rest. The front, facing Boylston Street, depicts O'Reilly in bronze. The rear, facing Mother's Rest, presents an allegorical group of figures: Erin (Ireland) seated between her sons Patriotism and Poetry. An inscription on one side of the monument reads: "John Boyle O'Reilly, 1844-1890, Poet, Patriot, Orator." Gilrein noted that Boston has 11 other sculptures by French, one of America's most celebrated sculptors from roughly 1890 to 1930. His other works include the Minute Man statue at Concord; the statue of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington; and the colossal central statue of the 1892 Chicago World's Fair.

O'Reilly was a writer, editor, orator, and civil rights activist, and Drummey explained his a colorful history. Born in County Meath, Ireland, he immigrated to Lancashire, England, at age 15 and enlisted in the English army but became horrified at their treatment of the Irish. He left, returned to Ireland, and joined the Irish Republican brotherhood. At age 26, British authorities arrested and declared him a "revolutionary" and traitor. He was sent to the British colony in West Australia for "penal servitude."

With the help of some New Bedford whalers O'Reilly escaped from prison and arrived in the United States in 1869. He later returned to Australia to set free other Irish prisoners, again with the help of whalers from New Bedford. (Drummey noted that the O'Reilly monument is a popular tourist attraction for visitors from Australia). Trained as a printer, he began working as a reporter for *The Pilot*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, eventually becoming its editor.

O'Reilly was also an abolitionist and devoted to the cause of civil rights, including writing against anti-Semitism. He became famous as a poet and collector of Irish poetry and songs. He also was one of the founders of the Boston Athletic Association. His death at age 46 from an overdose of sleeping medication was shocking; friends and admirers raised \$22,000 for a memorial. His memorial service took place at the Tremont Temple where the emancipation proclamation had been celebrated. The memorial committee selected French without a competition. French knew Frederick Law Olmsted from his work on the Chicago World's Fair and worked with him to find a location for the statue.

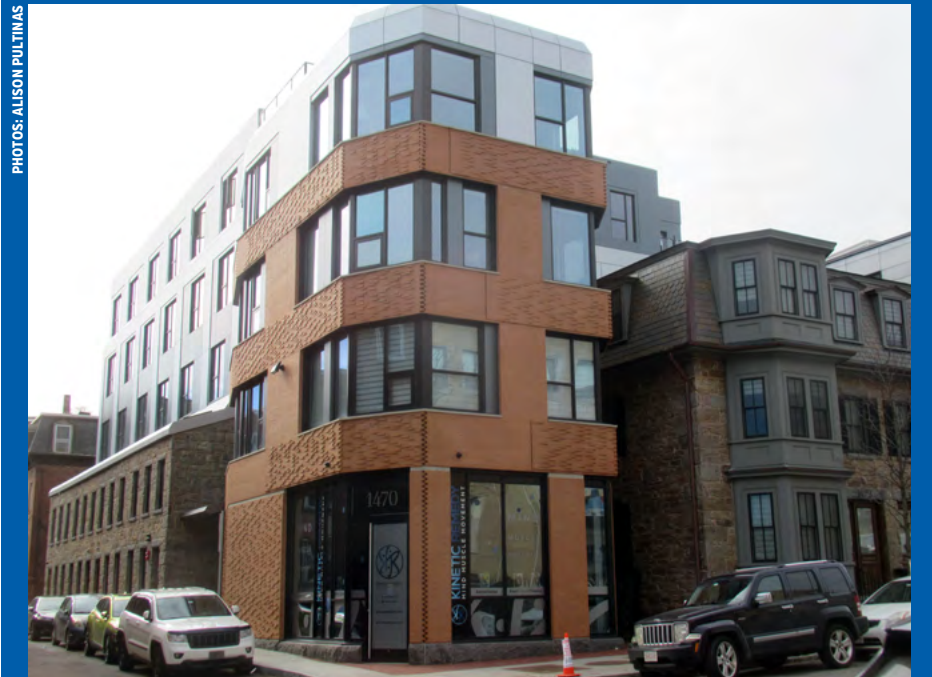
Gilrein said that the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture will supplement FCA's efforts to restore the monument. \$36,000 from the Fenway Park Demonstration fund has already been allocated to repair and conserve the monument. Readers may remember that FCA played a big part in returning a statue of Scottish poet Robert Burns to its original site in the Fens in October 2019. The Burns statue was created in 1920 and originally situated near O'Reilly to celebrate both Scottish and Irish heritage. The rededication of the Burns memorial included a formal celebration at the site. Tim Horn hopes that we can do the same for the O'Reilly memorial.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.



An ad hoc Parker Hill Library Gratitude Committee surprised library staff on February 14 with a plaque, gifts from local businesses and institutions—courtesy of Mission Hill Main Streets—and many, many cards and notes. Library staffers (from left) Thea Ploetz, Karen Gallagher, and LaNeisha Bowles hold Lydia Pena's creatively decorated Valentine's box from Mission Grammar students and residents.

Mission Hill Real Estate Heats Up



Longwood Row at 1470-1474 Tremont St.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Mission Hill real estate transactions over the past six months have seen no shortage of so-called "luxury apartments" listed. Some notable examples appear here, listed in descending order of sale size. Data collected from Banker & Tradesman, Suffolk Registry of Deeds and the mass.gov corporate database.

- Zee Longwood Row LLC (Benjamin J. Bavly) bought Longwood Row (photo at top)—33 apartments at 1470-1474 Tremont St. and 1-5 Sewall St. from 1470 Tremont LLC (Jason Savage) on Jan. 26 for \$22,520,000.
- Egavas Properties (Jason Savage) bought 24 apartments at 11 and



11 Parker Hill Ave.

- 11a Parker Hill Ave. on Jan. 27 for \$8,000,000.
- Ormond Realty (Joseph LaRosa) sold four apartments at 14-14a Iroquois St. to Jianmin Wu on Nov. 19 for \$3,700,000.
- Jason Savage sold the mixed-use development at 1435-1437 Tremont St. to John Liebman on Nov. 30 for \$3,220,000.
- Daniel Rhault bought the three-family at 1609 Tremont St. on Jan. 14 for \$2,550,000.
- Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Holdings bought the four-family at 26-28 St. Albans Rd. on Dec. 10. 26



26-28 St. Albans Rd.

- sold for \$2,477,000 and 28 sold for \$2,273,000.
 - DunHanPark GMC (Seth Priebatsch) bought the three-family at 737 Parker Ave. on Dec. 20 for \$2,413,000.
 - James Howe sold the three-family at 130 Fisher Ave. to Mario Ricciardelli on Jan. 19 for \$2,050,000. The property had been the Howe homestead since 1958.
 - 15 Sachem LLC (Mark Lepler) bought the three-family at 15 Sachem St for \$1,770,000. It was formerly the Beland family residence.
 - The Back of the Hill CDC bought the three-family at 121 Fisher Ave. for \$1,050,000 for development into affordable condominiums.
 - Chiping and Shaohua Wu bought the single-family at 3 Worthington St. on Dec. 14 for \$1,100,000. It had been the O'Brien family homestead since 1926.
 - Lolastar LLC (Fred Starikov, Steve Whalen, and Alan Sharaf) bought 1439 Tremont St.—a former tire repair garage—Dec. 20 for \$835,000.
 - James Farrow sold the single-family at 49 Delle Ave. to Joseph Oosterhout on Oct. 6 for \$800,000.
- Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



IN NASTY WEATHER, BIRDS SHIVER TOGETHER

While ducks atop ice on the shore of the Muddy River last month, a heron perched on a boom—to keep its feet warmer?—being used in restoration work being carried out by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth (Betty) Commerford, 1939–2022

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Generous, fierce, compassionate, smart, and loyal, one of Mission Hill’s legendary women warriors, Elizabeth (Betty) Commerford died on Jan. 19 in her Rindge, New Hampshire, cottage. She had cautiously retreated there when the pandemic began, though she remained involved in Mission Hill, including attending virtual meetings with Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services and conference calls with Mission Hill Health Movement. Betty’s activism never stopped—a list of just the groups that she personally led would span more than five decades.

In 1974, the year she bought 30 Delle Ave., Betty chaired the steering committee to create a new community organization, the Mission Hill Planning Commission. In its first election, 400 residents voted. A *Boston Globe* story from April 4, 1974, quotes Betty as saying, “we want to stay a neighborhood...we’re being threatened by absentee landlords, institutional expansion and we’re suffering the decline of city services.”

As an advocate, she protested and she negotiated. In 1980, she was the co-coordinator of the NO MATEP Coalition (Neighborhood Organizations Mobilized Against Total Energy Plant). In 1981, when serving as a board member at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, she was the sole opponent to the proposal for leasing lab space to a commercial firm for

recombinant DNA work. Not that she opposed research — Betty wanted more than voluntary safety guidelines and asked for more transparency related to the profits.

Elena Dodd, a former Delle Avenue neighbor, said, “I knew her as a treasured neighbor, family friend, and informal mentor, always challenging us to become our best and most generous selves, with humor and compassion. Her commitment to the Mission Hill Health Movement is an enduring legacy...I guess she’s organizing the angels someplace in heaven!”

After finishing a graduate degree at Simmons College, Betty worked as a



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE/THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

psychiatric social worker at the Fenwood Road Massachusetts Mental Health Center. She coached girls’ softball in Mission Hill, but after her own injury in a volleyball game, her sporting life turned fully spectator—the Red Sox, Celtics, the Fenway High School girls’ basketball championship teams, and, of course, the Patriots.

After the accident in 1987, chronic vestibular (inner ear and brain balance) symptoms ended her social-work career, although Betty’s civic engagement seemed to expand even further, with renewed emphasis on health and wellness.

She chaired the National Vestibular

Disorders Association board of directors and helped revive the Boston Self Help Center. With her good friend Jim Farrow, she brought power soccer (wheelchair games) to the Tobin Community Center. In 2007, Betty received an unrestricted three-year grant recognizing her achievements from the Philanthropic Initiative, now a program of The Boston Foundation.

Fenway resident Helen Cox, who worked in Mission Hill for ten years, called Betty a tireless advocate for her community and for the people who lived there. “Nothing of significance happened in Mission Hill that Betty did not know about or have a hand in. Betty was the consummate community activist.”

Mission Hill Health Movement board member Rod Kersey said, “All who came to know Betty are acutely aware that we have lost a community activist pioneer, a ‘Lioness of Mission Hill’ leader.”

On Facebook, her brother Bill Commerford announced plans for a celebration of her life once the weather warms up and COVID settles down. “We look forward to sharing that day with all those who loved her. Until then, we thank you all for your kind words and support as we learn to live without her.”

Donations in Betty’s memory can be shared with the Vestibular Disorders Association (VeDA), 5018 NE 15th Ave., Portland, OR, 97211.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

IN MEMORIAM

Almont H. Bracy, Jr., 1923–2022

BY GERRY COOPER

Almont H. Bracy, Jr. died peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 25 at the age of 98. He was the devoted father of Nicholas Bracy of Winthrop and Kenya Bracy of Lawrence and the loving grandfather of Autumn, Leila, and Kingston Bracy.

Almont was born in Cambridge, on Oct. 12, 1923, the son of Almont and Mabel (Cottman) Bracy. Raised in Cambridge and Oak Bluffs on Martha’s Vineyard, he spent most of his life collecting and selling used furniture, antiques, art and junk. He was most proud of the “junk” he picked up to sell at his shop while “scrounging” with me. If he set a fair price on something, and you tried to low-ball him, he would refuse to sell it to you, for any price at all, as a matter of principle.

After staying at home for several years to raise his young son, he began a second career as a custodian at the Eliot & Pickett House on Beacon Hill, where his

official title was Minister of Hospitality. Known in the Fenway as the Mayor of Kilmarnock Street, his shop was THE place to gather in the neighborhood, especially on warm summer evenings. You could hear Miles Davis and smell patchouli long before you heard the jingle of his keys, saw the flash of his silver bracelets or were greeted by the twinkle in his eye, his beautiful smile and that deep bass voice.



PHOTO: GERRY COOPER

A true Renaissance man, Almont was a collector, but never a hoarder; his rule was you had to let go of something you already had before you could bring in something new. He especially loved and was something of an expert on African art, antique rugs, and red wine. He could listen to 30 seconds (or less) of any jazz record from any decade and not only tell you its name,

but who played which instrument. In addition to his children and grandchildren, he leaves his beloved girls whom he helped raise and who called him “Daddy Al”: Jackie, Sharon and Cynthia (the baby!); his life partner and former wife Terri Powell Bracy; his daughter-in-law Samantha Murray; and a large extended family of nephews, nieces (great and grand), and too many good friends to name for fear of leaving someone out.

Almont was predeceased by his parents Almont and Mabel, his siblings, Stella, Gladys, and Billy, his son Richard, and many good friends.

The Bracy family would like to thank the nurses and aides at Katzman Family Center for Living for the exceptional care he received during these last few years of his life.

A celebration of life will be held in the Victory Gardens at a date and time to be announced this summer.

Former proprietor of King of Records, Gerry Cooper lives in the West Fens

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FENSVIEWS

Conegate: Public Agencies Wouldn’t Help...Until They Did

BEN HICKS

As I was passing under the Mass. Ave. bridge on the Esplanade, something orange caught my eye. I noticed a traffic cone — no, dozens of cones — strewn across the ice of the Charles. At first, I wasn’t sure what to make of it. Was this some bizarre traffic marking to let boats know that the river is frozen? That should be pretty self-evident, I thought. It only

took one Google search for me to figure out that the Massachusetts

Department of Transportation (MassDOT) was running a pilot program for separated bike lanes on the bridge. Apparently, someone who didn’t want to share the road decided to throw the cones off the side of the bridge and onto the ice.

I hate trying to share the road with bikers just as much as the next guy, but what concerned me was the massive deposit of plastic that would go directly into the Charles, and then into the ocean, if the ice melted and cones fell through. A standard 36-inch traffic cone weighs 10-15 pounds, depending on the model. Multiply that by 100-plus cones, and you could have a heaping 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of plastic deposited into the river.

Over the next week, I started to reach out to various organizations that might be able to help remove the cones before the ice melted. One of the first organizations I contacted was the Muddy Water Initiative, a fantastic local nonprofit dedicated to keeping Boston’s waterways clean. *[The Initiative has organized the “water goat” installations on the Muddy River.—ed.]* They hadn’t yet heard about the cones, but were glad to be informed and said they’d reach out to their government contacts to see if there was a plan in place. It became clear that the government agencies were aware but couldn’t provide any concrete road map of how they would retrieve these cones.

After multiple dead-ends, we thought it was time to get creative. I reached out to a local fishing company, Red’s Best, to see if we could drape some of their large fishing nets over the side of the bridge to drag the cones along the ice to shore. To my surprise, the CEO emailed me back the same day. He volunteered to reach out to his fishing contacts about the nets, and even offered to help subsidize a scallop diver to go down and collect sunken cones come

spring if that become necessary. I also reached out to a Boston rock climbing gym, Central Rock, to see if we could get some skilled climbers to belay down from the bridge and get the cones from above. Two kind climbers, both lead belay certified, said they were confident they could safely accomplish the task. With these two ideas in the works, we now just needed to get MassDOT sign off to avoid any potential legal issues.

Caroline Reeves, one of the leaders at the Muddy Water Initiative, made some calls and all of the responses were clear: MassDOT had zero intention of letting any volunteer try to get those cones. It was just too risky a proposition for them (I later learned that a braver man had walked out on to the ice to pick up the cones himself, but was eventually stopped by a state trooper

(link to article). Caroline and I turned to other government bodies including the Boston Fire Department and the Boston Park Rangers. We even called the specific MassDOT engineer who was tasked with finding a solution to “Conegate.”

We did find out that the rangers owned an ice boat, but from the sounds of Caroline’s conversations, there was a very low chance that they would use it for something like this. With what felt like all options exhausted, and a 65-degree day on the horizon, hope was starting to melt away. That was, until we were informed that the state had hired divers to go out on the ice and pick up the cones — just one day before the ice was expected to melt.

Since the ice never broke, the sight of four flipped men waddling back and forth with arms full of traffic cones was somewhat comedic. I couldn’t help but picture some strange, flightless bird collecting items for its nest. Whether MassDOT was planning this all along, or if our persistent badgering helped, is not clear.

Though I put a lot of time and energy into this, and we never got to directly contribute to collecting those cones, the whole process did give me a sense of hope. It showed me that most people would rather help pick up cones than throw them off a bridge. The nefarious actions of a single (likely heavily intoxicated) person can take weeks of work to undo, but is weighed by the many more people who were willing to give their time to fix whatever was broken.

Ben Hicks lives in Kenmore Square.

PHOTO: CAROLINE REEVES



LETTERS

Another Local Connection to the ‘Murder of the Century’

TO THE EDITOR

I enjoyed reading Ed Ballo’s story about Harvard Medical School in the February 2022 edition of the paper and would like to provide just a few additions to the story.

A book on the Parkman murder by author Paul Collins, entitled *Blood & Ivy—The 1849 Murder That Scandalized Harvard*, was published in 2018 and provides a comprehensive narrative of the case. As Ballo states, the trial of John Webster was the first to feature the use of forensic evidence. At Harvard’s Countway Library of Medicine on

Huntington Avenue one can view a wax model of the jaw (superior and inferior maxillae) of Dr. George Parkman, key evidence in convicting John Webster of the murder.

SINCERELY,
LAUREN DEWEY PLATT, PHD
FORMER LECTURER, HARVARD MEDICAL
SCHOOL & WEST FENS RESIDENT

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Call it the Great Oprah Waffle War. Chef/owner Shane Matlock of Attleboro’s Burgundian restaurant has sued Eastern Standard Provisions, a spin-off of Kenmore Square’s old Eastern Standard Restaurant. And when ICYMI says “Eastern Standard,” that of course means Garrett Harker, a successful restaurateur with an uncanny skill for getting involved in dramatic...um, food fights. (He and Eastern Standard’s former landlord carried on a very public dispute over the restaurant’s lease, also in the pages of the *Globe*, before the restaurant closed last year.) Matlock claims he developed the recipe for a waffle mix that wound up on Oprah’s Favorite Things list—which typically means a huge sales boost—with no credit to him or his restaurant. Harker disputes this account, insisting Provisions worked with a different supplier to develop the mix. ➡ **A series of *Globe* profiles for Black History Month spotlighted several Bostonians with ties to the Fenway, Lower Roxbury, and Mission Hill. Profiles included influential arts educator Elma Lewis,**

whose Roxbury school trained more than 6,000 Black students in the performing arts; activist and pillar of the Roxbury community Melnea Cass (namesake for the boulevard); and Walter Walcott, founder of Wally’s Jazz Club on Mass Ave, one of the only spaces in 1940s and 50s Boston where black and white patrons mingled easily. Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker, among other marquee artists, performed at Wally’s ➡ The Huntington Theatre has signed Loretta Grieco as its new artistic director. She comes from San Francisco’s Magic Theatre, where she built a reputation as an advocate for playwrights, particularly of color. The *Globe* reports that she’ll start immediately as an advisor before officially joining the staff on July 1. That timing lines up smartly with the reopening of the Huntington’s main stage in September, after a multiyear rehabilitation. ➡ **The MFA will show the official—and unconventional—portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama this fall. The portraits, owned by the National Portrait Gallery, kicked off a five-city tour last June. Like Huntington’s Loretta Grieco, they’ll arrive here from San Francisco. The show will open to the public on Sept. 3.** ➡

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 <

Our next issue will appear on Friday, April 1.

> DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is Friday, March 25.

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Neighborhood Newsline

Wentworth Expects BPDA Approval of New Athletic Complex

On March 10, the Boston Planning & Development Agency board is expected to approve Wentworth Institute of Technology’s long-discussed plan to convert its large parking lot on Parker Street in Mission Hill into a new athletic complex. The complex would replace the Sweeney Field facility at 500 Huntington Ave. The school filed a notice for a project change because so much time had passed since the project initially won approval in 2015. The project was originally tied to plans for Sweeney Field, potentially a ground lease for a major private development akin to Emmanuel College’s “Endowment Campus” partnership with Merck. Those plans did not come to fruition. However, Wentworth’s Dave Wahlstrom said at the Feb. 9 Task Force meeting, “a deal to redevelop 500 Huntington is being actively negotiated.”

The Parker Street project still includes 330 parking spaces, with a turf field built on a podium above them. The plan also promises exterior rehabilitation of the remaining intact buildings from the former Vienna Brewery Complex, landmarked by the city in 1998. At a public meeting about the project, attendees asked about possible ways to activate those buildings. City Councilor Kenzie Bok suggested installing exterior informational displays related to the history of breweries and the Stony Brook.

Construction is expected to start this summer and last approximately 13 months.

MissionSAFE Wins Major Job-Training Grant

The youth development program MissionSAFE, co-founded and run by East Fens resident Nikki Flionis, has won a major state grant to fund an intensive job-training program with “wraparound” services for 24 formerly incarcerated or gang-involved young people. The \$500,000 grant ranked among the largest of 62 awarded statewide by the new Community Empowerment & Reinvestment Program. The program operates under the state’s Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

MissionSAFE has a long record of working with young people from the Fenway, Mission Hill, and Roxbury through paid internships, leadership training, and arts programming. In spring 2021, it expanded by adding the staff and programming of the Dorchester Youth Collaborative to its programs. Dorchester Youth Collaborative—now called Safe City Dorchester at MissionSAFE—conducts programming from its main site in Fields Corner.

Flionis says the merger and the grant will help the group expand its reach by increasing the organization’s “infrastructure to successfully work with and empower more youth and families through the long term and to retain productive and talented staff who understand the issues our youth and communities face.”

Zoning Board Kills Proposed Cannabis Shop in Mission Hill

At a Feb. 8 hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously shot down the location for a second retail marijuana shop for Mission Hill, despite positive support from neighborhood organizations and the Boston Cannabis Board. City Councilor Julia Mejia, Tobin Community Center board chair John Fitzgerald, and local developer Adam Sarbaugh all spoke against equity applicant Jody Mendoza’s Team Green’s plan for 1441 Tremont St. Their primary concern seemed to be the proximity of the community center, two blocks away. The Tobin, in Fitzgerald’s words, is “the epicenter of a lot of programming for youth from across the city.” A lack of parking and the potential for customers to crowd the sidewalk were also mentioned.

River Basin Cleanup Returns April 22–23

One of the country’s largest volunteer cleanups, in the Charles River basin, returns after a pandemic hiatus. Although it hasn’t released details, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will have five meet-up sites for volunteers on Sat., April 23: The Grove in Charlesgate Park; Shattuck Visitors’ Center in the Fens; the Short Street Stairs in Riverway Park; the Jamaica Pond Parking Lot for Olmsted Park; and the Curley House for Jamaica Pond Park—as well as two spots in Franklin Park. To receive notifications, visit emeraldnecklaceconservancy.org or email volunteer@emeraldnecklace.org. The Esplanade Association will also organize pickups in five zones along the Esplanade (https://esplanade.org/volunteer) on April 23.

Lower-Income Residents Can Get Free Tax Help

The Boston Tax Help Coalition offers free tax preparation for residents who earn \$60,000 per year or less, and the assistance is available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese. Easily accessible locations include the Copley Square Library at 700 Boylston St. (Wednesdays, 3:30–7:30pm); ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway NSC at 714 Parker St. (Mondays through Fridays, 9:30am–5pm); and Urban Edge Housing at 1542 Columbus Avenue (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4–8pm and Saturdays, 9am–1pm). Visit https://www.bostontaxhelp.org/ for more information.

Red Sox Scholarship Application Opens

The Red Sox Foundation annually selects 12 Boston students in 7th grade to receive \$10,000 college scholarships. To apply, students must be enrolled as a full-time 7th-grade student in the Boston Public School District or at a Boston public charter school, demonstrate strong academic potential, and demonstrate financial need. Download the application at www.redsoxfoundation.org/redsoxscholars.

Don’t Throw Out Those Old Clothes—Recycle Them!

The City of Boston has begun offering weekend curbside collection of household textiles at no cost. The Boston Public Works Department has created a partnership with textile-recycler Helpsy, which will coordinate pick-ups across the city. To schedule a pick-up, complete an online request form at boston.gov/textiles. Once a date is scheduled and confirmed, leave your household textiles on the curb by 7am on the scheduled pick-up day. Textiles should be clean, dry, and bagged to allow for a quick pick-up by Helpsy drivers. Acceptable items include dresses, shirts, pants, suits, coats, towels, bedding, costumes, curtains, placements, tablecloths and throw rugs. Items the program won’t accept include breakable housewares or glass items, electronics, furniture, construction material, scrap metal, appliances, mattresses, books or magazines. Following collection and sorting, 95 percent of the textiles will be reused, upcycled, or recycled.

Northeastern Seeks to Fund Community-Serving Programs

Do you know a local resident-led initiative in need of financial assistance? Northeastern’s Office of City and Community Engagement will open nominations for the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Award later this month. Initiatives must be led by and primarily serve residents in the Fenway, Mission Hill, Roxbury, or the South End. Contact Alanna Fusco at a.fusco@northeastern.edu for more information.

NU Student Wins Bronze (and \$50K) on Jeopardy!

Liz Feltner, a senior at Northeastern, came in third and won \$50,000 at the National College Jeopardy Championship, which was broadcast February 22.

Please join the FENWAY CDC for our 49th ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL

7

6:00pm-7:15pm
Virtual event
Register at https://tinyurl.com/FCDC49
Or scan this code...



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Ellen LaPointe, CEO of Fenway Health

TOPIC
“We’re all in this together”

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS
Fenway Cares • Kris Anderson
City Councilor Kenzie Bok

FREE!
But registration is required at
https://tinyurl.com/FCDC49 or via QR code.
First 100 RSVPs get a special treat!



Questions? Contact Hang Le at hle@fenwaycdc.org
WWW.FENWAYCDC.ORG



Virtual Public Meeting

Fenway Corners Project

Wednesday, March 30
6:00 PM
Zoom Link: bit.ly/FenwayCornersMar30
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 160 5730

Project Description:
BPDA-hosted Article 80 Public Meeting in connection with the Draft Project Impact Report (“DPIR”) submission for the newly renamed Fenway Corners project, which was filed with the BPDA by WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture LLC (the “Proponent”) on Monday, Feb. 7th, 2022. Please register in advance for this meeting through the link provided above. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Chinese interpretation will be provided for this meeting. Should you require interpretation in a language other than Chinese, please contact Aisling Kerr through the contact information available below.

mail to: Aisling Kerr
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4212
email: aisling.kerr@boston.gov

She Doesn’t Call It Home Care—It’s ‘Whole Person’ Care

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

Last Fens Resident Vivian Kargbo has been providing private homecare since 2012. Kargbo has been a certified nursing assistant for 15 years and works with individuals and families as they deal with aging and illness. She has never had to advertise her work, as people ask for her services through word of mouth. This interview with Kargbo has been edited.

MARY ANN BROGAN: HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS KIND OF WORK?

VK: I think because I grew up as an orphan, I always had a compassion to give care to others. I was in 21 foster homes and was hospitalized several times. I wanted to become a nurse and started nursing school. I had a daughter, Ava, during that time and as a single mother, I could not afford to continue with school. Initially, I worked through agencies, and as I worked, I began to develop strong bonds and relationships with clients and families. As Ava grew, her needs

grew, and I needed more flexibility with my schedule. I decided to go out on my own and get a business certificate through the Better Business Bureau.

MAB: WHERE DOES YOUR WORK TAKE YOU?

VK: At first I worked mostly in the suburbs, but now I care for people in the city as well. As a resident and member of the Fensgate Cooperative on Hemenway Street, I have cared for several neighbors in The Fensgate.

Based on the needs of my clients, I may start with once-a-week visits and as their needs increase, I visit more until they need full care. I see them from the start of care to end of life. I also do home management. Clients learn to trust me. I am family to them, and they become family to me. If I needed to stay overnight with a client, my daughter used to accompany me. I am blessed that they accepted her too. I have access to security codes, bank PIN numbers. I collect mail, I track packages. It’s a big responsibility and I take it seriously.



MAB: WHAT’S THE LONGEST TIME THAT YOU’VE WORKED WITH ONE CLIENT?

VK: The longest client I have had is current, and it’s been over 10 years. The average time with clients would be three to five years. Having this kind of care helps with quality of life. I am like an extra pair of eyes and ears for

families who may not be nearby. I am sensitive to what a person needs now and what he or she might need for the future.

For instance, I had one client who died at 94 years. He had lived in the South End for 76 years and had purchased several buildings. I started working with him when he was 92 years old. The only family he had was a cousin in Texas.

I had to manage his tenants for him. I had to manage the sale of the building he was living in and then purchase another apartment he could live in until his death. My daughter and I stayed with him in his apartment during COVID. We stayed with him 24/7 and only came home to water the plants. Ava and I stayed with him for about six months. I slept on the couch and she slept on an air mattress.

This last experience inspired me to get my real estate license. I specialize in elderly housing needs and I currently work with Keller Williams.

MAB: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE?

VK: These families are like the family I never had. I have learned about Jewish and Greek traditions. I even learned a little of the Greek language. These experiences have been a growing experience for Ava as well.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens. You can reach Vivian at Viviansuhs@gmail.com or 617-669-9886.

WITH COMMISSION’S O.K., CHARLESGATE WALLS WILL COME TUMBLING DOWN

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



The Comm. Ave. wall, at top, and the Beacon Street wall below it.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Last month Boston’s Conservation Commission approved the first phase of renovations proposed by the Charlesgate Alliance for the parkland underneath the Bowker Overpass between Charlesgate East and West.

Under its mandate to protect the riverfront and inland banks of the Muddy River, the Commission reviewed the removal of two free-standing walls beneath the overpass. Commission members discussed the renovations at public meetings on Jan. 19 and Feb. 2, then officially approved the plan on Feb. 16.

Representatives of the Muddy River Maintenance and Management Committee, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and the Charlesgate Alliance testified in support of the proposal. The walls were part of a 1963 design by landscape architect Ben Gary, according to Alliance co-founder Parker James, but their function was apparently just aesthetic.

Conservation Commission staff and commissioners asked about erosion controls and contractor supervision. Hand digging of the thin granite pavers stabilizing the riverbanks near the walls will be necessary. The discussion also addressed concerns about the drainage system from the overpass. The plan lays out steps for quickly replacing drain outlets with similar pipes on the adjacent bridge columns before the walls are removed.

As noted in the hearings, this maintains the existing system controlling how runoff from the Bowker drains into the river. Caroline Reeves of the Muddy Water Initiative asked why the work couldn’t create a pilot stormwater-remediation project. The Department of Conservation & Recreation’s Jason Santos responded that the preference was to limit the scope of this phase so they can quickly move on to Phase 2. Commissioner John Sullivan asked what the project would accomplish. Santos answered that it would improve sight lines and prepare the area for construction of the new park.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

COMMUNITY meetings

TUE, MARCH 1: BROOKLINE AVENUE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING to review the Fenway Corners plan. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/59nujxbt>. Contact Aisling Kerr at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4212 with questions. 6pm.

TUE, MARCH 1: The Common Start Coalition hosts a roundtable on the **COMMON START BILL**, which would establish a system of affordable, high-quality early-education and child care for all Massachusetts families. 6:30pm. RSVP at bit.ly/cspublichealth

WED, MARCH 9: FENWAY CORNERS VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/a8apynch>. Contact Aisling Kerr at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4212 with any questions. 6pm.

THU, MARCH 10: FENWAY CDC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING, 6pm on Zoom. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8mmaw7>

MON, MARCH 14: Join the City for an online conversation to learn about Boston’s first-ever **URBAN FOREST PLAN** and provide feedback on draft goals. 5:30pm. Register at <https://www.boston.gov/calendar/urban-forest-plan-virtual-open-house>.

SAT, MARCH 12: The **WARD 10 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE** caucuses to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention. Express your non-binding interest through the form at <https://forms.gle/AmaY7ravxoo6rfw8A>. 9am.

TUE, MARCH 29: BROOKLINE AVENUE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING to review the Fenway Corners plan. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p93jpwj>. Contact Ais-

ling Kerr at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4212 with any questions. 6pm.

Wed, March 30 The BPDA hosts a **FENWAY CORNERS VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING**. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4m3aryxp>. Contact Aisling Kerr at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4212 with any questions. 6pm.



CLOSING IN ON A FALL OPENING

The new Boston Arts Academy building is taking its final shape on Ipswich Street. continues. The mural at left spans three stories above the entry. Work on the \$125 million building is expected to be finished in time for a fall opening. During construction, Boston Arts Academy has operated out of a BPS building in Dorchester.

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

FENWAY CDC IS HIRING!

> Fenway Community Development Corporation seeks a team-oriented, motivated Senior

Services Coordinator to manage and deliver programs supporting residents of Fenway CDC’s housing portfolio. The Senior RSC will connect residents to local services and resources and support resident community building.

> For the full job description and information on applying, please visit tinyurl.com/FCDCcareers.



Fenway Community Development Corporation
Improving Lives and Building Community

MISSION HILL/FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

We invite proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Please visit www.missionhillfenwaynt.org to access the on-line application.



Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust

DEADLINE: Submit your proposal no later than 5pm on April 30, 2022. Please email hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org with any questions.

> **NORTHEASTERN** from page 1 1,000, mostly because of uncertainties due to COVID. Whether students from the school's special programs, NUin and NUBound, are counted in the totals for new freshmen was unclear, as those students typically spend a semester off campus in their first year.

Currently, first-year students can all be accommodated in university housing because of the 1,774 beds rented in local hotels. But in the fall, the university plans

to add 900 beds in two dorms described as semi-private suite-style residences.

Viktorija Abolina from Northeastern's planning office stated that for the foreseeable future, the freshmen class will not exceed 3,500. Later in the meeting, Vice President for Campus Planning Kathy Spiegelman stated that next year's plan is to enroll only 2,500 first-year students to compensate for last year's bulge. The institutional master plan amendment hasn't been updated yet to reflect these

commitments. Presumably, before the expected vote from the BPDA board on March 10, BPDA project manager Edward Carmody will provide confirmations in writing.

Northeastern has begun its next 10-year institutional master plan and has started conversations with local community development corporations related to affordable homeownership. Whether this involves grants, loans, or actual property will presumably be

shared in the master plan review process. On Feb. 16, some residents spoke of concerns about closed-door discussions. In 2021, the university held its own internal strategic planning process (strategicplan.northeastern.edu). At the February meeting, Tobin announced that Northeastern planner Cory Berg will lead the public process for the 2023-to-2033 master plan; a focus on community partnerships is expected to be a priority.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

The Arts

BLIZZARD ON JANUARY 29 LEFT ITS MARK

PHOTO: JANE TAUB



PHOTO: ELAINE KING



A blizzard on Jan. 29 dropped 23 inches snow on Boston, setting a 24-hour record for accumulation. East Fens resident Jane Taub captured the intensity of the storm in a photo of the Christian Science Church. Elaine King found a snowy scene outside of Thornton's in the West Fens. Send your photos to FenwayNews@gmail.com.

Relaunch Stays Under Wraps

EATS BEAT



Tiger Mama, the Southeast Asian restaurant from Tiffani Faison's Big Heart Hospitality, closed last October but will reopen with a new (and so far, secret) concept later this year. Faison may have other things on her mind—like the possibility of being named best chef in the Northeast by the James Beard Foundation. Nominations for the award came out in late February, with Faison named for her work at Orfano in the West Fens.

IT'S BOOK NUMBER FIVE FOR CONTRIBUTOR ALISON BARNET

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

South End resident and regular Fenway News contributor Alison Barnet has published her fifth book. *South End Incident: A True Story* recounts Barnet's experiences in the South End in the 1960s. She began keeping a journal when she moved to the neighborhood in 1964. The book is full of humorous incidents and eccentric characters.

Barnet's other books also take a look at the South End. *Extravaganza King* focused on her great-grandfather, a playwright and actor, and *South End Character* focused on the neighborhood's residents. Similarly, *Speaking Out on Neighborhood Change* and *Once Upon a Neighborhood* both look at issues and people in the South End. Barnet is working on a sixth book, *Shopping Carts on Brick Sidewalks*.

South End Incident is available for \$25 at Gifted, located at 2 Dartmouth St. in the South End or Frugal Books at 57 Warren St. in Roxbury.



PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS

SENIOR EVENTS

All Peterborough Senior Center programs require masks. No eating or drinking can take place at the Senior Center or the Fenway Community Center. The Senior Center will provide coffee and breakfast to go at each Coffee & Conversation event. To attend these events, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- Tue, March 8 and March 22 at 12pm: BINGO AT the senior center.
- Tue, March 15 at 12pm: CURIOSITY KIT DISCUSSION at the senior center.
- Wed, March 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 1pm:

TECH CAFE AT THE SENIOR CENTER with Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly

- Thu, March 3 at 11:30am: TRIVIA HOUR at the Fenway Community Center.
- Thu, March 17 at 11:30am: NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT at the Fenway Community Center.
- Thu, March 24 at 11:30am: MBTA TRAVEL PLANNER PRESENTATION at the Fenway Community Center
- Thu, March 31 at 11:30am: VISIT WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHYNAH TYLER.

Neighborhood Artsline

MFA Show Captures America in Transition—Through Postcards

Featuring more than 300 works drawn from the Leonard A. Lauder Postcard Archive, *Real Photo Postcards: Pictures from a Changing Nation* offers an in-depth look at the early-20th-century medium that enabled photographers to capture everyday life in U.S. towns. The photographs open a window on a country undergoing rapid industrialization, mass immigration, technological change, and social and economic uncertainty. The exhibition opens March 12 and will run through July 25.

Local Arts/Culture Groups Share in City Grants

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced 192 grants awarded to arts and cultural groups under Boston Cultural Council/Reopen Creative Boston funding for 2022. The City awarded a total of \$3,422,000 to support general operations and COVID-19 relief. In the Fenway and Mission Hill, grant recipients include [bitsandflow], Celebrity Series of Boston, Handel + Haydn Society, Huntington Theatre Company, Kaji Aso Studio, the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, and The Fenway Alliance.

March

CALENDAR

COVID PRECAUTIONS KEY

- V** Proof of vaccination or negative PCR text within 72 hours
- M** Masking required
- R** Reduced seating capacity
- Z** Remote viewing

Now ➔ Sat, 3/26 **V M**

The Huntington Theatre presents a stage version of Toni Morrison's beloved novel **THE BLUEST EYE**. Adapted by acclaimed playwright Lydia R. Diamond and performed in the round at the Calderwood Pavilion in the South End while Huntington's main stage remains sidelined for renovation. Tickets \$20-125 and come with "digital insurance," meaning you can convert your ticket to access to a special streaming performance. Tue-Thu 7:30pm; Fri-Sat 8pm; Sat-Sun 2pm. Learn more and buy tickets at www.huntingtontheatre.org.

Now ➔ Sun, 5/8 **M**

Zanele Muholi,—an artist from South Africa who was in residence at the Gardner Museum in 2019—returns to the museum with a show that mixes art and political messaging about race and power. **ZANELE MUHOLI: PORTRAITS AS RESISTANCE** shows the artist's accomplished photography but also introduces their (the artist's preferred pronoun) paintings and sculpture. Wes–Sun, 11am-5pm; Thu, 11am-9pm. Timed tickets at half-hour intervals. \$13–20. More information at www.gardnarmuseum.org.

Sun 2/27 **V M**

BOSTON YOUTH PHILHARMONIC WITH BENJAMIN ZANDER. The afternoon program features Ravel's *La Valse*, Elgar's *Cello Concerto*, and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*. 22-year-old Zlatomir Fung, gold medalist at the last Tchaikovsky Cello Competition, solos in the Elgar concerto. Tickets \$20-60. 3pm, Symphony Hall. Visit www.bostonphil.org for details and tickets.

Tue 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22 & 3/29 **Z**

- Park Winter Fitness Series. The Boston Parks Department offers virtual classes led by certified fitness instructors. On Tuesdays, join Janiqua for **AFRO BEATS**

DANCE at 6:30pm. Visit www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/boston-parks-fitness-series to register.

- **HEALTHY HABITS: YOGA AND MINDFULNESS CLASS** Hosted by the Fenway CDC. 6pm. Contact Anar Kansara at akansara@fenwaycdc.org or 617-267-4637 x 23 for the Zoom link.

Thu 3/3 **Z**

The African American History Seminar hosts **LET ME BE SOMEBODY**, a conversation at the Massachusetts Historical Society examining an article on efforts to quarantine people with AIDS during the mid-1980s. The campaign started after a PBS documentary about Fabian Bridges, a Black gay man, aired in 1986. Bridges lost his job and home after an AIDS diagnosis. As Bridges grew desperate, PBS producers offered to pay him in exchange for his claiming to be a sex worker who continued to have unprotected sex. The ensuing public panic led to more than 40 states' considering legislation mandating quarantines. Virtual event. 5:15pm. Register at www.masshist.org/events/let-me-be-somebody.

Fri 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25 **Z**

Park Winter Fitness Series. The Boston Parks Department offers virtual classes led by certified fitness instructors. On Fridays, join Joe for **CHAIR MEDITATION** at 12:30pm. Visit www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/boston-parks-fitness-series to register.

Mon 3/7 & 3/21 **Z**

- The BPL's 2022 Lowell Lecture Series explores themes of equity, hope, resilience, and healing. BPL President David Leonard moderates each discussion, followed by an audience Q&A.
- On March 7, **SOCIOLOGIST, AUTHOR, AND HAPPINESS EXPERT DR. CHRISTINE CARTER** presents three surprising, science-based strategies that help people lead joyful, productive, and meaningful lives. 6-7:30pm. Learn more and register at bit.ly/BPLCarter3722.
 - On March 21, nationally recognized expert on race relations, Zen Buddhist priest, and attorney **ANGELA E. OH EXAMINES THE FUTURE OF RACE IN AMERICA**

and how communities in crisis can turn tragedy into opportunities for healing. 6-7:30pm. Learn more and register at bit.ly/BPLPOh32122.

Wed 3/9 & 3/23 **M**

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes residents to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. 3–5pm. Contact Anar Kansara at akansara@fenwaycdc.org for more information.

Wed 3/16 **Z**

OLMSTED NOW PUBLIC DIALOGUE. On the third Wednesday of the month, Olmsted Now holds a public dialogue on shared use, shared health and shared power in parks and public spaces. The hour-long talks explore our bicentennial themes the community's voice. 6pm. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8445122222>.

Fri 3/18 **M Z**

FINTAN O'TOOLE—WE DON'T KNOW OURSELVES: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF MODERN IRELAND. *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O'Toole discuss how his new book weaves his own experiences into the social, cultural, and economic changes that Ireland has faced since 1958. Live in Rabb Lecture Hall and over Zoom. 3pm. Visit <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6202e278cafb9b2f0083ffd5> to register.

Sat 3/19 **M**

CELEBRATE NOWRUZ, THE PERSIAN NEW YEAR, at the Museum of Fine Arts. Learn about Nowruz traditions, explore Persian art, enjoy dance performances and more. All activities included with admission. Details at www.mfa.org.

Mon 3/21 **V M Z**

Recalling medieval religious relics, locks of George Washington's hair remain in the collections of many American historical societies, archives, and museums. In **GEORGE WASHINGTON'S HAIR: HOW EARLY AMERICANS REMEMBERED THE FOUNDERS**, Keith Beutler combs through forgotten early

American memory practices and emerging patriotic identity in the early republic with this focus on the craze for collecting the first president's hair. Hybrid event: attend in person (\$10) or watch remotely for free; either way, register at www.masshist.org/events/george-washingtons-hair. 6–7pm.

Sun 3/27 **V M**

Berklee hosts the **NORTHEAST SEMIFINALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF COLLEGIATE A CAPPELLA**, with teams from the throughout the region competing to advance to the finals later this year. 3pm. Berklee Performance Center. Tickets \$25-40. Visit www.berklee.edu/BPC/events/icca-northeast-semifinals for more information or to buy tickets (also available at the box office).

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is now open six days a week. Visit <https://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/> for more details. Masks and vaccines required.

- Mondays, 3:00pm: **FCC MOVIES**. Enjoy an array of movies every Monday.
- Mondays, 6:00pm: **MYSTERY GROUP**. Strange phenomena have always plagued the town of Cooper's Rock. You'll have to fight against the supernatural forces threatening to overrun the town.
- Tuesdays, 2:30pm: **MARTIAL ARTS** classes designed for all abilities.
- Wednesdays. 6:00pm: **GUIDED MEDITATION**.
- Fri, March 4, 6:00pm: **FILM SERIES**. Enjoy a movie at the Center on the first Friday of every month.
- Thu, March 17, 6:00pm: **DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS**. Explore ideas of roleplaying, and character creation.
- Fri, March 18, 3:00pm: **PICKLEBALL**. Get moving with this cross between tennis and ping-pong. Non-competitive and fun for all ability levels.

Northeastern University

Myra Kraft Open Classroom, Spring 2022

Power to the People: Community Voices in Urban Decision-Making

The **Office of City and Community Engagement** at Northeastern University invites our local communities to join us for Northeastern's *Open Classroom, Spring 2022* series. Led by the **School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs** and the **Social Impact Lab**, this semester's Open Classroom will explore a variety of community-centered research initiatives grounded in racial and social justice values and a commitment to working with community members as co-equals.

N Northeastern City and Community Engagement

When: Wednesdays,
Spring 2022
6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Where: Zoom Webinar
You only need to register once to attend any session

For a full list of the Spring 2022 Open Classroom series and to register visit

bit.ly/open-classroom-sp-22

Scan the QR code for more info



 Northeastern School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs